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Office Hours:
Monday- Friday
8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MEMBERS
OF
THE VETERANS' ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF MADISON COUNTY, INC.**

Pursuant to call and notice to all representative delegates and alternates of the member veterans service organizations (VSOs) of the Veterans' Assistance Commission of Madison County (VACMC), the regular quarterly meeting of members was held as follows:

Date: September 21, 2023 Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: County Board Room, Administration Building, 157 N. Main Street, Edwardsville, Illinois
Chairman of the meeting: Superintendent Bradley Lavite
Secretary of the meeting: Correspondent Secretary Kate Broadhurst

The chairman called the meeting to order and directed all in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. The chairman then called for a chaplain to give an opening prayer. At the conclusion of the opening prayer, the chairman requested the secretary to call the roll of delegates seated in March 2023. The secretary reported that there were 24 of the 2023 representatives of the VSOs present. A copy of the roll call results is appended to these minutes. There being a majority of the delegates present, in accordance with the bylaws, the chairman declared a quorum present and that the meeting was lawfully and properly convened and competent to proceed to the transaction of further business.

The proposed minutes of the March 16, 2023, and June 15, 2023, meetings were distributed, according to the agenda, to each of the 2023 representatives at the meeting. Thereupon, on motion made by representative Alonzo Skipper, seconded by representative Ron Chiodini, and carried by at least a majority of member representatives entitled to vote, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the proposed minutes of the March 16, 2023, and June 15, 2023, membership meetings as proposed, are hereby fully approved, ratified, and affirmed as the Commission's official record of the proceedings at those meetings. The secretary is directed to provide a final copy of the same with all approved changes to be filed in the corporate records for future reference.

The chairman then presented the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2023 Commission Report that was distributed, according to the agenda, to each of the 2023 representatives at the meeting. After the presentation, the chairman called for a motion to approve and to file the report for future reference. During discussion Representative Dennis Poehler inquired about VACMC legal fees for VACMC Attorney Thomas Burkart and EMK Consulting fees. The chairman advised that the EMK Consulting fees were for the initial payment for the development of a new piece of software that was discussed by the Commission in FY 2022 and approved 1st Quarter 2023. The legal fees were for multiple things, primarily responding to an onslaught of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests and to fulfill multiple requests from the Illinois Office of the Attorney General, such as the complaint that would be subsequently addressed

later in the meeting. Other fees were for legal research, review, and drafting of the various legal documents which required legal guidance to ensure that the VACMC and the Commission were in compliance with the newly amended Military Veterans Assistance Act (MVAA) and the subsequent MVAA Trailer Bill. Representative Theodore Jackson inquired about the VAC Levy request and how it was calculated and deposited. He also requested if the line item invoices of legal fees could be reviewed. The chairman advised that invoices containing legal strategies and conclusions, especially concerning personnel matters, would not contain detailed breakdowns as ruled on in *Lavite vs. Dunstan* Appellate Court cases. The chairman advised on the 2024 County Budget process and timeline. Thereupon, on motion made by representative Terry Shepherd, seconded by representative Tim Connell, and carried by at least a majority of member representatives entitled to vote, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the report of the superintendent on the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2023; the acts of the Executive Board through August 2, 2023; and the acts of the superintendent during all of the preceding quarter (06/01/23 through 08/31/23) as described in that report are hereby fully approved, ratified, and affirmed.

The chairman then turned to any other information and activity which he deemed to be of interest to the Commission. He reported the following:

- A. The Commission was advised that the scheduled relaunch of the DAV Transportation Network on September 5, 2023, had been pushed back with a relaunch date to be determined.
- B. The Commission was advised that Administrative Assistants Michelle Henline and Bret Sandvoss passed the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) Accreditation Exam. Those positions were backfilled with the hiring of new Administrative Assistants Alexis Hoops, Kimberly Hoelsing, and Michelle Biegner.
- C. The Commission was advised that the 2024 VACMC Budget has been submitted and is moving through the process with no issues.
- D. The Commission was advised about a letter that was mailed to a few post delegates and alternates from the Illinois Office of the Attorney Military and Veterans Rights Bureau (MVRB) titled "Request for Information" concerning an alleged complaint about the VACMC purchasing process. No official communication was directly addressed to the VACMC or the superintendent. VACMC Attorney Thomas Burkart responded on behalf of the VACMC on September 8, 2023, titled "Request for Information" dated August 8, 2023. Both the MVRB letter and the VACMC attorney's response were distributed to the Commission. The chairman called for a motion to enter the two (2) letters into the meeting minutes. Thereupon, on motion made by representative Ken Morales, seconded by representative Ronnie Hicks, and carried by at least a majority of member representatives entitled to vote, the membership approved entering the two (2) letters into the record. A copy of both letters are appended to these meeting minutes for reference.

The chairman then announced that he was moving on to the Unfinished Business of the 2023 VACMC New Bylaws. The following was presented and discussed:

The chairman first summarized the events of the 2nd Quarter Meeting where a complete review of the proposed bylaws was mailed. The chairman then advised the Commission that suggested changes as proposed at the 2nd Quarter Meeting were updated for review and discussion. The chairman then proceeded to go over each page of the bylaws and highlighted key updates. All representatives in attendance engaged in an open back-and-forth dialogue as it

pertained to each. Several updates were separately considered as motions and were voted on separately to be included in the New VACMC ByLaws. A summary of each key update by page was discussed, and any motions are reflected below:

Bylaws updates by page:

- Page 1 - None.
- Page 2 - **ARTICLE II MEMBERS - Section 5. Regular Membership Meetings.** Discussion ensued over changing the meeting date to the second Thursday in the months of March, June, September, and December. Representative Tim Connell inquired about removing the specific sentence, "If the day fixed for any membership meeting shall be a legal holiday, such meeting shall be held on the next succeeding business day," so that a meeting does not fall on a Friday. It was advised that the Annual Commission Meeting Dates will be presented and adopted at the upcoming Annual Commission Meeting in December. Thereupon, on motion made by representative Mark Nelson, seconded by representative Terry Shepherd, and carried by at least a majority of member representatives entitled to vote, the membership approved changing the meeting dates.
- Page 3 - **ARTICLE II MEMBERS - Section 6. Special Membership Meetings. B. Discretionary.** Discussion ensued about adding in the specific language after in accordance with §2.02 and §2.03 of the Open Meetings Act of "not less than five (5) days prior and no more than a maximum of sixty (60) days." Thereupon, on motion made by representative Mark Nelson, seconded by representative Terry Shepherd, and carried by at least a majority of member representatives entitled to vote, the membership approved adding the above language.
- Page 3 - **ARTICLE II MEMBERS - Section 8. Informal/Remote Action by Members Prohibited.** No change.
- Page 3 - **ARTICLE II MEMBERS - Section 9. Notice and Agenda of Meetings.** Discussion ensued about adding in specific language "and special meetings." Thereupon, on motion made by representative Ken Morales, seconded by representative David Cobbel, and carried by at least a majority of member representatives entitled to vote, the membership approved adding the above language.
- Page 4 - None.
- Pages 5-6 - **ARTICLE III DIRECTORS - Section 2. Number, Tenure, and Qualifications of Directors.** Discussion ensued with Representative Tim Connell inquiring about future changes in directors and if the bylaws need to be changed with every election. It was advised that keeping the elected dates, names, offices, and terms establishes a snapshot for recording purposes and will be used as a baseline of who the directors were at the time of enactment of the bylaws. If there is ever a question, an extensive review would not be necessary. Any changes in directors as a result of an election would be properly recorded in the meeting minutes for said election/s. Thereupon, on motion made by representative David Cobbel, seconded by representative Steven Kaiser, and carried by at least a majority of member representatives entitled to vote, the membership approved keeping the snapshot of directors and adding the language "is a snapshot for recording purposes and to be used as a baseline of who the directors were at the time of enactment of the bylaws. Any changes to directors as a result of an election would be properly recorded in the meeting minutes for said election/s."
- Page 6 - **ARTICLE III DIRECTORS - Section 4. Manner of Acting.** Discussion ensued about adding in specific language "Robert's Rules of Order applies and is the recognized guide to smooth, orderly, and fairly conducted meetings." Thereupon, on motion made by representative Larry Miller, seconded by representative Ron Chiodini, and carried by at least a majority of member representatives entitled to vote, the membership approved adding the above language.

- Page 7 - **ARTICLE IV OFFICERS - Section 2. Number, Tenure, and Qualifications of Officers.** Representative Theodore Jackson made a statement that he believed that terms of officers should be for just one (1) year. No further representatives spoke, and no changes were made.
- Page 8 - **ARTICLE IV OFFICERS - Section 6. President.** Discussion ensued about adding in specific language "shall consist, at a minimum or at least." Representative Theodore Jackson made a statement that he believed that the entire Commission should conduct the evaluation as opposed to just the president. Representative Ron Chiodini expressed that having the Commission conduct the evaluation would be cumbersome and that it should rest with just the president. Representative Tim Connell also expressed that there should be one (1) voice on the matter, and it should rest with one (1) individual, the president. Representative Larry Miller reiterated his original points of why the wording was modified. Representative Dennis Poehler made the statement that it is not just the president completing the evaluation, rather it is the Executive Board led by the president. Thereupon, on motion made by representative Larry Miller, seconded by representative David Cobbel, and carried by at least a majority of member representatives entitled to vote, the membership approved adding the above language.
- Page 9 - None.
- Page 10 - **ARTICLE V SUPERINTENDENT - Section 3. Election and Term of Office.** Thereupon, on motion made by representative Terry Shepherd, seconded by representative Ken Morales, and carried by at least a majority of member representatives entitled to vote, the membership approved keeping individual names in and language as is.
- Pages 10-11 - **ARTICLE V SUPERINTENDENT - Section 5. Removal.** This section was previously resolved via roll call vote at the 2nd Quarter Meeting on June 15, 2023.
- Page 12 - **ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS.** Representative Alonzo Skipper made a statement that he just wanted to ensure that the entire Commission would receive advance notification of future revisions or new bylaws. The chairman affirmed that advance notification would be sent to the Commission should future revisions or new bylaws be needed, according to established law and guidance in place at that time. No change.
- Page 13 - None.

Prior to voting on the passage of the 2023 bylaws, the chairman first summarized the various events that lead up to and surrounding the need for new bylaws, to include the process that was carried out by the Commission to get them drafted, reviewed, and approved. Representative Dennis Poehler asked who made the decision to write new bylaws versus just rewriting or amending the old bylaws. He stated that he felt that the process was overly complicated by writing new ones. The chairman then called for a motion to approve the 2023 bylaws.

Thereupon, on motion made by representative Terry Shepherd and seconded by representative Ron Swaim, the chairman conducted a roll call vote as requested by representative Terry Shepherd specifically pertaining to the passage of the 2023 bylaws. The secretary reported that seventeen (17) voted in favor of the motion, and two (2) voted against. The chairman declared that the motion was carried by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority of member representatives present, and the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the 2023 BYLAWS OF THE VETERANS' ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF MADISON COUNTY, INC. A Not-For-Profit Corporation Operating Pursuant to the Illinois Military Veterans Assistance Act is hereby fully approved, ratified, and affirmed. Copies of the bylaws and the roll call vote are appended to these minutes for reference.

The chairman then called for any representatives of the membership to be recognized for the purpose of new business they wished the membership to address.

Representative Theodore Jackson was recognized and advised that Collinsville VFW 5691 will be hosting a Veterans Benefits Fair on September 26, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The VACMC will have a table to assist veterans with their benefits and to answer any related questions.

No other representatives of the membership requested to be recognized.

The chairman then called for any member of the public who wished to address the membership under the Open Meetings Act to be recognized.

- A. John Kraft was recognized and spoke for approximately 5 minutes.
- B. David Noble was recognized and spoke for approximately 5 minutes.
- C. Theodore Jackson was recognized and spoke for approximately 2 minutes.
- D. No other member of the public requested to be recognized.

There being no further business to come before the membership at this regular membership meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. upon motion made by representative Ron Swaim, seconded by representative Ken Morales, and duly carried by voice vote.

Kate Broadhurst, Correspondent Secretary

2023 Delegate / Alternate Commission Membership Sign-In Sheet


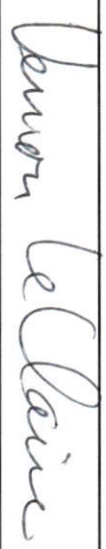




Veterans' Assistance Commission of Madison County, Inc.

September 21, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Post	Position	Name	Sign-In Signature	
American Legion #113	Delegate	Ron Chiodini	<i>Ron Chiodini</i>	y
	Alternate	Anthony Bargiel		
American Legion #126	Delegate	Tim Connell	<i>Tim Connell</i>	y
	Alternate	Greg Gates	<i>Greg Gates</i>	
American Legion #199	Delegate	Ron Swaim	<i>Ron Swaim</i>	y
	Alternate	Wes Sterling		
American Legion #214	Delegate	Larry Meisenheimer	<i>Larry Meisenheimer</i>	y
	Alternate	No Alternate Certified		
American Legion #307	Delegate	Donald Scheyer		
	Alternate	David L. Johnson	<i>David L. Johnson</i>	y
American Legion #354	Delegate	Earl Watts	<i>Earl C. Watts</i>	y
	Alternate	Joshua Young		

American Legion #365	Delegate	Larry E. Rose	
	Alternate	Wayne Powers	
American Legion #435	Delegate	David L. Cobbel	
	Alternate	Philip Bailey	
American Legion #439	Delegate	Ken Morales	
	Alternate	Bryan Winsor	
American Legion #564	Delegate	John Oltmann	
	Alternate	Dennis Poehler	
American Legion #665	Delegate	Catherine M. Coats	
	Alternate	James Schleper	
American Legion #708	Delegate	Brett Leman	
	Alternate	Kim Schoerner	
American Legion #794	Delegate	Christopher Johnson	
	Alternate	Phillip Stephens	

American Legion #1167	Delegate	Richard Liljenberg	
	Alternate	Vernon Cunningham	
AMVETS #51	Delegate	Christopher Miller	
	Alternate	No Alternate Certified	
AMVETS #204	Delegate	No Delegate Certified	
	Alternate	No Alternate Certified	
DAV #53	Delegate	Terry Shepherd	
	Alternate	Dave Borth	
DAV #90	Delegate	Ronnie Hicks	
	Alternate	David Cotton	
Marine Corps League #1160	Delegate	Mark O. Nelson	
	Alternate	Glenn L. Heimer	
VFW #976	Delegate	Anthony Avers	
	Alternate	Tim O'Donnell	

VFW #1299	Delegate	Larry Miller	
	Alternate	Richard Dickover	
VFW #1300	Delegate	Jamie Shupp	
	Alternate	David Humiak	
VFW #1308	Delegate	Steve Kapcoe	
	Alternate	Brad Yount	
VFW #2222	Delegate	Vernon LeClaire Jr.	
	Alternate	Steven Kaiser	
VFW #2859	Delegate	Scott Kirsch	
	Alternate	Leroy Duncan	
VFW #5691	Delegate	Joseph Skipper (Alonzo)	
	Alternate	Theodore Jackson	
VFW #5694	Delegate	Kate Broadhurst	
	Alternate	Michael Voegele	

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VFW #7678	Delegate	Chris Miller	
	Alternate	Tim Brown	