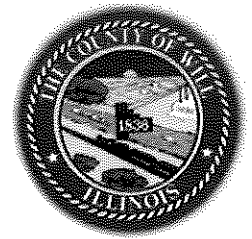




Veteran Assistance Commission of Will County

Kristina McNichol – Superintendent
Glenwood Center 2400 Glenwood Ave. Ste 110 Joliet, IL 60432
Ph: (815)740-8389 Fax: (815)740-4329



~~9 Nov 2021~~

VAC Executive Commission Meeting

7:00 AM

16 Nov 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor's recent disaster proclamation, the number of COVID-19 cases in Will County and the CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19, the President of the Veterans Assistance Commission has determined that in-person meetings are not practical nor prudent. Therefore, all meetings for the Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County shall be held via video and/or audio until further notice.

The public is invited to comment or pose a questions by email at vacwc@willcountyillinois.com. At the For Good of the Commission/Public Comments portion of the meeting, the emails will be read into the record. Please email vacwc@willcountyillinois.com for a link to attend the meeting via ZOOM.

- I. Call to Order: President Picciolo @ 7:01AM
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance: President Picciolo
 - B. Opening Prayer: Member Mlynek
- II. Roll Call of Attendees: Secretary Williams

VAC Commission		
Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jack Picciolo	President	P
Nicholas Barry	Vice President	P
Denise Williams	Secretary	P
Amanda Koch	Sgt-At-Arms	E
Jim Singler	Chaplain	A
Tom Mlynek	Member	P
Janet Blue	Member	P
Steve Benicke	Member	A
Vic Martinka	Past Chairman	P
John Kestle	Past Chairman	A
John York	Past Chairman	A
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	P

- III. Introduction of Guests and/or First Time Attendees: None
- IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting (12 Oct @ 7:00 AM)
 - A. Motion: Blue, Martinka; Unanimous
- V. Superintendents Report: McNichols/Solum
 - A. Award Log:
 - \$88.4M cumulative since 2015; new \$4.5M, \$22M recurring
 - B. Project 150 Report:
 - McNichols – Tawrel last day was 11/12/2021; intense case management, reorg w/clients at hotel; 8 remaining in hotel as of 11/16/2021, 10 are allowed at a time; parameters are, partnering agencies must supply all pertinent information prior to admission; \$19k was 11/4/21 invoice
 - C. Financial Assistance Report 7/1/2021 – 10/31/2021:
 - No increase anticipated til January 2022

- a) Shelter \$5260
- b) Water \$129
- c) Gas – LiHeap is open
- d) Electric \$422.84
- e) Personal Needs/Food \$725
- f) Motion: Mylnek, Martinka; Unanimous

VI. New Business

- A. VAC chosen as recipient for 2022 Joliet Chamber Community Leadership School project
 - a) Received kiosk in 2017 –
McNichols – VAC selected again, also Cornerstone, YMCA, Guardian Angel Services;
Kiosk needs to be updated
- B. OMA Complaint Received (attached)-
was filed on 3/13/2021
 - a) Response (attached)-
no response to date
- C. DCEO Appropriation of additional \$41K to VAC 1/2022-6/2022 –
Solum – speaking w/grant manager 11/16/2021 for these funds

VII. Old Business

- A. Elisabeth Dole Foundation; Hidden Heroes Recognition (attached)-
Amy – WCVAC is approved as a member, assist w/caregiver burnouts, particularly those who do
not qualify thru VA; VAC will refer thru to HHR
- B. 2021 Veteran Day Ceremony – Flyer (attached) & Program
Solum – good turnout, poor weather
McNichols – 250 people, feedback was very positive; 2022 will be indoors at Rialto

VIII. For Good of the Commission/Public Comment

- McNichols reports – Caregiver Dinner & Learn, will be scheduled at Marne Post #13 for either Dec
or Jan; post to provide dinner
- A. Every Tuesday – VAC at Orland Park Vet Center
 - B. Every Thursday – Together We Stand, Peer Support Group – Flyer Attached
 - C. Portraits of a Solider; 11/8/2021 – 11/12/2021 – Village of New Lenox Rotunda
 - D. The Moving Wall; New Lenox Post 1977 11/10/2021-11/14/2021
 - E. Post 52 & Romeoville Veterans Commission *Thanks for Giving Luncheon*; 11/13/2021 – Flyer
Attached
 - F. Senator Sue Rezin’s Senior Fair; 11/13/2021 – Flyer Attached

-Blue asked about communication; McNichols advised every post is invited to each WCVAC
meeting, is supplied with Agenda and Minutes;

- McNichol left meeting; Solum to answer questions.

-Blue stated they have 9 backpacks for homeless to donate, asking for suggestions to fill future
backpacks-

-Martinka – free breakfast for veterans 1st Monday each month, 7:00am-8:30am at Blueberry Hill
Café at 14355 S. Bell Rd, Homer Glen, Michelle Kerfin 708-301-1800; last month total of over 90
veterans, suggested opportunity to spread the word about the VAC

-Picciolo suggested to make a list



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-Mylnek stated Tony Salese passed away 11/12/2021, awaiting word on services

- IX. Executive Closed Session per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – “appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body”
Motion- Horne, Blue; Unanimous
– Need for Closed Session moot
-Exit closed session
Motion-Blue, Horne; Unanimous
- X. Motion to Adjourn: Horne, Blue; Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,
Secretary Williams

**VAC Executive Committee Meeting
12/14/2021 @ 7AM
VIA Zoom**