

Veterans Assistance Commission

201 S. Main St.

Hillsboro, Illinois 62049

Officers Meeting

January 6, 2025

1. Called to Order: 1:02 by President Copple
2. Roll Call: President Copple, Vice-President Gutierrez, Secretary Albers(by phone) Finance Stewart
Present
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Welcome Guest: Bill Bergen, County Liason
5. Minutes of Last Meeting: Motion by Gutierrez, 2nd by Stewart Accepted
6. Treasurer's Report: No report
7. Superintendent's Report:
 - a. See written report. Motion by Gutierrez, 2nd by Stewart. Accepted
8. Committee Reports: None
9. Old Business:
 - a. New Financial Assistance Application and Guidelines – Motion Stewart, 2nd Gutierrez, Passed
10. New Business: None
 - a. IACVAC Winter Meeting January 23-24
 - b. 2024 Government Report Prepared
11. General Discussion:
 - a. New copy machine was installed and has improved work flow.
 - b. Old copy machine will offered to veterans organizations.
12. Next Officer's Meeting Feb 3rd, 2025 at 1 pm. Next full Commission Meeting March 3, 2025 at 7 pm.
13. Meeting Adjourned 1:21 pm.

VAC Quarterly Meeting
March 03, 2025

President Rick Copple opened meeting at 7:00pm

Roll Call - President Rick Copple, Vice President Chris Gutierrez, Treasure Amanda Stewart present;
Secretary John Abers Absent

Delegates - AL post #94 Nokomis, Carl Rhodes, Amanda Stewart; AL post #299 Raymond, Phil Hampton, John Abers Absent; AL post #425 Irving Bob Fuehne Absent; AL post# 436 Litchfield, Bill Cope Absent; AL post #701 Waggoner, Jon Yard; AMVETS post #16 Litchfield Lucas Pence Absent; VFW Post #16 Litchfield, Rick Copple; VFW Post #6628 Panama, Randy Thacker Absent; MCL Detachment 1385 Litchfield, Chris Gutierrez, Gary Doss

President Rick Copple led Pledge Allegiance

Guest – None

Minutes of the Last Meeting – Motion by VP Gutierrez; 2nd Treasure Stewart; pass

Treasure's Report – Motion Treasure Stewart; 2nd VP Gutierrez; pass

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Cassandra Hampton gave the following report: Superintendent is doing the regular duties, see case load. VP Gutierrez motion; Carl Rhodes 2nd; pass

Committee Report – Finance Committee meeting Monday, April 14th @ 4:30pm.

Old Business – None

New Business – Delegate and Alternate must now be elected every year with names being submitted in October to be compliant with the law. If not compliant, the VAC could be shut down.

Volunteer drivers are needed to drive Veterans to their appointments. There is an ad in the paper.

General Discussion – Officers' meeting time has been changed to 12:45pm.

Next Officers' meeting April 7, 2025, at 12:45pm. Next Full commission meeting June 2, 2025, at 7:00pm.

Motion to Adjourn by Phil Hampton at 7:20pm.

Submitted by,

Acting Secretary,
Vice President, Chris Gutierrez

Veterans Assistance Commission

201 S. Main St.

Hillsboro, Illinois 62049

Officers Meeting

April 7, 2025

1. Called to Order: 12:50 by President Copple
2. Roll Call: President Copple, Vice-President Gutierrez, Treasurer Stewart Present
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Welcome Guest: Bill Bergen, County Liaison
5. Minutes of Last Meeting: Motion by Gutierrez, 2nd by Stewart Accepted
6. Treasurer's Report: Motion by Stewart, 2nd by Gutierrez Accepted
7. Superintendent's Report:
 - a. See written report. Motion by Gutierrez, 2nd by Stewart. Accepted
8. Committee Reports: Finance Committee Meeting April 14, 2025
9. Old Business:
 - a. Superintendent Annual Evaluation
 - b. MVAA Information-Compliance of Delegate/Alternate designations
10. New Business:
 - a. IACO Conference May 15th, Superintendent will not be attending due to workload
 - b. Tuck-pointing VAC Building to be done by RL Construction Repairs estimate \$12,400.
11. General Discussion:
 - a. Add ran in the Journal-News looking for Volunteer Drivers. Two phone calls regarding interest.
12. Next Officer's Meeting May 5th, 2025 at 12:45 pm. Next full Commission Meeting June 2, 2025 at 7 pm.
13. Meeting Adjourned 1:21 pm.

Veterans Assistance Commission

201 S. Main St.

Hillsboro, Illinois 62049

Officers Meeting

May 5, 2025

1. Called to Order: 1:05 by President Copple
2. Roll Call: President Copple, Vice-President Gutierrez, Secretary Albers, Finance Stewart Present
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Welcome Guest: Bob, County Liason
5. Minutes of Last Meeting: Motion by Gutierrez, 2nd by Stewart Accepted
6. Treasurer's Report: No report
7. Superintendent's Report:
 - a. See written report. Motion by Gutierrez, 2nd by Stewart. Accepted
8. Committee Reports: None
9. Old Business:
10. New Business:
 - a. Superintendent Hampton advised she is looking into new widow displays for the office to make the location more prominent.
 - b. Finance committee met before the officer's meeting and will present recommendations to next Full Commission Meeting.
11. General Discussion:
12. Next Officer's Meeting July 7, 2025 at 1 pm. Next full Commission Meeting June 2, 2025 at 7 pm.
13. Meeting Adjourned 1:21 pm.

Veterans Assistance Commission

201 S. Main St.

Hillsboro, Illinois 62049

Full Commission Annual Meeting

June 2, 2025

1. Called to Order: 7:00pm by President Copple
2. Roll Call: Present – 5 Posts, Absent – 5 Posts See Printed Report
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Welcome Guest: None
5. Minutes of Last Meeting: Hampton motion to accept. Gutierrez second. Carried
6. Treasurer's Report: See Written Report. Rhodes motioned to accept. Doss second, Carried
7. Superintendent's Report: See written Report. Rhodes motioned to accept. Gutierrez second. Carried
8. Committee Reports: None
9. Old Business:
 - a. Administrative Assistant completed basic VOS Training and will continue OJT with a performance review to be completed at years end.
10. New Business:
 - a. 2026 Budget proposal was presented. Rhodes motioned to accept. Doss second. Carried
11. General Discussion:
 - a. Discussed Senate Bill 1368. An attempt to merge counties without a VAC to counties with active VACs. Will continue progress of the Bill.
 - b. Illinois Attorney General Subpoenaed the Superintendent to submit a veterans record.
12. Next Full Commission Meeting September 8, 2025 7pm. Next Officer's Meeting July 7, 2025 12:45 pm.
13. Meeting Adjourned: Motioned Gutierrez 7:33 PM

Veterans Assistance Commission

201 S. Main St.

Hillsboro, Illinois 62049

Officers Meeting

August 11, 2025

1. Called to Order: 1:25pm by President Copple
2. Roll Call: President Copple, Vice-President Gutierrez, Secretary Albers, Finance Stewart, Superintendent Harris. Present
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Welcome Guest:
5. Minutes of Last Meeting: Motion by Gutierrez, 2nd by Stewart Accepted
6. Treasurer's Report: See written report. Motion Albers, 2nd Gutierrez. Accepted
7. Superintendent's Report:
 - a. See written report. Motion by Gutierrez, 2nd by Stewart. Accepted
8. Committee Reports: None
9. Old Business: None be out in January.
10. New Business:
 - a. Motion to approve Eickoff Woodworks to perform repairs to front entrance using the \$6500 grant money from DCEO. Motion Gutierrez, 2nd Albers. Accepted
 - b. Finance committee met before the officer's meeting and will present recommendations to next Full Commission Meeting.
11. General Discussion:
 - a. There will be a budget meeting in the county treasurers office on August 28.
 - b. Delegate and Alternate forms will.
 - c. AICVAC Meeting September 15-19 in Peoria. Office will be closed.
 - d. Office was closed August 2nd for William Kasich funeral, WW II veteran.
12. Next Officer's Meeting October 6, 2025 at 1 pm. Next full Commission Meeting September 8, 2025 at 7 pm.
13. Meeting Adjourned 1:55 pm.

Veterans Assistance Commission

201 S. Main St.
Hillsboro, Illinois 62049
Officers Meeting
September 8, 2025

1. Call to order: President, Rick Copple 7:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call: President Copple, Vice-President Gutierrez, Secretary Albers –absent(excused), Finance Stewart-absent(excused)
Delegates/Alternates - AL post #94 Nokomis, Carl Rhodes; AL post #299 Raymond, Phil Hampton; AL post #425 Irving Bob Fuehne Absent; AL post# 436 Litchfield, Bill Cope Absent; AL post #701 Waggoner, Jon Yard; AMVETS post #16 Litchfield Lucas Pence Absent; VFW Post #16 Litchfield, Rick Copple; VFW Post #6628 Panama, Randy Thacker Absent; MCL Detachment 1385 Litchfield, Chris Gutierrez
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Welcome Guests: Bill Bergen-County Board Liaison
5. Minutes from Last Meeting: Motion by Phil Hampton; Second Carl Rhodes
6. Treasurer’s Report- Read by President Copple; Motion by Carl Rhodes, Second by VP Gutierrez
7. Superintendent’s Report: Attended Funeral of local WWII Vet, Attended County Budget Hearing; Motion by Carl Rhodes, Second by VP Gutierrez
8. Committee Reports: None
9. Old Business: DCEO Grant Front Entrance Repair will be postponed to Spring of 2026 at request of the Contractor. The July meeting was cancelled due to no quorum.
10. New Business: Superintendent Hampton attended the County Budget Hearing. The VAC will undergo a Truth in Taxation Hearing in October regarding FY 2026 Budget. The Office will be closed Sept. 15-19 due to IACVAC Training Conference in Peoria. Delegate and Alternate Forms went out to all posts. Discussed Bylaw compliance when a post is absent without excuse three times.
11. General Discussion: Superintendent expressed need and intent to go to each post within the county to discuss veterans benefits. Carl Rhodes informed the Commission that the Nokomis AL Post meets the second Tuesday of every month. The local Laborers Union would like to volunteer to help local Veterans with small odd jobs the POC is Caleb Graff and Matthew Blankenship.
12. The Next Officer’s Meeting is October 6, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. and the Next Full Commission Annual Meeting will immediately follow in the Joint Conference Room.
13. Adjourn: Motion VP Gutierrez

VAC Full Commission Meeting
October 6, 2025

President Rick Copple opened meeting at 7:03pm

Roll Call - President Rick Copple (via phone), Vice President Chris Gutierrez, Treasure Amanda Stewart present; Secretary John Abers Excused

Delegates - AL post #94 Nokomis, Carl Rhodes, Amanda Stewart; AL post #299 Raymond, Phil Hampton, John Abers Absent; AL post #425 Irving Bob Fuehne Absent; AL post# 436 Litchfield, Bill Cope Absent; AL post #701 Waggoner, Jon Yard; AMVETS post #16 Litchfield Lucas Pence Absent; VFW Post #16 Litchfield, Rick Copple; VFW Post #6628 Panama, Randy Thacker Absent; MCL Detachment 1385 Litchfield, Chris Gutierrez, Gary Doss

President Rick Copple led Pledge Allegiance

Guest – Bill Hetzer – Litchfield Amvets

Minutes of the Last Meeting – Motion by Carl Rhodes; 2nd Treasure Stewart; pass

Treasure's Report – Read by Treasure Amanda Stewart. Motion VP Gutierrez; Carl Rhodes 2nd; pass

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Cassandra Hampton gave the following report: Superintendent attended County Finance Committee meeting, Christian County VAC start-up meeting, IACVAC conference, County Truth in Taxation meeting. Treasure Stewart motion; VP Gutierrez 2nd; pass

Committee Report – N/A

Old Business – Delegate and Alternate forms and Bylaw Compliances due by January 1, 2026.

New Business – VAC Officer positions open for election, with no nominations, President Rick Copple suggested a motion to keep current Officers in their current positions, if Officers were willing to keep them. All Officers agreed to keep their current positions. Motion to keep current officers by Carl Rhodes, 2nd Phil Hampton, passes.

IACVAC Delegate/Alternate needed. President Copple request to step down. In coming Amvets Delegate, Bill Hetzer is willing to take Delegate position; VP Gutierrez willing to keep alternate position. Vote sustained till December meeting.

In Violation of MCVAC meeting; Executive Committee may only make recommendations, cannot vote.

By-laws must be changed; executive committee may be a standing committee to make recommendations. Finance Committee will be a standing committee for finance proposals.

Open Meeting Act; Required for Superintendent to do annually.

FOIA; Freedom of Information Act, everyone should complete it at least once.

Superintendent Annual Evaluation; evaluation should be completed yearly and must be given to the entire commission by January 1, 2026.

Operation Greenlight; November 4th – November 11th.

VAC Full Commission Meeting
October 6, 2025

General Discussion – Superintendent Summary for 2025, County Board meetings, public events, outreach to veteran’s organizations, transport veterans, Operation Greenlight, Truth n Taxation Hearing. \$12 million to vets per year. Motion Carl Rhodes, 2nd Gary Doss, passes.

Fiscal year 2026 meeting dates to change.

Next Full Commission Annual meeting October 5, 2026 at 7:00pm.

Motion to Adjourn by Carl Rhodes at

Submitted by,

Acting Secretary,
Vice President, Chris Gutierrez

Veterans Assistance Commission

201 S. Main St.

Hillsboro, Illinois 62049

Full Commission Meeting

December 8, 2025

1. Called to Order: 7:00pm by President Copple
2. Roll Call: See Attendance Record
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Welcome Guest: Bill Bergen (County Liaison)
5. Minutes of Last Meeting: None
6. Treasurer's Report: See written report. Hetzler motioned, Rhodes 2nd. Motion passed.
7. Superintendent's Report:
 - a. See written report for Veterans Service/Case Load. Rhodes Motioned. Hetzler 2nd. Motion passed.
8. Committee Reports: None
9. Old Business: Copple and Hetzler appointed Delegate and Alternate to IACVAC.
10. New Business:
 - a. County Board approved VAC 2026 Budget
 - b. Presentation of Amendment to Bylaws to be in compliance with MVAA.
11. General Discussion:
 - a. Open Meeting Act training will be during April meeting
 - b. Rachel Kuhl went to 28 hrs as of December 1st, 2025.
12. Next Full Commission Meeting January 5, 2026, 7pm.
13. Meeting Adjourned: Motioned Gutierrez 7:33 PM