



## **TAZEWELL COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

**Steven A. Saal, Superintendent**  
414 Court Street, Pekin, IL 61554  
Phone 309-477-2271

Tazewell County VAC Meeting Minutes  
January 19, 2026, at 1800hrs  
Tazewell EMA Building

1. Call to Order:
2. Pledge of Allegiance:
3. Roll Call:
  - a. Chairperson: Shannon Saal - Present
  - b. Vice-Chair: Bob Dant - Present
  - c. Superintendent: Steve Saal - Present
  - d. VSO: Jim Chism - Present
  - e. VSO: Matt Eisfelder - Present
  - f. Admin Assistant: Amanda Gillinger - Present
  - g. County Liaison: Kim Joesting - Present
  - h. Attendees: Lenny Gray from VFW Post 1232; Dan Swift from Military Ord. Purple Heart 175; Adam Sterling from AMVETS Post 169; Bob Hotkevich from VFW Post 9016; Roger Williams from American Legion Post 1236; Tony Grow from FRA Branch 221 (Guest); Rick Otey from Operation Last Watch (Guest); William Clark from Marine Corp League; Sam Armbrust (Guest); Joshua Miars (Guest); Leslie Perera and Christina Perera from VFW Post 2602; Michael Haerr from American Legion Post 466; John Harris from American Legion Post 382; Mindy Darcy Assistant County Administrator/Finance Director (Guest); Michael Brooks from Peoria County VAC (Guest); Will

Stodgel from Peoria County VAC (Guest); Danielle Madero from Tazewell County (Guest); Joe Weghorst from American Legion Post 382; Michael Ragan from American Legion Post 100; Devin Mitchell from Tremont (Guest); Charles Dudley from Tremont (Guest); Jim Wheat from American Legion Post 607.

4. Approval of Past Minutes: Dispense of reading of minutes, motion to accept by Bob Dant, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lenny Gray. Motion passed via voice vote.
5. Superintendent's Report: (Steve Saal), motion approved by Lenny Gray, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Hotkevich via voice vote.
6. Pantry Report: (Steve Saal), 107 Veterans and 265 Dependents in December.
7. VSO Report: Jim Chism gave report.
8. Office Visits/Phone Calls: (December), 49 VSO appointments/walk-ins, 76 other visits totaling 125. 340 phone calls.
9. Old Business: The 2 plots at Hillcrest Cemetery in Morton are still available through the VAC office in Tazewell County.
10. New Business: Bob Dant addressed a letter along with Superintendent Steve Saal's evaluation which was sent out anonymously to all the Tazewell County Military Organization Post delegates. Superintendent Saal is retiring from the VAC of Tazewell County, his last day will be Friday January 30<sup>th</sup>. It was discussed that once Supt. Saal retires, the Superintendent position will be posted on 3 job sites for 10 working days. HR will receive the applications. There will be a 60-day period to fill the position.
11. Public Comments: Michael Brooks, Superintendent of the Peoria County VAC spoke about the Peoria VAC office and some statistics of veterans being assisted from that office. Michael Ragan, Delegate of American Legion Post 100 mentioned a river plunge is held at the



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East Peoria Boat Club on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month to raise awareness of veteran suicide. Jim Wheat, Delegate of American Legion Post 607 commented on Tazewell County VSO Jim Chism and how personally thankful he was for Mr. Chism's assistance with filing his claim.

12. Adjournment: Motioned by Bob Dant, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Neeley.

Motion passed.

13. Please stand and salute the flag

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven A. Saal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "A".

STEVEN A. SAAL  
SUPERINTENDENT  
Tazewell County VAC