



TAZEWELL COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Clarence Pulcher, Superintendent
Phone 309-477-2271
Tazewell County VAC Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2026, 1800hrs
@ Tazewell EMA Building
21304 IL-9, Tremont, IL 61568

1. Call to order: Made by Chairman Bob Dant at 6:00PM
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was given and rendered

Rich Dansizen	(ALT) AL Post 44
Michael Ragan	(DEL) AL Post 100
John Harris	(DEL) AL Post 382
Tom Neely	(DEL) AL Post 607
Jim Wheat	(ALT) AL Post 607
Doug Bohm	(DEL) AL Post 1236
Robert Nichols	(DEL) AMVETS 169
Bob Dant	(ALT) AMVETS 169
Tom Stewart	(DEL) 40 et 8 Voiture 1170
Dan Swift	(DEL) Mil Order of Purple Heart 175
Ryan Richardson	(DEL) VFW Post 1232
Hal McElHaney	(ALT) VFW Post 1232
Robert Hotkevich	(DEL) VFW Post 9016
James Ashton	(ALT) VFW Post 9016
Danny Haley	(ALT) Vietnam Veterans of Illinois
CJ Pulcher	Superintendent
Deja Owens	Admin Assistant
Jon Hopkins	County Board LNO
Jim Chism	VSO
Shana Nelson	Synergy HomeCare/Guest
Shannon Saal	AL Post 44/Guest

Rick Otey	Operation Last Watch/Guest
Roy Babb	Guest
Tom Moore	AM Post 1236/Guest
Dennis Mitchell	Guest
2 illegible names	Guest

3. Roll Call: 9 Delegates, 6 Alternates, 1 VAC Superintendent and 8 Guests

4. Introduction of Guests and First-time attendees – Shana Nelson.

5. Public comments; Guest Speaker, Shana Nelson (General Manager, Synergy HomeCare) gave a great presentation of the background and capabilities, transportation capabilities and definition of aid and attendance. Provided contact for future engagements.

6. Approval of May's Minutes

- I. Chairman requested a motion to accept May's Minutes
- II. Doug Bohm noted absence of names to accept Superintendent's Report; Bob Hotkevitch noted lack of record for motion to hire/elect Superintendent in minutes.
- III. Motion made by Doug Bohm to table approval of May Minutes until corrections applied.
- IV. Second, by Michael Ragan.
- V. Motion passed via voice vote.

7. Superintendent's Report

- I. ACTIVITY
 - a. 14 ITF
 - b. 14 POA
 - c. 4 526EZ

- d. 0 Appeals
- e. 11 Walk-ins
- f. 19 Appointments
- g. 238 Calls
- h. 391 Total interactions
- i. \$87,879.00 New Money
- j. \$321,131.55 Total Money
- k. 44 Successful Claims to date
- l. 16 Active Claims awaiting decision
- m. 1 Appeal awaiting decision
- n. 74 Total Active Claims

II. BUDGET

- a. Synopsis of FY26 Budget
 - i. Remaining YTD
 - ii. Resolution moves to hire more help
- b. Synopsis of FY27 Budget submission
 - i. Legal representation for VAC
 - ii. 2 new full-time positions
 - iii. Travel for advanced/continuation training of staff
 - iv. Costs associated with relocation not covered by the County

III. VISION

- a. Proposed Mission Statement: The Tazewell County Veterans Assistance Commission is committed to providing compassionate, timely and professional assistance to our Veterans and their families through advocacy, emergency financial assistance, benefit counseling, outreach, collaboration with community partners and accountability, ensuring no eligible Veteran is left without support.
- b. Compliance with 330 ILCS 45
 - i. Retain an attorney

- ii. Bylaws, Handbook (GSES), resolutions, etc.
 - iii. OMA 5 ILCS 120/1.05
 - iv. Expand workforce and capabilities
 - v. *Training and VA accreditation
 - 1. Mentorship
 - 2. Continuation
 - vi. Collaboration with community partners and other VACs
- c. Reputation Building
 - i. Personal visits with the VSOs of Tazewell
 - ii. Attend community events
 - iii. Foster positive relationships (to include congressional offices)
 - iv. Increase social media awareness
 - v. ALL full-time employees will be VA accredited VSOs
- d. Accomplishments to date
 - i. Fax Number – 309-478-5855
 - ii. Physical Security
 - iii. Office reorganization
 - iv. 2 public use workstations
 - v. Evaluated and wrote/revised 3 job descriptions
 - vi. Submitted 3 full time positions
 - 1. Assistant Superintendent
 - 2. VSO
 - 3. Admin Assistant
 - vii. FY 26 Budget resolution
 - viii. Etc.
- e. Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commissions (IACVAC) Accreditation
- f. In addition to the agenda, Bob Hotkevitch took the opportunity to recognize Deja for the improvements

to mailed correspondence (typed vs handwritten).
It was further discussed, the taxpayer cost savings
by migrating to electronic correspondence.

- i. Chair requested motion to move to electronic correspondence
- ii. Bob Hotkevitch made motion
- iii. Danny Haley 2nd the motion
- iv. Issues were raised with OMA compliance
- v. Chair moved to table until July meeting
- g. Discussion further ensued about OMA compliance and what constituted a quorum for the TCVAC.
Result of discussion placed emphasis on 5 ILCS 120 compliance and the multiple methods for which to accomplish

8. Unfinished Business

I. By-Laws

- a. Chair requested input for revisions
- b. Doug Bohm made recommendation of Tazewell residency for Superintendent
- c. Chair expressed need for attorney assessment prior to implementation
- d. Bob Hotkevitch suggested VAC utilization of state's attorney versus retention of a private attorney
- e. Chair tabled until July meeting

II. Subpoena

- a. Superintendent gave update of no news from Attorney General's office
- b. Mike Ragan raised question of VACPC's private attorney

9. New Business - None

10. Good of the Commission/Post Reports

- I. Mike Ragan discussed:
 - a. Greater Peoria Honor Flight – Operation Penguin
 - b. 22JUN26 – Patriot Plunge, #22VA to raise awareness of Veteran Suicide at noon in the Illinois River, followed by the Ice Challenge (7PM) at the Peoria VFW
 - c. Responsibilities of delegates/alternates
- II. Rich Dansizen spoke about AL Post 44's most recent Flag retirement efforts

11. Benediction/Adjournment:

- I. Chair requested motion to adjourn
- II. Danny Haley made motion
- III. Mike Ragan 2nd the motion
- IV. Motion carried via voice vote
- V. Tom Neely gave benediction