TAZEWELL COUNTY VETERANS' ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Clarence Pulcher, Superintendent
Phone 309-477-2271

Tazewell County VAC Special Meeting Minutes
JULY 27, 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

Michael Ragan	(DEL) AL Post 100
John Harris	(DEL) AL Post 382
Joe Weghorst	(ALT) AL Post 382
Tom Neeley	(DEL) AL Post 607
Jim Wheat	(ALT) AL Post 607
Doug Bohm	(DEL) AL Post 1236
Dan Frank	(DEL) AL Post 1276
James Trebian	(ALT) AL Post 1276
Bob Dant	(ALT) AMVETS 169
Tom Stewart	(DEL) 40 et 8 Voiture 1170
Bill Clark	(DEL) MCL 085
Dan Swift	(DEL) Mil Order of Purple Heart 175
Ryan Richardson	(DEL) VFW Post 1232
Hal McElhaney	(ALT) VFW Post 1232
David Labatt	(ALT) VFW 2078
Brian Farlin	(DEL) VFW 4835
Robert Hotkevich	(DEL) VFW Post 9016
CJ Pulcher	Superintendent
Rick Otey	Operation Last Watch/Guest
Dennis Mitchell	Fist Bumping Vets/Guest
Vaughn Monti	USMC Veteran/Guest

Tammy Joseph	Guest
1 illegible name	Guest

3. Roll Call: 11 Delegates, 5 Alternates, 1 VAC Superintendent and 5 Guests. Quorum met.

4. Introduction of Guests and First-time attendees.

5. Public comments:
   I. Vaughn Monti/Guest USMC Veteran, voiced concerns, issues and experiences of obtaining/maintaining Illinois Firearms Owner Identification (FOID) Card.

6. Approval of July's Special Meeting Agenda
   I. Chairman entertained a motion to approve July's Special Meeting Agenda as published
   II. Motion made by Brian Farlin to approve as published
   III. Motion Seconded by Bill Clark
   IV. Motion carried via voice vote

7. Approval of July's Regular Meeting Minutes
   I. Chairman entertained a motion to approve July's Regular Meeting Minutes as published
   II. Motion made by Doug Bohm to approve as published
   III. Motion Seconded by Brian Farlin
   IV. Motion carried via voice vote

8. Consider and take action to adopt TCVAC Seal
   I. Chairman entertained motion to approve design as official TCVAC Seal
   II. Motion made by Bill Clark to approve Seal as designed
   III. Motion Seconded by Tom Neeley
   IV. Motion carried via voice vote

9. Consider and take action to ratify By-Laws
    I. Ryan Richardson verified current office address as indicated in Article V will change upon new location selection for VAC office.
    II. Bob Hotkevich recommended switching Articles III and IV to place Jurisdiction numerically ahead of Purpose in Article order. Mike Ragan raised a point in reference to jurisdiction that we do not turn any Veteran away in relation to discretionary duties. Chairman Dant explained that he will entertain a motion, at the end, to adopt and ratify all changes as openly discussed and agreed upon. Articles III and IV were swapped in order.
    III. Tom Neeley introduced conversation and addition to Article VI referencing the removal of a VSO due to delegate/alternate unexcused absence to 3 consecutive meetings. Discussions ensued to the merits of this action, similar policies to replacing a self-removed delegate/alternate and a carrot versus stick approach to attendance. It was voiced that attendance has not been an issue as of late and that communicating positively with VSOs is a better route. CJ voiced idea from other members to build a robust packet for solicitation of delegates/alternates that thoroughly explain responsibilities and requirements. Idea tabled for now and not included in By-Laws.
    IV. Doug Bohm introduced idea that all delegates/alternates be required to supply DD214 with Honorable discharge as opposed to just elected officers of the Commission. Discussion ensued of merits, pros/cons and safe keeping of DD214's. Section moved out of Article VII – Officers to Article VI – Membership, to require all members of the Commission to supply copies of DD214 that indicate Honorable as character of discharge.

V. CJ provided explanation of intent for Article VII – Officers and the need for Executive Board and other boards such as Appeals, Finance, Audit, etc. Discussed the need for special election of CHAPLAIN, JUDGE ADVOCATE AND SERGEANT AT ARMS at the August Regular Meeting. Addition agreed upon and Chairman instructed delegation to consider positions and be prepared for elections in August. Discussion ensued reference duties/responsibilities of delegation and officers.

VI. Bob Hotkevich brought to attention that Section 2 of Article VIII – Nominations and Elections of Officers should be by open vote and not written ballot. Verbiage changed to reflect open vote.

VII. Clarification sought and provided for Section 4 of Article VIII – Nominations and Elections of Officers, that no delegate and alternate may hold an elected position at the same time (concurrently).

VIII. Discussion ensued around OMA requirements as covered under Section 6, Article XII – Meetings. OMA designees required annually, delegates once. CJ discussed update briefs to the delegation every January, covering changes to the training and ILCS. Reiterated the use of public computers in VAC office available for conduct of OMA training.

IX. Section 2, Article XIII – Superintendent added to reflect residency requirements.

X. Section 6, Article XIII – Superintendent – Bob Hotkevich recommended the addition of a vote of Commission for long-term, temporary appointments. Verbiage added to reflect recommended change.

XI. Bob Hotkevich introduced adding a clause that allows Superintendent the authority to temporarily make a ruling of action in the event there is not enough OMA trained individuals to constitute a quorum. Discussion ensued to merits, pros/cons and it was decided by the Commission to leave this out of the By-Laws.

XII. Section 11, Article XIII – Superintendent – Ryan Richardson recommended adding clarification specifically stating "two delegates from the floor, not in an Executive Board position". Verbiage added to By-Laws.

XIII. All other Articles, not previously mentioned in these Minutes were discussed and agreed upon without changes.

XIV. Chairman entertained motion to approve and ratify these By-Laws as discussed

XV. Motion made by Brian Farlin to approve and ratify By-Laws as discussed

XVI. Motion Seconded by Ryan Richardson

XVII. Motion carried via voice vote

10. Consider and take action to ratify Guide of Services and Eligibility Standards (GSES) and all Appendices:

I. CJ introduced GSES and provided explanation of conception and development. Emphasized that this too, is a living, breathing document.

II. Ryan Richardson raised concerns about verbiage in Sub-Section 403 – Substance Abuse. Asked what Veterans were to do in this category had they not been to a court approved or VA approved inpatient rehabilitation program yet. CJ assured that our mission was not to turn Veterans away, but to help them find the appropriate assistance they need. TCVAC is not to be an enabler. CJ emphasized importance of being honest brokers when executing public funds.

III. Chairman entertained motion to approve and ratify the Guide of Services and Eligibility Standards and all Appendices as written
IV. Motion made by Ryan Richardson to approve and ratify as written
V. Motion Seconded by David LaBatt
VI. Motion carried via voice vote

11. Benediction/Adjournment:
    I. Chairman entertained motion to adjourn
    II. Motion made by Bill Clark to adjourn
    III. Motion Seconded by David LaBatt
    IV. Motion carried via voice vote
    V. Tom Neely gave benediction