



TAZEWELL COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Clarence Pulcher, Superintendent

Phone 309-477-2271

Tazewell County VAC Special Meeting Minutes

AUGUST 17, 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
Joe Weghorst	(ALT) AL Post 382
Tom Neeley	(DEL) 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
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
Brian Farlin	(DEL) VFW 4835
Robert Hotkevich	(DEL) VFW Post 9016
Jerry Porter	VVI
Jon Hopkins	County Board LNO
CJ Pulcher	Superintendent
Justin Hinderliter	Assistant Superintendent
Jim Chism	VSO

Rick Otey	Operation Last Watch/Guest
Debby Dant	Guest
Lenny Gray	Guest
Charles Gouveia	VFW 1232/Guest
Kendrick Lawhorn	Guest
Shannon Saal	AL 44/Guest

3. Roll Call: 11 Delegates, 4 Alternates, 1 VAC Superintendent, and 10 Guests. Quorum met.

4. Introduction of Guests and First-time attendees.

5. Public comments:

- I. Rick Otey/Fist Bumping Vets, in cooperation with Tremont Winning Communities is bringing The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to Tremont City Park, September 2-6, 2027! Rick explained the Why and donation process for this wonderful tribute. In addition, he extended the offer to join his group as they welcome students to school every Thursday morning at 7:30 at Tremont Grade School.
- II. Tom N. commented on the exemplary service the Fist Bumping Vets are bringing to the community; Doug B. echoed; Mike R. added that Washington community Vets have started similar program an encouraged participation.

6. Approval of August Meeting Agenda

- I. Chairman entertained a motion to approve the August Meeting Agenda as published
- II. Motion made by Rich Dansizen to approve as published
- III. Motion Seconded by Doug Bohm
- IV. Motion carried via voice vote

7. Approval of July's Special Meeting Minutes

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

8. Superintendent's Report

- I. CJ covered remainder of FY26 Budget. Advised at 45% remaining and with projections; to include new hires, the VAC was going to execute to the pennies on FY26 allocations.
- II. Covered the Veterans served numbers, indicating a significant increase in touches in the most recent few months. Briefed over \$500,000 in federal benefits, to date, the staff of TCVAC has helped Veterans claim.
- III. Reintroduced Mission Statement. Need to add to September's Agenda to take action.
- IV. Introduced new Assistant Superintendent, Justin Hinderliter, and gave brief update on two other personnel starting September 1st, Administrative Assistant and Veteran Service Officer.
- V. Discussed acquisition of training slots for the 4 new hires, 28 SEP – 2 OCT. Discussed the acquisition of scholarships to help cover the costs of training. Tom N. asked how much the Basic Benefits Course cost. (\$400/person) Total savings of \$1600.
- VI. Covered progress made on our "North Star" the IACVAC Accreditation checklist. Hal M. asked of the frequency of Accreditation (5 years). Bob H. requested information on the number of VAC's currently in compliance.

9. Nomination and Election of CHAPLAIN, SERGEANT AT ARMS AND JUDGE ADVOCATE

- I. Chair led and explained the Rules of Engagement (ROEs) and purpose of elections. Identified the positions open for nominations and opened the floor for the position of CHAPLAIN. Dan Swift nominated Tom Neeley (accepted).
- II. Mike R. raised the point and asked for roles/responsibilities of each position being elected. Chair asked for any other nominations for CHAPLAIN
- III. Chair asked for nominations of SERGEANT AT ARMS. Hal McElhaney nominated Ryan Richardson (accepted) and Bob Hotkevich nominated Doug Bohm (declined).
- IV. Chair asked for nominations for JUDGE ADVOCATE. Ryan Richardson nominated Doug Bohm (accepted). Bob Hotkevich nominated Mike Ragan (accepted).
 - a. Chairman entertained a motion to vote for Tom Neeley as CHAPLAIN and Ryan Richardson as SERGEANT AT ARMS
 - b. Motion made by Hal McElhaney to accept nominees and vote
 - c. Motion Seconded by Brian Farlin
 - d. Motion carried via voice vote and officers were elected unanimously
- V. Chair explained ROEs of contested position of JUDGE ADVOCATE and called for a roll call vote.
 - a. Roll call vote in favor of Doug Bohm, 11-1
 - b. Chair entertained a motion to vote for Doug Bohm
 - c. Motion made by Bill Clark to vote
 - d. Motion Seconded by Mike Ragan
 - e. Motion carried via voice vote and officer was elected unanimously

10. Consider and take action on Delegate/Alternate Duties and Responsibilities forms:

- I. CJ briefed Commission on phone call received by Ron Michel, attorney from AG's office responsible for investigation.
- II. Segued into need of Delegate/Alternate Duties and Responsibilities forms. Solicited feedback of the forms provided to the Delegates/Alternates ahead of time.
- III. Mike R. asked if input was received from any other sources in the creation of these documents.
- IV. Overall response and feedback was positive; input from members was that these documents are fair and long overdue.
 - a. Chair entertained a motion to accept as published
 - b. Motion made by Mike Ragan to accept as published
 - c. Motion Seconded by Hal McElhaney
 - d. Motion carried via voice vote

11. Unfinished Business:

- I. CJ reiterated communication with State AG on the investigation
- II. CJ solicited for those that would prefer to receive TCVAC correspondence via electronic mail. Requested those who preferred to verify email addresses with the office.

12. New Business

- I. CJ discussed recommendations received from TCVAC Attorney in reference to our newly adopted By-Laws. Read through and briefed proposed amendments to be voted on in September's Regular Meeting.
- II. CJ gave praise to the tremendous support the Commission received from Deja Owens-Colley and

expressed sorrow for her pending departure at the end of the month.

13. Good of the Commission/Post Reports

- I. AL44 – Rich D; finalizing plans for a Buddy Check system, participation in Labor Day parade (7SEP26), Trunk or Treat at Union Hall on Halloween from 5-8PM, 3 upcoming Veterans funerals, participating in Patriot Day Ceremony in Washington on 6SEP26 at 4PM and Greater Peoria Honor Flight welcome home at PIA on 8SEP26 (Veterans ETA 9:30PM).
- II. AL100 – nothing; 22VA river plunge near E. Peoria Boat Club on 22AUG26 at 12:00PM to raise awareness of Veteran suicide, ice water challenge (Polar Beer Plunge) at the Peoria Heights VFW at 7PM same day. VFW also hosting an open event, sharing information about their capabilities and Veterans benefits/initiatives on 22AUG26.
- III. AL382 – Sunday morning breakfast (6:30AM – 1000AM), 2nd Thursday of every month they have a supper.
- IV. V1170 – mentioned activities in October and November.
- V. VFW1232 – Red Cross Blood Drive at the V on 3SEP26 from 1-6PM, 1st Annual Car Show on 13SEP26, Celebrating 250 years of America on 3OCT26 with special guest Chicago Farmer, partnering with Peoria Heights VFW for a drawing on Mondays from 6-8PM (up \$100 each week/must be present to win) (max to \$1000), Tuesday nights are Bingo nights for the Boys and Girls Club, Smoking Aces Poker nights every Friday and live karaoke, and they do a weekly 50/50 where proceeds go to an organization of their choosing in the community.

- VI. VFW4835 – Beer Can golf on 29AUG26 at 10:00AM, every Monday at 6PM they have Bar Bingo, and Fridays they have their weekly Marble Drawing.
- VII. VFW9016 – Celebration of Labor Day, complete remodel of Post inside.
- VIII. AMVETS169 – Raising money for Wreaths across America.
- IX. Challenged to wear RED on Fridays.

14. Benediction/Adjourn

- I. Chairman entertained motion to adjourn
- II. Motion made by Brian Farlin to adjourn
- III. Motion Seconded by Mike Ragan
- IV. Motion carried via voice vote
- V. Tom Neely gave benediction