



Veterans Assistance Commission of Rock Island County
4000 46th Avenue Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 558-3545
Superintendent - Brad Bigford

VAC OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY
Meeting Minutes
For

Date: 6/11/25

Meeting called to order -----President: Jerry Goodwin

Salute and Pledge to the Flag -----President: Jerry Goodwin

Prayer -----Chaplain: Brian Habel

Moment of silence for those in harm's way-Chaplain: Brian Habel

Reading of the Preamble of the Constitution-President: Jerry Goodwin

Roll Call -----Secretary: Jack Brown

**See following pages for next agenda items with
notes**

AMERICAN LEGION

Rock Island Post 200
East Moline Post 227
Moline Post 246
Milan Post 569
Port Byron Post 421
Cordova Post 1033
Community Post 1166

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Rock Island Chapter 299
Moline Chapter 669

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Moline Post 2153
East moline 8890

MARINE CORP LEAGUE
Lincoln Detachment

VSO	Location	Delegate	Status (P/A/E)	Alt Delegate	Status (P/A/E)
American Legion Post 200	Rock Island	VACANT		VACANT	
American Legion Post 227	East Moline	Jerry Goodwin	P	Jim Billings	EX
American Legion Post 246	Moline	Kevin Kastelice	A	John Mursho	EX
American Legion Post 421	Port Byron	Roger Oliver	EX	VACANT	
American Legion Post 569	Milan	Charlie Thompson	EX	Rick Freymann	P
American Legion Post 1033	Cordova	Terry Young	P	Edward Klundt	P
American Legion Post 1166	Reynolds	Kevin Kilkenny	A	VACANT	
VFW Post 2153	Moline	Brian Habel	P	Phil Traman	A
VFW Post 8890	East Moline	Andy Ortiz	A	VACANT	
AMVETS Post 145	Silvis	VACANT		VACANT	
Marine Corp League	Rock Island	Joe Pollock	A	Jeff Meincke	E
VN Vets of America Chap 299	Rock Island	Al Bradley	P	Tom Courtney	P
VN Vets of America Chap 669	Rock Island	Mark Pattison	EX	Jack Brown	P
VAC Superintendent	Rock Island	Brad Bigford	P		
VAC Asst Superintendent	Rock Island	Parris Silvis	P		
VAC Admin Asst	Rock Island	Gage Adams	P		
Guest	Rock Island	Jason Willits	P		
Guest	Rock Island	Cory Hawk	P		
Guest					

2. Reading & Approval of Previous monthly meeting minutes--- Jack Brown

Motion: Edward Klundt

Second: Brian

Yay: 6

Nay:

Notes

Corrum vs Addendum. 6 representatives 50% +1 members, going for 6 reps. 14 total present.
0704 Meeting Opens.

*** Budget Notes.

Questions on office rent, wanted to clarify how much was spent on Rock Island VAC office rent, and if the payment annual or bi annual. RI VAC is paid up until DEC 2025. Brad avoided the land lord adding additional costs such as LED light installation. Brad Bigford also avoided improper charges for the VET Centers upgrades.

3. County Monies Budget Report ----- Kevin Kilkenny

COUNTY MONIES BUDGET
PERFORMANCE REPORT -
Fiscal Year (12/1/24 - 11/30/25)

VAC Annual Budget \$ 1,144,280.72

Revenue

Property Taxes	39,941.77
Investment Earnings	8410.77
	<u>\$ 48,352.54 TOTAL</u>

Expense

Administrative Costs

	Approved Budget	YTD Received	YTD%
Salaries/Benefits	\$ 617,021.00	\$ 226,514.44	37 %
Supplies	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 2,668.11	36 %
Services	\$ 21,100.00	\$ 8,707.07	41 %
Insurance	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 3,004.00	64 %
Capital Projects	\$ 5,000.00	\$	0 %
General Fund (Maximus)	\$ 23,763.00	\$ 23,763.00	100 %
Dues & Memberships	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 550.00	55 %
Office Rent	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 36,327.28	121 %
Utilities	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,823.94	46 %
Professional Services	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 275.68	8 %
Total	<u>\$ 719,084.00</u>	<u>\$ 303,633.52</u>	<u>42 %</u>

Veteran's Relief

	Approved Budget	YTD Received	YTD%
Food	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 9,404.11	27 %
Utilities	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 7,196.91	60 %
Rentals	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 43,782.45	49 %
Personal Hygiene	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,028.03	47 %
Professional Services (Burials)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	0 %
Total	<u>\$ 157,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 67,411.50</u>	<u>43 %</u>

At this time a motion needs to be made to approve this report and a second is needed

Motion: Brian Habel

Second: Edward Klundt

Passed: **Need Further Review** **Yay: 6 Nay:**

Notes

4. Emergency Relief & Med Equipment Fund - Kevin Kilkenny

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

BEGINNING BALANCE -----	\$ 941.42
<i>CHECKS ISSUED:</i> -----	\$
<i>DEPOSIT:</i> -----	\$
ENDING BALANCE -----	\$ 941.42

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FUND

BEGINNING BALANCE -----	\$ 538.44
<i>CHECKS ISSUED:</i> -----	\$
<i>DEPOSIT:</i> -----	\$
ENDING BALANCE -----	\$ 538.44

CD ACCOUNT (IHMVCU)

BALANCE AS OF 5/31/25 -----	\$ 3,516.95
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VAC FUNDS TOTAL -----	\$ 4,996.81
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At this time a motion needs to be made to approve this report and a second is needed

Motion: Terry Young

Second: Edward Klundt

Yay: 6 **Nay:**

Passed: **Needs Further Review:**

Notes

President asked about the unmerged emergency and medical funds.

Brad Bigford: Combined the emergency and medical funds previous meeting. Waiting for it to be done.

5. Monthly County Relief Report-----

MONTHLY COUNTY RELIEF REPORT

<u>VOUCHER TYPE</u>	<u>ISSUED 2024</u>	<u>ISSUED 2025</u>	<u>PAID 2025</u>
Rental	\$ 7,736.00	\$ 8,121.00	\$ 7,675.00
Utilities	\$ 1,157.94	\$ 1,381.35	\$ 1,261.35
Food	\$ 2,960.00	\$ 1,710.00	\$ 1,402.16
Personal Hygiene	\$ 1,376.00	\$ 1,830.00	\$ 871.13
<hr/>			
Total	\$ 13,229.94	\$ 13,042.35	\$ 11,209.64

Count

Number of Veterans Assisted: 108

Non-Financial Assistance: 125

Veteran Summary of Benefits: 21

Funerals: 0

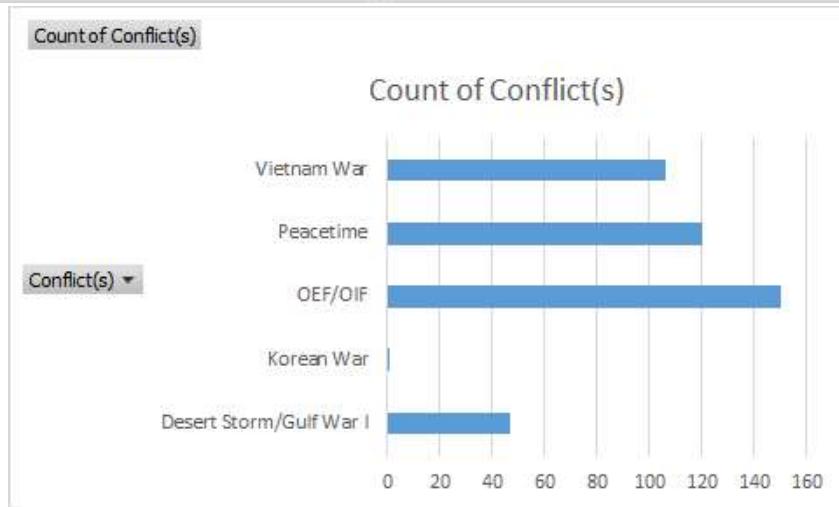
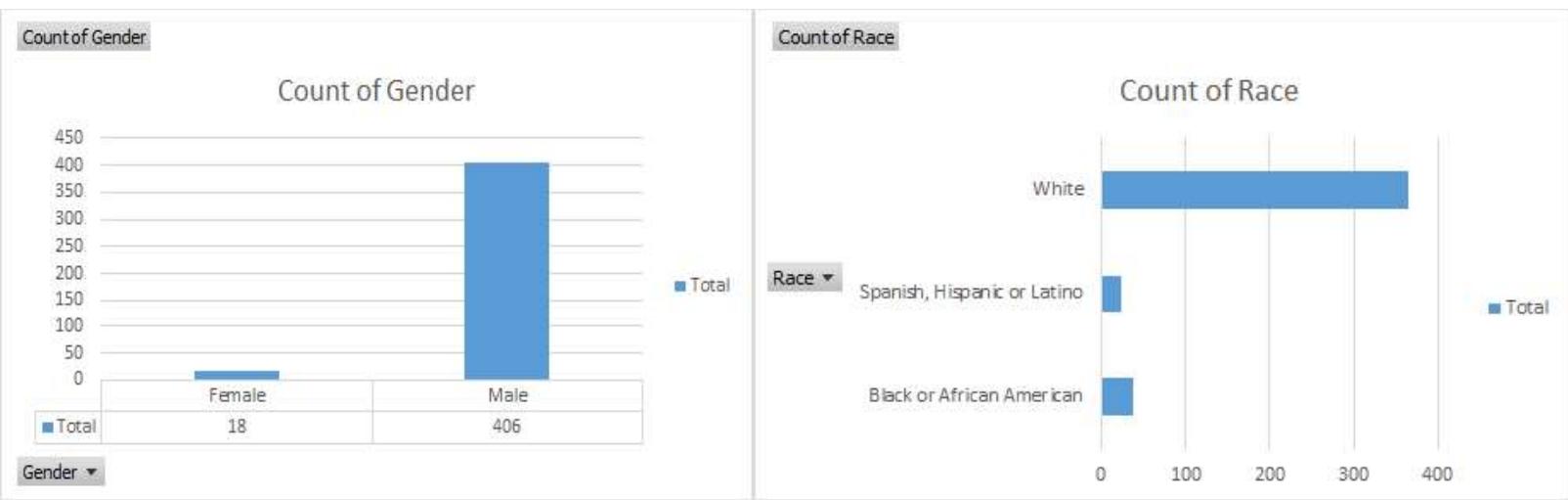
Received Medical Equipment: 0

Total Assistance: 254

6. Vetpro Data for Previous Month----- Parris Silvis

Data Capture 12/1/2024 - 5/31/2025

Added New Person	Created Actions	Created Forms	Submissions	Uploaded Files	Entered Decisions	Entered Interactions
415	831	1479	948	1414	163	2131



Notes

Parris highlighted how many veterans are seeking our services at just the front desk of the VAC Building. VETPRO numbers showed that over 900 cases have been submitted and that expectations are for us to continue to grow with new hires and outreach done by VSO's. Veterans trust other veterans. Brian Habel asked if the front desk and VETPRO numbers overlapped, but were told that they majoratativly distinct clients. Award amounts at this current 6 month mark, are equivilent of the entirety of the previous year.

7. Discussion of Old Business----- Jerry Goodwin

None Needing discussed.

Al Bradley requested to bring up a new issue. Addressed Rock Island housing blue folders showing how much of funding was given out. There was no value shown for RI VAC, just that we provide assistance to veterans with support and advice. Republican Womens meeting at the Riverview Grill housing nearly 100 people left us gravely under-represented. Parris addressed the use of the the website to spread awareness. Brad has already given the financial support numbers to the county, but will address the issue with the county representatives. Brad and Parris will attend the pre-Feburary board meeting to personally address the board and elected officials on our contributions.

Brian Habel to approve budget, Terry Young to second. Passes. All in favor.

8. Discussion of New Business----- Jerry Goodwin

VEAC 27-28 June 2025 Black Hawk College - Discussion. Who / Where / When /What

Our office will not be closed on the 26th/27th, the front office will be available. Brad Bigford expressed the importance of the event. 0900-1500 on the 27th/28th. VHA will have providers and allow people to sign up for health care. VA Benefits/Health/Education reps along with Media.

FY2026 Budget Discussion - Brad Bigford

Brad has made 1 change to the budget, upping the office rent to 42k from 30k to accomidate the inclusion of water into the rent. Terry Young asked the bill break downs for utilitieson water 92k was spent on veterans rent.

Armed Forces Day Event Update- Parris Silvis/Cory Hawk

Parris covered the events exposure that highlighted BDD Claim availability for Rock Island Arsenal Soldiers when handing out cards while braving the wind and cold.

VA Health Clinic Update - Cory Hawk/Jason Willits

Handed out 20-25 business cards for the VA Health clinic visit, and has received multiple visits from just word of mouth justifying our advicasy. Encouraged further outreach.

Local Unit Deployment Update - Cory Hawk

1800 US National Guard Soldiers were deployed to Iraq/Kuwait. Spoke to units about VSO opportunities and expects BDD claims upon return and will also be there for the return yellow ribbon event.

Website Update - Parris Silvis

Wants to expand the presence of our site and work with google to enhace our visibility. Jason expressed the ability to place reviews to help. A linkedin page was also generated. Eventually FB.

Financial Assistance Policy Update - Parris Silvis

Updated Policy to remove redundancy and clarify qualifications. Will be completed by the next meeting.

Admin and VSO Position announced on 6/6/2025 w/ start date Mid July - Brad Bigford

Addressed the perception of an empty parkinglot vs the demand for new VSO's. President recommended having staff park in the front to show more engagement. VSO security was recommended to remain in the back. Mid July will hire another assistant. Has one candidate for each position.

Corey Hawk AG Update

AG has started promoting Corey Hawk. He will be at the Car Show to advertise VAC, and was televised. Group has 2100 followers on Social Media.

Vet Center Grand Reopening - Date: TBD

Recently remodeled. Opens early fall.

July 2025 Monthly Meeting will be at East Moline American Legion

July meeting will be back at the Rock Island VAC center.

July

9. Discussion of Other Business----- Jerry Goodwin

July 1st at 0900 will have a funeral event. Denis Johnson Offered positions in the bi-county position for those that want to volunteer and put out flags onto the graves. Wants fresh input and more members that have spare time. Has generated enough funds to pay the bills for the group. Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month. July will be the last meeting for the year at the Arsenal Cemetery Office.

Al Bradley brought up that we can no longer burn flags on the Rock Island arsenal. Ceremoney will be at 0900 on the 14th (flag day) to burn older American flags (off-post). This comes from higher up. American legion continues to offer this service in Milan.

Jack Brown shared a caviat that his eye surgeon was one of the infants evacuated out of Saigon at the end of Vietnam.

Group discussed the VETCENTER with Brad bringing up their service and the joint ~~cooperation with them and the VAC~~



ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Edward Klundt

Second: Brian Habel

Yay: 6 **Nay:** **Passed:** **Notes**



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4000 46th Avenue Rock Island, IL 61201
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Superintendent - Brad Bigford

DEATH SUMMARY REPORT

05/2025

SUMMARY OF DEATHS

WWII – 1 KOREAN – 3 VIETNAM – 10
GULF WAR – 0 PEACETIME – 0

Number of Rock Island County Veterans buried 05/2025 at the Rock Island Arsenal National during Cemetery: 7

Number of Veterans buried during 05/2025 at the Rock Island Arsenal National Cemetery (*Including local veterans, Scott County and other states*): 43

Number of Veterans buried since 1/1/2025 at the Rock Island Arsenal National Cemetery (*Including local veterans, Scott County and other states*): 182

VETERANS OBITUARY REPORT -

NAME	CONFLICT	FROM	DIED	BURIAL LOCATION
BAMBAUER JERRY L	VIETNAM	COAL VALLEY IL	05/09/2025	RIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
WISHUSEN RALPH E	VIETNAM	SILVIS IL	05/01/2025	RIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
NORRIS JR WILLIAMS	KOREA	COLONA IL	05/01/2025	GREENVIEW MEM GDNS
FRAZELLE SPENCER	VIETNAM	SILVIS IL	05/04/2025	GREENVIEW MEM GDNS
VERSTRAET GERALD	VIETNAM	MOLINE IL	05/12/2025	RIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
SEDLOCK SR JOHN E	VIETNAM	MOLINE IL	05/03/2025	RIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
WESTON DONAVON	KOREA	EAST MOLINE IL	05/09/2025	MOLINE MEMORIAL PARK
THOMPSON DENNIS	VIETNAM	ROCK ISLAND IL	05/12/2025	RIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
DAILING RICHARD E	KOREA	ROCK ISLAND IL	05/13/2025	MOLINE MEM PARK CEM
BEHNCKE ALLEN	VIETNAM	MOLINE IL	05/16/2025	NOT KNOWN
SIVILL PAUL D	WWII	ROCK ISALND IL	05/22/2025	RIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
HORTON RANDY L	VIETNAM	EAST MOLINE IL	05/21/2025	RIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
MACHALEK SIDNEY A	VIETNAM	ROCK ISLAND IL	05/26/2025	GREENVIEW MEM GDNS
BUNKER DANNY L	VIETNAM	EAST MOLINE IL	05/15/2025	GREENVIEW MEM GDNS

WWII VETERANS----- 1

ABBREVIATIONS

KOREAN WAR VETERANS----- 3

ABBREVIATIONS

TWP - TOWNSHIP

CEM - CEMETERY

EM - EAST MOLINE

GDNS - GRADNES

MEM - MEMORIAL

MOL - MOLINE

RI - ROCK ISLAND

RIA - ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

UPT - UNITY POINT

VIETNAM WAR VETERANS----- 10

GULF WAR/OIF/OEF VETERANS---

PEACETIME VETERANS-----

TOTAL NUMBER OF VETERANS----

These minutes have been Approved By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Goodwin".

Jerry Goodwin

DATE: 7/9/2025