

Veterans Assistance Commission of Clinton County

Meeting: 28 May 2025, 1900

Clinton County Board Room

Minutes

- 1) Welcome to all present. Meeting called to order at 1900.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag, all present recited the Pledge.
- 3) Roll Call

Post	Delegate/Alternate	Present/Absent
American Legion Post 0778 Trenton	D – Arnold (Jay) Hilmes	P
	A – Annie Rohe	A
VFW Post 3523 Carlyle	D – Richard Schulte	A
	A – Ken Goodman	A
American Legion Post 1239 Aviston	D – Mark Hilmes	P
	A – Cindy Kues	A
American Legion Post 0321 New Baden	D – John Fridley	A
	A – Wayne Madson	P
CC Vietnam Vets Chapter 269	D - Ferdie Mueller VChair	P
	A – Dave Maue	P
American Legion Post 0976 Bartelso	D - Rachele Smith Chair	P
	A – Corey Menkhaus	A
American Legion Post 0252 Breese	D – Joshua Bunch	A
	A – Dudley Madon	P
American Legion Post 1026 Albers	D – Tamara Farington Sec	P
	A – Aaron Netemeyer	A
American Legion Post 1227 Beckemeyer	D – Robert Langenhorst	P
	A – Joe Timmermann	P
Clinton County Rep, non-voting member	Mike Hilmes	A
	Quorum	Yes

- 4) Introductions/Others Present - None
- 5) Public Comment - None
- 6) Approval of 4/23/25 minutes. Wayne M. made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Jay H. 2nd the motion, motion passed.

Old Business

- 7) Review budget – the Commission reviewed and discussed the VACCC budget. Wayne M. made a motion to accept the budget as written; Dave M. 2nd the motion, motion passed. Holly to contact the Finance Committee of the CC Board and to be put on their agenda for the meeting on 6/11/25 at 6pm, Board Room. (closed)
- 8) Open Meeting Training. Commissioners have 90 days to complete the training (7/23/25). Please print your certificate and give it to Holly or Tamara. (open)

New Business

- 9) Should the VACCC re-sign the By-laws? The answer is “no”. Tamara F. and Dudley M. did sign the By-laws at this meeting. (closed)
- 10) Holly to call the Health Administrator of the CC Health Department to discuss possible office space for the VACCC. (open)
- 11) VACCC Facebook page. Rachele S. will utilize the FB page for the VACCC first started by Greg R. that belonged to the Veterans Committee of the CC board. (closed)

- 12) CC Vietnam Vets Ch 269 is asking the CC VSOs for their thoughts to add Bernard A. Foppe to the CC War Memorial outside the courthouse. Corporal Foppe was a casualty of WW1 and is buried in Thiaucourt, France. He was in the Army, 7th Division, 34th Infantry Regiment. He resided in Breese, IL. (closed)
- 13) Rachele S. was asked by a CC resident, Ruth Marcus to try to find the Military medals of her Uncle, Gustav Holthaus. He was a WW1 soldier who was injured 20 July 1918 and died of his wounds 23 July 1918. The family wants to create a shadow box of his awards and place in the Beckemeyer Legion. (closed)

Adjournment. Motion made by Dudley M. and 2nd by Mark H. to adjourn, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2020.

Next meeting: 6/25/2025 at 1900 at the Clinton County Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Clark, Facilitator

Veterans Assistance Commission of Clinton County

Meeting: 25 June 2025, 1900

Clinton County Board Room

Minutes

- 1) Welcome to all present. Meeting called to order at 1900.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag, all present recited the Pledge.
- 3) Roll Call

Post	Delegate/Alternate	Present/Absent
American Legion Post 0778 Trenton	D – Arnold (Jay) Hilmes	P
	A – Annie Rohe	P
VFW Post 3523 Carlyle	D – Richard Schulte	P
	A – Ken Goodman	A
American Legion Post 1239 Aviston	D – Mark Hilmes	P
	A – Cindy Kues	A
American Legion Post 0321 New Baden	D – John Fridley	P
	A – Wayne Madson	A
CC Vietnam Vets Chapter 269	D - Ferdie Mueller VChair	P
	A – Dave Maue	P
American Legion Post 0976 Bartelso	D - Rachele Smith Chair	P
	A – Corey Menkhaus	A
American Legion Post 0252 Breese	D – Joshua Bunch	A
	A – Dudley Madon	A
American Legion Post 1026 Albers	D – Tamara Farington Sec	P
	A – Aaron Netemeyer	A
American Legion Post 1227 Beckemeyer	D – Robert Langenhorst	P
	A – Joe Timmermann	P
Clinton County Rep, non-voting member	Mike Hilmes	A
	Quorum	Yes

- 4) Introductions/Others Present - None
- 5) Public Comment - None
- 6) Approval of 5/28/25 minutes. Dave M. made a motion to accept the minutes as written, John F. 2nd the motion, motion passed.

Old Business

- 7) Open Meeting Training. Commissioners have 90 days to complete the training (7/23/25). Please print your certificate and give it to Holly or Tamara. (open)
- 8) The Commission discussed the outcome of the meeting with the Finance Committee for Clinton County and the meeting with the County Clerk. The County has agreed to fund the VAC for the rest of this fiscal year and is working with the VACCC to set up a web page etc. to be able to post the job description. It is still unknown at this point where the office will be. The County is actively looking at office space in the courthouse.

New Business

- 9) The Commission reviewed and made slight changes to the job description for the Superintendent. This will be posted to the County web page.
- 10) The County Clerk will post the ad for the Superintendent position to 2 local papers and use funds from the VAC budget.
- 11) The ad will run for 2 weeks and the VACCC will stop taking applications 7/18/25.

12) The Commission decided to use re-vamped Power Point slides from the VACBC, with minor changes, to use temporarily on the VACCC webpage.

Adjournment. Motion made by Annie R. and 2nd by Jay H. to adjourn, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2030.

Next meeting: 7/23/2025 at 1900 at the Clinton County Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Clark, Facilitator

Veterans Assistance Commission of Clinton County

Meeting: 23 July 2025, 1900

Clinton County Board Room

Minutes

- 1) Welcome to all present. Meeting called to order at 1900.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag, all present recited the Pledge.
- 3) Roll Call

Post	Delegate/Alternate	Present/Absent
American Legion Post 0778 Trenton	D – Arnold (Jay) Hilmes	P
	A – Annie Rohe	P
VFW Post 3523 Carlyle	D – Richard Schulte	P
	A – Ken Goodman	A
American Legion Post 1239 Aviston	D – Mark Hilmes	P
	A – Cindy Kues	A
American Legion Post 0321New Baden	D – John Fridley	P
	A – Wayne Madson	P
CC Vietnam Vets Chapter 269	D - Ferdie Mueller VChair	P
	A – Dave Maue	P
American Legion Post 0976 Bartelso	D - Rachele Smith Chair	P
	A – Corey Menkhaus	P
American Legion Post 0252 Breese	D – Joshua Bunch	A
	A – Dudley Madon	P
American Legion Post 1026 Albers	D – Tamara Farington Sec	P
	A – Aaron Netemeyer	A
American Legion Post 1227 Beckemeyer	D – Robert Langenhorst	P
	A – Joe Timmermann	P
Clinton County Rep, non-voting member	Mike Hilmes	A
	Quorum	Yes

- 4) Introductions/Others Present – Don Scheyer, American Legion liaison for VACs. Doug Jameson, VFW liaison for VACs. Ken Knolhoff, CC board member, Matt Wilson, Breese Journal.
- 5) Public Comment - None
- 6) Approval of 6/25/25 minutes. John F. made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Richard S. 2nd the motion, motion passed.

Old Business

- 7) Open Meeting Training. Commissioners have 90 days to complete the training (7/23/25). Please print your certificate and give it to Holly or Tamara. (open)
- 8) Update: work with County
 - a) Budget – will need to circle back with county re: benefits cost. (open)
 - b) Superintendent ad/results – 6 applicants applied. (closed)
 - c) Office space – circle back with county, possible space in the courthouse. (open)
 - d) Web page – temporary web page set up for VACCC. Superintendent to re-vamp later. (closed)

New Business

- 9) Superintendent interview questions and evaluation metric. Commission briefly discussed this tool. Commission needs an objective way to evaluate applicants called for an interview. Chairperson to review and make changes. (closed)

10) Letter of Intent. Commission reviewed document. Commission decided Superintendent benefits would follow salaried county employee benefits. Holly to update letter of intent and work with officers of the Commission to have ready for use after interviews are complete. (Closed)

Adjournment. Motion made by Mark H. and 2nd by Jay H. to adjourn, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1924.

VACCC Commission entered into a closed meeting to review applicant information on this date at 1925.

Next meeting: 8/25/2025 at 1900 at the Clinton County Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Clark, Facilitator

Veterans Assistance Commission of Clinton County

Meeting: 25 August 2025, 1900

Clinton County Board Room

Minutes

- 1) Welcome to all present. Meeting called to order at 1903.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag, all present recited the Pledge.
- 3) Roll Call

Post	Delegate/Alternate	Present/Absent
American Legion Post 0778 Trenton	D – Arnold (Jay) Hilmes	P
	A – Annie Rohe	A
VFW Post 3523 Carlyle	D – Richard Schulte	P
	A – Ken Goodman	A
American Legion Post 1239 Aviston	D – Mark Hilmes	P
	A – Cindy Kues	A
American Legion Post 0321New Baden	D – John Fridley	P
	A – Wayne Madson	A
CC Vietnam Vets Chapter 269	D - Ferdie Mueller VChair	P
	A – Dave Maue	P
American Legion Post 0976 Bartelso	D - Rachele Smith Chair	P
	A – Corey Menkhaus	A
American Legion Post 0252 Breese	D – Joshua Bunch	A
	A – Dudley Madon	A
American Legion Post 1026 Albers	D – Tamara Farington Sec	P
	A – Aaron Netemeyer	A
American Legion Post 1227 Beckemeyer	D – Robert Langenhorst	A
	A – Joe Timmermann	P
Clinton County Rep, non-voting member	Mike Hilmes	P
	Quorum	Yes

- 4) Introductions/Others Present –Colbey Voss, VACCC Superintendent, Doug Stewart, legal advisor. Doug Jameson, VFW liaison for VACs. Ken Knolhoff, CC board member, Holly Clark VAC Facilitator.
- 5) Public Comment - None
- 6) Approval of 7/23/25 minutes. John F. made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Richard S. 2nd the motion, motion passed.

Old Business

- 1) Open meeting training (7/23/25) - Still needed from: Kenny Goodman, Wayne Madson, Corey Menkhaus, Joshua Bunch
- 2) Update: work with County
 - a) Budget- Some changes have been requested for our next years budget, such as cutting veteran assistance budget from \$32,000 to \$22,000. Will be going back to them to request our budget stay at what we originally asked for. County Budget meeting is Sep. 17th 18:30
 - b) Office space- Office located on the 3rd floor of the courthouse Rm. 230.
- 3) Results of interview process- Colbey Voss has been hired as the VACCC Superintendent, hire date of September 1st 2025. He has registered us with the National Association of County VSO's. Doing VSO

training from Sept. 15-19 in East Peoria. Attending Basic Benefits Course Oct 20-24th. Need to have Tyler Benefit Software. Still looking into getting a phone line connected with the Sheriff's office. Creating a new Facebook page. Will be out of office September 29th-October 3rd

- 4) Chairperson Smith's Veteran program update- was able to help a surviving spouse of a veteran. She is now in a nursing home and getting financial aid. Still working on getting WWI veteran, who died in combat and files were burnt in the fire in St. Louis, to get his case reopened and evaluate if his actions will justify a Purple Heart.

New Business

- 5) VACCC legal representation- Doug Stewart has been assisting us as we were starting up, and would like to be our legal representation moving forward. Retainer of \$1250 a month for a one year contract, would cover all legal representation including litigation issues if any would arise. Working for 2 other counties. Motion made to have legal counsel, and have it added to our budget as a just and necessary expense. Mark H. made motion Dave Maue 2nd motion passed
- 6) Hip-pocket training webinar related to VAC budgets- September 4th at 11:30 a.m

Adjourn. Motion/2nd/vote- Richard S motion, Mark H 2nd motion passed

Next meeting: 9/22/25 7 PM

Veterans Assistance Commission of Clinton County

Meeting: 22 September 2025, 7PM

Clinton County Board Room

Minutes

- 1) Welcome to all present. Meeting called to order @ 1904
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag, all present recited the Pledge
- 3) Roll Call

Post	Delegate/Alternate	Present (P) /Absent (A)
American Legion Post 0778 Trenton	D – Arnold (Jay) Hilmes	P
	A – Annie Rohe	P
VFW Post 3523 Carlyle	D – Richard Schulte	P
	A – Kenny Goodman	A
American Legion Post 1239 Aviston	D – Mark Hilmes	P
	A – Cindy Kues	A
American Legion Post 0321New Baden	D – John Fridley	P
	A – Wayne Madson	P
CC Vietnam Vets Chapter 269	D - Ferdie Mueller VChair	P
	A – Dave Maue	A
American Legion Post 0976 Bartelso	D - Rachele Smith Chair	P
	A – Corey Menkhaus	A
American Legion Post 0252 Breese	D – Joshua Bunch	A
	A – Dudley Maden	A
American Legion Post 1026 Albers	D – Tamara Farington Sec	P
	A – Aaron Netemeyer	P
American Legion Post 1227 Beckemeyer	D – Robert Langenhorst	P
	A – Joe Timmermann	P
		Quorum: Yes
CC Board Member Rep, non-voting member	Mike Hilmes	A
VACCC Superintendent	Colbey Voss	P

- 4) Introductions/Others Present- Brad, Clinton County Board member
- 5) Public Comment- Brad: welcomed Colbey as Superintendent. Accepting the budget that was submitted and asked if we need to make changes to the budget to do so by November 1st (board ratifies budget by 3rd Monday in November). Discussed replacing flag pole that was donated by Vietnam Vets, considering burying a time capsule when they replace pole, would like to work with VACCC and Vietnam Vets when they do the dedication no date set yet, possible March 29th
- 6) Approval of minutes 8/25/2025. Motion/2nd/vote. Wayne M. made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Richard S. 2nd the motion, motion passed

Old Business

- 7) VACCC Legal Representation- At training Colbey spoke with other VAC reps about legal representation and it was a mixed response with the majority having a legal rep but not paying monthly to have one on retainer. The most need for one is for the reason of having issues with the county board, and Commissions mishandling money. Colbey recommended discussing with Doug Stewart if we could use his services as needed and not paying a monthly retainer fee, as our County Board is working with us and supporting us. Also found that we were going to be charged \$5,000 more a year than another county near us. Motion was

made by Jay Hilmes to renegotiate with Doug Stewart for an hourly rate, 2nd made by Wayne Madson, motion passed

- 8) Update: Budget- Our budget that was submitted to the county board will be forwarded and we will discuss at next meeting
- 9) Hip-Pocket Training- Not recommended for everyone to complete

New Business

- 10) Superintendent Report- Colbey informed the commission of everything he has completed since his hire date of September 2nd
- 11) Service Line Policies- reviewed the commission policies for veterans applying for aid
- 12) Financial Aid Intake Form- reviewed the form required for veterans to complete to file for aid

Adjourn. Motion/2nd/vote- Richard S. made motion, Wayne M. 2nd, motion passed

Next meeting: 10/22/25 7 PM

Veterans Assistance Commission of Clinton County

Meeting: 22 October 2025, 7PM

Clinton County Board Room

Minutes

- 1) Welcome to all present. Meeting called to order @ 1900
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag. All present recited the pledge
- 3) Roll Call

Post	Delegate/Alternate	Present (P) /Absent (A)
American Legion Post 0778 Trenton	D – Arnold (Jay) Hilmes	P
	A – Annie Rohe	A
VFW Post 3523 Carlyle	D – Richard Schulte	A
	A – Rachele Smith Chair	P
American Legion Post 1239 Aviston	D – Mark Hilmes	P
	A – Cindy Kues	P
American Legion Post 0321 New Baden	D – John Fridley	A
	A – Wayne Madson	A
CC Vietnam Vets Chapter 269	D - Ferdie Mueller VChair	P
	A – Dave Maue	A
American Legion Post 0976 Bartelso	Deactivated	
American Legion Post 0252 Breese	D – Joshua Bunch	A
	A – Dudley Maden	P
American Legion Post 1026 Albers	D – Tamara Farington Sec	P
	A – Aaron Netemeyer	P
American Legion Post 1227 Beckemeyer	D – Robert Langenhorst	P
	A – Joe Timmermann	A
		Quorum: YES
CC Board Member Rep, non-voting member	Mike Hilmes	P
VACCC Superintendent	Colbey Voss	P

- 4) Introductions/Others Present- No others present
- 5) Public Comment- None
- 6) Approval of minutes 10/22/2025. Motion/2nd/vote Robert Langenhorst made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mark Hilmes 2nd the motion, motion passed

Old Business

- 7) VACCC Legal Representation- Still no contact from Doug Stewart. Colbey will be reaching out to a lawyer he met at the Illinois training session
- 8) Update: Budget- We are still within our budget for the rest of the fiscal year. Our budget is set for 2026 fiscal year.

New Business

- 9) Superintendent Report- Has met with 12 veterans. Taking classes to get accredited. Doing Clinton County CEO. Learning about national cemeteries, and getting markers for Veterans graves

10) Sangamon County Ruling- We shouldn't have any problems that are related to what happened in Sangamon County. It seems it is a problem more for larger areas and not having a good partnership with the county

Adjourn. Motion/2nd/vote- Ferdie M. made a motion, Dudley M. 2nd, motion passed

Next meeting: 11/22/25 7 PM (Motion made by Dudley M. and 2nd by Mark H. to move our meeting to the 22nd, motion passed

Veterans Assistance Commission of Clinton County

Meeting: 20 November 2025, 7PM

Clinton County Board Room

Minutes

1) Welcome Meeting called to order @ 1900

2) Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag All present recited the pledge

3) Roll Call

Post	Delegate/Alternate	Present (P) /Absent (A)
American Legion Post 0778 Trenton	D – Arnold (Jay) Hilmes	P
	A – Mike Shaw	P
VFW Post 3523 Carlyle	D – Richard Schulte	A
	A – Rachele Smith Chair	P
American Legion Post 1239 Aviston	D – Mark Hilmes	P
	A – Cindy Kues	A
American Legion Post 0321 New Baden	D – John Fridley	P
	A – Wayne Madson	A
CC Vietnam Vets Chapter 269	D - Ferdie Mueller VChair	P
	A – Dave Maue	P
American Legion Post 0976 Bartelso	Deactivated	
American Legion Post 0252 Breese	D – Joshua Bunch	A
	A – Dudley Maden	P
American Legion Post 1026 Albers	D – Tamara Farrington Sec	P
	A – Aaron Netemeyer	P
American Legion Post 1227 Beckemeyer	D – Robert Langenhorst	A
	A – Joe Timmermann	P
		Quorum: Yes

CC Board Member Rep, non-voting member	Mike Hilmes	P
VACCC Superintendent	Colbey Voss	P

4) Introductions/Others Present No others present

5) Public Comment None

6) For the good of the Commission Santa at Albers Legion 7th of December. New Baden Legion having friendsgiving November 26th. Aviston KC having breakfast Sunday November 30th. Haven weekend this weekend coming up. Beckemeyer legion purple heart for Mr. Holthouse has been approved

7) Approval of October minutes. 11/20/2025 Motion/2nd/vote Dudley Maden made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mark Hilmes 2nd the motion, motion passed

Old Business

8) VACCC Legal Representation- motion made to get representation from Josh Herman with Miller Hull and Triggs, they will only charge when needed \$315 an hour. Motion made by Dave Maue 2nd by Aaron Netemeyer, roll call vote made and all approved motion passed

9) Update: Budget - budget was consolidated, legal fees had been taken out of our budget but is all fixed now. Mike Hilmes said he doesn't believe we will see any more pushback

10) Ramps- we are not able to help with the cost of ramps, it is not in our budget. We can help manpower wise but not with the payment

New Business

11) Superintendent Report - Attending Breese chamber events and Clinton County connections meetings. Completed the basic benefits course, taking TRIPS training courses. Spoke at tribute meeting at Kaskaskia. Spoke at Germantown and Carlyle schools Veterans Day programs. Joined the Germantown Legion. Lobbied for our budget at board meeting

12) New Office Location - new office will be located on the lower level of the courthouse starting January

13) Report to the Governor - yearly requirement, since we just started Colbey will send what info we have for just being started

Adjourn. Motion/2nd/vote- Arnold H. made a motion, Joe T. 2nd, motion passed

Next meeting: 12/22/25 7 PM

Veterans Assistance Commission of Clinton County

Meeting: DECEMBER NO MEETING

Clinton County Board Room

Agenda

Post	Delegate/Alternate	Present (P) /Absent (A)
American Legion Post 0778 Trenton	D – Arnold (Jay) Hilmes	
	A – Mike Shaw	
VFW Post 3523 Carlyle	D – Richard Schulte	
	A – Rachele Smith Chair	
American Legion Post 1239 Aviston	D – Mark Hilmes	
	A – Cindy Kues	
American Legion Post 0321 New Baden	D – John Fridley	
	A – Wayne Madson	
CC Vietnam Vets Chapter 269	D - Ferdie Mueller VChair	
	A – Dave Maue	
American Legion Post 0976 Bartelso	Deactivated	
American Legion Post 0252 Breese	D – Joshua Bunch	
	A – Dudley Maden	
American Legion Post 1026 Albers	D – Tamara Farrington Sec	
	A – Aaron Netemeyer	
American Legion Post 1227 Beckemeyer	D – Robert Langenhorst	
	A – Joe Timmermann	
		Quorum: Y N
CC Board Member Rep, non-voting member	Mike Hilmes	
VACCC Superintendent	Colbey Voss	

Next meeting: 01/28/26 7 PM