



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF COOK COUNTY

Meeting Agenda

17 December 2024

Lyons Township Post 1941

6404 Joliet Road Countryside, IL 60525

Executive Board Members: Frank Gutierrez (*President*), William Browne (*1st Vice President*), Dutch DeGroot (*2nd Vice President*), Robert Arciola (*Treasurer*)

At Large Board Members: Greg Jacobs, Wayne Kern, John Steciw

Appointees: Jim Parker (*Secretary*), Kevin Ake (*Chaplain*), Gina A. LoGalbo (*Judge Advocate*), Lorenzo Fiorentino (*Sergeant at Arms*)

Superintendent: Elizabeth D. Soto

- I. Welcome - President Frank Gutierrez
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call / Establish Quorum – 2nd VP DeGroot
 - c. Recognition of Guests - President Gutierrez
- II. Opening Reflection - Chaplain Kevin Ake
 - a. Prayer / Reflection
 - b. Posting of Colors/Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Consent Agenda - President Gutierrez
 - a. Approval of Membership Meeting 24 September 2024 Minutes
- IV. Public Comment for Items Not on The Agenda - President Gutierrez
- V. VACCC Report(s) - Superintendent Elizabeth Soto
 - a. Approval of Membership Meeting 25 June 2024 Minutes
- VI. Governance Report - Treasurer Robert Arciola
 - a. Approval of Previous Financial Reports
 - b. Ratification of Certain Executive Board Actions - Secretary Parker
- VII. VACCC Report(s) - Superintendent Elizabeth Soto
 - a. Office
 - b. 2025 Budget
 - c. Digitizing Records
 - d. Adjusting Benefits
 - e. New Location
- VIII. Bylaws - John Steciw
- IX. Budget – VP William Browne.
- X. Services Provided - Wayne Kern
- XI. Unfinished Business - President Gutierrez
 - a. Membership NFP Status – Secretary Parker (table)
 - b. State Chartered applicants - President Gutierrez
- XII. New Business - President Gutierrez
 - a. Increase income threshold of veterans seeking benefits. President Gutierrez
 - b. Pursue the acquisition of certain assets of the Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs by the VACCC. VP Browne
 - c. Relocate from the current office of the VACCC to a new Cook County location more suitable to its needs. 2nd VP DeGroot
 - d. Retain third party consultant to digitize the records of the VACCC. 2nd VP DeGroot
 - e. Discussion on liability protections for potential errors made by VACCC employees. 2nd VP DeGroot
 - f. Report on Recruitment and retention for the upcoming VACCC registration period. 2nd VP DeGroot
- XIII. Good of the Order - President Gutierrez
 - e. Update on the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act of 2023. Treasurer Arciola
- XIV. Future Meeting Sites Update - 2nd VP DeGroot
 - a. 25 March Hines VA Building 9 5000 5th Ave, Hines, IL 60141 Resource fair before meeting
- XV. Comments from Special Guest
- XVI. Adjournment