



# VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF COOK COUNTY

**Meeting Agenda**

**26 March 2024**

**Lyons Township Hall**

**6404 Joliet Road Countryside, IL 60525**

**(Executive Board Members):** Robert Arciola (*President*), Frank Gutierrez (*1st Vice President*), Paul Knudtson (*2nd Vice President*), Michael Chyterbok (*Treasurer*), **At Large Board Members:** William Browne, Wayne Kern, John Steciw

- I. Welcome - Robert Arciola / Paul Knudtson
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call / Establish Quorum – Paul Knudtson
  - c. Recognition of Guests - Robert Arciola
- II. Opening Reflection - Chaplain Kevin Ake
  - a. Prayer / Reflection
  - b. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Consent Agenda - Robert Arciola
  - a. Approval of Membership Meeting December 26, 2023 Minutes
- IV. Public Comment for Items Not on The Agenda - Robert Arciola
- V. Governance Report - Michael Chyterbok
  - a. Approval of Previous Financial Reports
- VI. VACCC Office Report(s) - Superintendent Elizabeth Soto
  - a. Review / Approve Financial & Disbursement Reports
  - b. Review Veterans Served Race & Gender
  - c. Office Update / Monthly Outreach Report
  - d. Communications / Website Update
  - e. Cook County HR and Hiring Staff Update
- VII. Committee On Bylaws - John Steciw
  - a. Bylaws proposed Amendment to be added to Article V SECTION 5.6. Meetings  
F. The President may change the date of a regularly scheduled Quarterly Membership Meeting when necessary, provided prior notice is given and requirements Of the Illinois Open Meetings are met.
- VIII. Committee Budget – Chairman William Browne Committee updates and appointments.
- IX. Committee on Services Provided - Paul Knudtson
  - a. Updates
- X. Legal Assistance Updates – Elizabeth Soto
- XI. Future Meeting Site Committee Update - Dutch DeGroot
- XII. Old Business - Robert Arciola / Elizabeth Soto / James Parker
  - a. Highlights of VACCC FY2023 and goals for FY2024
  - b. Report on 501 (c)3 findings
- XIII. New Business - Robert Arciola
  - a. VACCC Executive Board Member Nominations and Election (officers first, then At Large Board)
  - b. VACCC President's Appointments - Judge Advocate, Sergeant-At-Arms, Chaplain, and Secretary
- XIV. Comments and Announcements
  - a. Questions / Concerns
- XV. Adjournment
  - a. Next VACCC Membership Meeting - Tuesday, 25 June 2024 1900 Location TBD



# VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF COOK COUNTY

## Membership Meeting Minutes

26 March 2024

Location:

Lyons Township

6404 Joliet Road

Countryside, IL 60525

(Executive Board Members): Robert Arciola (President) Frank Gutierrez (1st Vice President), Paul Knudtson (2nd Vice President)(absent), Michael Chyterbok (Treasurer) (absent), William Browne, Wayne Kern, John Steciw (EB members)

### I. Welcome – President Arciola

a. Call to Order at 1902 hrs.

b. Roll Call/ Establish Quorum - Frank Gutierrez announced that 32 members were present per the Sign In Sheet. A quorum was confirmed as 18 members were required. The Sign In Sheet will be attached (to final minutes)to and made a part of the Official Version of these Minutes.

c. Jim Parker of Am Vets Post 66 was appointed as Secretary for the meeting.

d. Recognition of Guests – President Arciola introduced and welcomed Rochelle Crump of NWVU and State Senator Mike Porfirio

### II. Opening Reflection - Chaplain Kevin Ake

a. Prayer/ Reflection

b. Pledge of Allegiance

### III. Consent Agenda – President Arciola

A motion to approve the minutes of the 26 December 2024 meeting, as amended change the date of the minutes by Bill Starr was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

### IV. Public IV Public Comments for Items Not public Comments for Items not on the Agenda.

a. Rochelle Crump of the NWVU Said that she thinks the procedures for becoming a State Chartered organization are unfair to the NWVU.

b. Ken McClory of AL Post 615 ask Ms. Crump, “what’s your point?” President Arciola responded that such a question is not appropriate as a Public Comment but explained that the procedures for becoming a State Chartered organization are clearly set forth in the applicable State law.

c. Lorenzo Fiorentino of AL Post 335 said that it is his understanding that any AL, VFW, AMVETS, DAV or similar organization is free to chose to join or not join the VACCC at their discretion.

d. Paul Bezazian of VFW Post 8322 announced that tomorrow at 10am there will be a rally to protest the recent flag burning. at City Hall and he would like for veterans to attend in support.

e. Eden Puente announced that the Chicago Golf Association is offering a \$10 membership discount to veterans. He said the organization offers a number of programs that would be of interest to golfers.

### V. GOVERNANCE REPORT – Treasurer Michael Chyterbok

a. Approval of Financial Reports . No report due to the absence of the Treasurer.

### VI. VACCC Office Reports - Superintendent Elizabeth Soto.

a. Review of Financial and Disbursement Report.

b. Review of Veterans Served Race & Gender Report.

c. Monthly Outreach Report.

d. Communications/ Website Updates Report.

e. Update on Cook County HR & Hiring Staff Delays

f. Highlights of 2023, including budget meetings attended by veterans that resulted in our largest budget to date -- \$2,000,000 and the selection of Miller, Hall & Triggs as our legal counsel.

**g.** Goals for 2024, including the hiring of new staff, the closing of the office on Wednesdays so staff can catch up with paperwork backlog, and the Mural Reveal and Mini Resource Fair scheduled for 5 May 2024 Several questions were asked to which Elizabeth gave satisfactory responses. Dutch DeGroot moved for approval of the Superintendent's Report which was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

**VII.** Committee Budget - Chairman Bill Brown announced there was no report as the 2024 budget was approved. President Arciola said we will need a new committee and chairman for future budgets.

**VIII.** Committee On Bylaws - Chairman John Steciw read the following proposed change to Section 5.6: F. The President may change the date of a regularly scheduled Quarterly Membership Meetings when necessary, provided that prior notice is given and requirements of the Illinois Open Meetings Act are met. This will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

**IX.** Committee on Services Provided – President Arciola said that Paul Knutson has resigned as Chairman and a replacement is needed. Wayne Kern, a Committee member said that with the conclusion of the last report there may not be much for a new committee to do, but he will agree to volunteer as needed. Dutch DeGroot asked for Consensus approval for Wayne to be a Consultant as needed. This was approved.

**X.** Committee on Legal Assistance Search - William Browne See Superintendent's report, Item f.

**XI.** Future Meeting Site Committee – Dutch DeGroot The Chairman reported that he is working on a centralized location for the next meeting.

**XII.** Old Business – President Arciola

**a.** Highlights of VACCC for 2023 and Goals for 2024 -- See Superintendent's report, Items f. and g.

**b.** Report on Section 501 c. (4) findings –Tabled by Consensus.

**XIII.** New Business – President Arciola

**a.** President Arciola announced that motions to elect Officers and Directors were in order. Pursuant to a series of proper motions, duly seconded, the following were nominated and elected to the Offices indicated by unanimous voice vote:

Frank Gutierrez	President
Bill Brown	First Vice President
Dutch DeGroot	Second Vice President
Robert Arciola	Treasurer

**b.** Pursuant to a series of proper motions, duly seconded, the following slate were nominated and elected to be Directors At large:

John Steciw  
Greg Jacobs  
Wayne Kern

**b.** New President Frank Gutierrez appointed the following to the positions indicated:

Jim Parker	Secretary / Adjutant
Kevin Ake	Chaplain
Gina A. LoGalbo	Judge Advocate
Lorenzo Fiorentino	Sargent at Arms

**XIV.** Comments and Announcements VACCC Questions/Concerns from Membership.

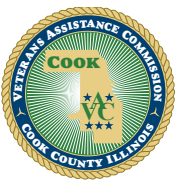
**a.** Dutch DeGroot requested and received Consensus approval for the VACCC to pay expenses related Superintendent Soto's membership in the national organization of VACCC superintendents.

**b.** Dutch DeGroot requested and received Consensus approval to invite a representative of the Illinois Attorney General's Military and Veterans Rights Bureau to attend the next meeting to explain its mission and how it helps veterans.

**c.** Bill Szura thanked Lyons Township for the use of its facilities for this meeting.

**d.** The next membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, 25 June at 1900 hrs. at a location TBA.

**XV.** Adjournment Bill Starr made a motion to adjourn that was seconded and approved by a unanimous voice vote at 2013hrs.



# VACCC MEMBERSHIP SIGN IN SHEET

## 26 MARCH 2024

Organization	X	Delegate	X	Alternate Delegate
American Legion 36		Patrick Flannigan	X	Gregory Jacobs
American Legion 104	X	Michael F Tuman	X	Dennis Chavez
American Legion 183	X	Peter Papuc	X	Timothy Bodkin
American Legion 208	X	Greg Padovani		Dale Berg
American Legion 216	X	Kevin Ake		
American Legion 335	X	Lorenzo Fiorentino	X	Edward Castaneda
American Legion 525	X	William "Bill" Starr		Laura Matuszak
American Legion 541		Walter J Galiga		Megan Gill
American Legion 615	X	Ken McClory	X	John Kaminecki
American Legion 758		Beau D. Butts		William M. Szura
American Legion 806	X	Dale Tippett		Pete Hirt
American Legion 943	X	John Steciw		Adam Bihun
American Legion 973	X	Eden Puente		
American Legion 974	X	Anthony Siciliano		Thomas Zito
American Legion 1941		Mike Maher		
American Legion 1983	X	Mark Kwiatkowski	X	Antony (Tony) Thomas
AMVETS 66	X	James Schultz	X	James (Jim) Parker
AMVETS 268		Eddie Brown Jr.	X	Richard Nielson
JWV 710	R	Dr. Jerry Field (remotely)		Howard Goldstein
MCL 553	X	Randall L. Tyner	X	Gina Ann LoGalbo
MOAA Chicago	X	Roman Golash		Warren D. Cuplin
Navy League Chicago 69		Leslie Rodriguez	X	Paul J. Bezazian
PVA Vaughan Chapter	X	Robert Arciola		Robert Statam
VFW 311	X	Bill Browne		Aretha Spurlock
VFW 981	X	Stewart Abblink		Timothy Delaney
VFW 1337	X	Wayne K. Kern	X	John "Dutch" DeGroot
VFW 2202	X	John Healy		Thomas McMahon
VFW 2868		EvaMarie Duff	X	Eric Morales
VFW 3579	X	Ramon Prieto	X	Keith Renner
VFW 5979	X	Richard Wojewnik		David Ruiz
VFW 7186	X	Thomas J. "Jim" Hughes		Jason Kruger
VFW 8322	X	Frank Gutierrez		
VFW 9284	X	Arthur J. Ellingsen		Wallace Campbell
VFW 10778	X	Chuck Bosko		
VVA 242	X	Kevin Calkins		John B. Andres Jr.
<b>32 total organizations</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>41 total deligates &amp; alternates</b>
<b>Non Member</b>		<b>Non Voting Pending State Charter</b>		
CVO (Coalition of Veterans)		Larry Nazimek		Willie Mack
NWVU	X	Rochelle Crump	X	Sharon Stokes-Parry