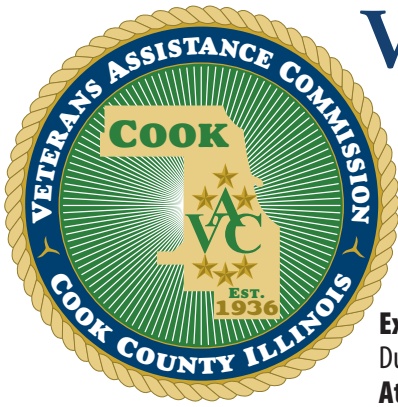




VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF COOK COUNTY

Meeting Minutes

22 September 2026 @ 1900 hrs

VFW Post 2868

8844 Ogden Avenue, Brookfield, IL 60513

Executive Board Members: Frank Gutierrez (*President*), Jesus "Chuy" Segura (*1st Vice President*), Dutch DeGroot (*2nd Vice President*), Robert Arciola (*Treasurer*),
At Large Board Members: Greg Jacobs, Randall Tyner, Evamarie Duff.
Non voting Appointees: John Kerrigan (*Secretary*), George Gandara (*Chaplain*), Pete Hirt (*Judge Advocate*), Eric "Kermit" Morales (*Sargent at Arms*). Elizabeth Soto (*Superintendent*)

I. Call to Order — President Gutierrez

- a. Call to order. President Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 1905 hrs. and thanked VFW Post 2868 for hosting.
- b. Quorum. 2nd Vice President Dutch DeGroot confirmed that a quorum was present, and the President declared the quorum established.
- c. Recognition of guests. President Gutierrez recognized several American Legion and VFW representatives; Diane Kelly of the Illinois Fisher House; and Vanessa Walters and Calvin Young of the Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs.

II. Opening Reflection — Acting Chaplain Robert Arciola

- a. Prayer/Reflection. Acting Chaplain Robert Arciola delivered the opening prayer. He asked for wisdom and guidance for Commission leaders, welcomed the guests, and asked for protection for service members and for veterans in hospitals.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Consent Agenda — President Gutierrez

- a. Approval of previous meeting minutes. The minutes of the 23 June 2026 membership meeting had been distributed to the membership in advance. No corrections or modifications were offered. A motion to approve was made by Larry Nazimek and seconded by David Ruiz and carried by voice vote with no abstentions. The approved minutes will be posted on the VACCC website.
- b. Agenda. The meeting agenda was approved without changes.

IV. Governance Report — Treasurer Robert Arciola

a. Treasurer's Financial Report

Treasurer Robert Arciola reported financial activity since the June meeting:

- Balance at the June meeting: \$5,118.07
- June deposits: \$112.00, all from the Cook County Clerk's Office
- Balance opened 1 July 2026: \$5,230.70
- No deposits were received between July and September.
- September deposit: \$53.00 from the Cook County Clerk's Office
- Current balance: \$5,283.07

The Treasurer noted that the balance was current as of the meeting date, not month-end.

Annual filings. The Treasurer will file the nonprofit's annual report with the State in October, followed by the annual IRS Form 990 postcard filing. The postcard is appropriate because the organization has never accumulated more than \$50,000. The VACCC office staff files its own separate reports.

No questions were raised. The Treasurer's report was received and filed.

- b. Appointment of 501(c)(3) President and Governance Development. Taken up under Unfinished Business (see VI.a).

V. VACCC Office Reports — Superintendent Elizabeth Soto

Superintendent Soto presented the office update and the final FY2027 budget proposal. She opened by explaining that the VAC operates independently under state law (Military Veterans Assistance Act), with Cook County providing administrative and financial support.

a. FY2027 Budget, Staffing and Locations

- The original FY2027 request was \$5.6 million, including 15 additional full-time positions (among them a chief of staff, a bureau chief of veteran services, two administrative assistants and two communications and outreach coordinators).
- After discussions with Cook County, the request was reduced to 10 positions, and costs for computers, phones and other items for a larger staff were removed. The revised total request is \$4,585,790.10.
- The office stated that 10 positions will still allow expanded claims assistance and operations across three VAC locations.
- Headquarters at 1100 South Hamilton will remain the financial assistance and administrative center. The Chicago Regional Office will continue to provide specialized claims assistance.
- Work on the new Rolling Meadows location is continuing. An additional office in the Southland area of Cook County is planned for FY2027.
- Fleet. The office received the first of four requested vehicles, a 2026 Ford Bronco. Outfitting is expected to be complete by next month.
- Proposed wellness program. The office proposed a new FY2027 Veteran Fairways health and wellness initiative, built around affordable access to golf instruction, equipment and courses through a relationship with True More. This was presented as a proposal, not an approved program.
- FY2026 direct financial assistance. \$382,015.10 was provided to 922 veterans, 186 of whom were new to the program.

b. Veterans Service Office Report — Derek Giffin, Veterans Services Manager

- Faris Karadsheh, previously a Veteran Service Officer, has been promoted to Veteran Service Manager. Interviews are underway for six new Veteran Service Officers to help meet high demand.
- Third-quarter activity (June–August 2026): 360 powers of attorney, 330 new disability claims, 273 intents to file and 219 higher-level reviews.
- Reporting change. Going forward, claims will be counted as VA Forms 21-526EZ (disability compensation), 21P-527EZ (non-service-connected pension) and 21P-534EZ (survivor benefits). Supplemental claims (VA Form 20-0995) will be categorized as appeals. This change explains the discrepancy between Q2 and Q3 figures.
- Financial impact. The office reported roughly \$1 million per month in compensation brought to Cook County veterans and beneficiaries. Q2 was just over \$3 million, and Q3 exceeded Q2 despite reduced staffing following the departure of Justina Berry.

c. Outreach and Operations — Communications and Outreach Manager

- Intake system. The office completed a centralized outreach-intake system (Power App), developed in-house, that combines earlier automated tools. It lets staff collect veteran contact and demographic information, track events and attendance, schedule appointments two to three months ahead, and send automated emails with verified resource links. It is tied to the QR-code form.
- Auditability. Event and assistance data can now be reported and verified. About 657 veterans were directly assisted in roughly the first two and a half months on the system. The office reported that Q3 set a record for veterans directly assisted and interactions, compared with 410 directly assisted and 1,466 interactions in Q2.
- Most requested services. Food assistance, hygiene assistance and utility assistance. Top VSO intake requests were disability compensation, supplemental claims and pension. Top partner referrals were food support, housing/homelessness and utility assistance.

- Events. The office attended at least 103 events in Q3, including more ceremonial and speaking events than usual.
- Volunteers. The first volunteer cohort has completed the required certification, and about 10 volunteers now support outreach events.
- Marketing. Marketing materials were redesigned, including a new logo.
- Q4 priorities. Website redesign (delayed earlier because budget went to direct services), expansion of the volunteer program, and an internship program. A Commission member was scheduled to begin an internship that week through her master's program.

d. Membership Portal — Deputy Superintendent Grant Jacobson

- A new online membership portal consolidates each organization's membership status, attendance, required documents and standing, with a public view, an organization view and a member login. It also includes a map of veteran service organizations and VAC outreach locations.
- Presidents and vice presidents are intended to have access and editing capability. The office will send login credentials to members.
- Members may distribute VAC informational materials, such as the QR-code cards available at the meeting. Formal VAC volunteering requires completing the volunteer process.
- Outreach was described as getting veterans into VAC offices to access benefits, with event locations chosen using data, QR-code tracking and engagement with elected officials.

e. Questions and Discussion

In response to a question about how programs are evaluated, staff explained that every event is evaluated afterward, that staff track who they meet and who receives services, and that much programming comes from the Board and membership. Delegates were encouraged to raise concerns at meetings or through the Services Provided/Benefits Committee. One example discussed was adjusting utility assistance for veterans in all-electric homes, who may not need natural-gas support.

f. Approval. A motion to approve the VACCC office report as presented was made by Jim Parker and seconded by Larry Nazimek. The motion carried by voice vote with no abstentions.

VI. Unfinished Business — President Gutierrez

a. Appointment of 501(c)(3) President. Development of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County Foundation remains pending. One qualified volunteer has expressed interest in serving as president and would help build the board, bylaws and structure so the Foundation stays under the supervision of the VAC membership. No nominations were taken and no one was appointed. The President intends to nominate and hold a membership vote in December so the Foundation can move forward at the start of the year.

b. Conflict of Interest Forms. Conflict-of-interest forms and the statement of economic interest remain under development or review.

c. Hines VA Follow-Up.

- A news outlet contacted the President about reported conditions at Freedom Pass/Freedom Hills at Hines, including dead rats, hallway garbage and odors. Many residents pay rent. These were presented as reports from residents and the news outlet, not verified findings.
- The President stated that Director Prince raised the matter with the hospital, which said the land is VA's but the housing is run by a private developer. The Commission's position is that it remains VA land and VA's responsibility.
- The Commission will continue monitoring, pursue follow-up with Hines leadership, and would like to make an in-person site visit.
- The office is following up on Building 217 after receiving unfavorable information about the Labor Day weekend. A report will be issued.
- Issues involving the Fisher House at Hines were noted, and follow-up meetings with Hines and Director Prince are planned.

◦ In response to a question, it was stated that the regional director may assume responsibility for Hines. This was not confirmed as a completed change.

d. IACVAC Update. Superintendent Soto reported that the Illinois Association of Veterans Assistance Commissions, a 501(c)(3) run by county superintendents, monitors state legislation affecting VACs. She reported no significant change from the past meeting and said further updates would be sent by email.

e. Veteran of the Year Recognition Program. A veterans recognition program is being developed for a possible 2027 launch to honor veterans and community members, including their 2026 contributions. Members interested in helping create the program and its criteria were invited to contact the Executive Board, including after the meeting.

f. Board Development and Training. Covered during the Superintendent's report.

g. Board/Staff Operational Communication Protocol. Members were asked to route operational questions and concerns through Superintendent Soto or the Executive Board rather than contacting individual staff members, so staff can focus on their duties. Members were also encouraged to use the new QR-code process. Submissions are recorded and routed to the office, the Executive Board and the relevant commander. The office will email the link.

VII. New Business — President Gutierrez

a. FY2027 Proposed Budget — Review, Discussion and Ratification Vote

The President reported that the Executive Board reviewed the proposed FY2027 budget at its 16 September meeting and that the full membership had received a copy in advance. No questions or discussion followed.

A motion to approve the FY2027 proposed budget of \$4,585,790.10 was made by Larry Nazimek and seconded by Chappy Ferrer. 2nd Vice President DeGroot conducted a roll-call vote by organization. The membership approved the budget; no "no" votes or abstentions were recorded. The President announced the result as the ayes having it.

The request includes \$2 million for direct disbursements, double the amount requested for the current year.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Benefits/Services Provided Committee. The report was deferred to the next meeting because the chairs were absent.

b. Bylaws Committee/Bylaws Status. No update was available.

c. Other Committee Updates. None.

IX. Good of the Order

- Homeless Veteran Stand-Down. A stand-down will be held at the Northwest Armory, 1515 North Kedzie, Chicago. Setup is Thursday, 19 November, after 0900 hrs., and veterans will be served Friday, 20 November. Volunteers are needed for setup and to help veterans, with tasks for every ability level, including assembling comfort bags. Lunch will be provided for volunteers, and the VAC office expects to have a resource table. Veterans will line up early, and volunteers should arrive by 0900 hrs. Calvin Young offered to send the stand-down organizer a list of Cook County organizations that received VA homelessness grants (about \$1.17 billion awarded nationally).

- Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs. Calvin Young introduced himself as the new Director, commended the VACCC's tracking of metrics, and noted the County's no-wrong-door (211) access initiative.

- Military and Veterans Resource Fair. Vanessa Walters announced the annual fair, a partnership with Brookfield Zoo Chicago, on Saturday, 17 October, which doubles as Military Appreciation Day. More than nine county agencies and four state agencies, including the State Treasurer's unclaimed-property table, are expected. Members were asked to share the information and bring families.

- Operation Green Light. Runs 4–11 November. Businesses, municipalities and organizations are encouraged to light buildings green in honor of veterans and service members.

FY2027 Budget Presentation to Cook County. The Commission's budget presentation to the County will take place in October; the date and time were not yet available and will be sent by email. Members were urged to attend in person and testify at the public meeting. Those unable to attend can submit written comments electronically or participate by Zoom, and should ask to be called when their turn comes. An automated support form will be emailed to members for sending to County commissioners, and members were asked to involve the 15 minimum required veterans in their organizations.

Direct Financial Assistance Funding Risk.

- The office warned that direct financial assistance funds may run out by mid-October, possibly the second week, even with transfers of unspent salary funds from the County. Commissioner Dailey has been informed.
- Direct disbursements average about \$120,000 per month. The office estimated roughly \$180,000 would be needed to cover the remainder of the fiscal year, subject to demand.
- If funding cannot be secured, VSO claims assistance would continue through year-end, but veterans seeking financial assistance would be turned away and referred to partner organizations, which may also be short of funds that time of year.
- Last year, reserve funds covered the same need. Officials said increased outreach brought more veterans to the program, and the FY2027 request for \$2 million aims to prevent a repeat. Members were asked to speak with officials and show up at budget meetings.

Election Information. A member encouraged veterans to serve as election judges, to review their sample ballot before the 3 November election, and to report polling places with accessibility problems to him.

- Suicide Prevention. Chappy Ferrer whose focus is suicide prevention reminded those present that combat veterans are at risk, said suicide often follows a loss of hope, and invited anyone concerned to call him. Superintendent Soto recognized Post 36 members for providing burial honors for a Cook County veteran who died by suicide and asked the room to applaud them.

Condolences. David Ruiz announced the death of a Post member on 17 August. The body expressed sympathy.

X. Public Comment

Public comment was limited to three minutes per speaker.

- Fisher House. Diane Kelly of the Fisher House invited members to a fundraiser. A VIP section is limited to 100 tickets, with about 50 remaining.
- VA transportation delays. A speaker described a relative who uses a wheelchair and waits about three hours for a ride home after VA appointments. Director Young and Superintendent Soto agreed to collect contact information, work with the veteran's social worker and transportation providers, and look into the delays. Participants noted that transportation services have vehicles but lack drivers and depend on volunteers, including drivers trained for wheelchair users.
- Charity golf outing. Bill Starr of Post 525 promoted the post's annual golf outing, \$130 per golfer, benefiting a veterans nonprofit that serves homeless veterans. Last year it raised over \$17,000. He asked interested golfers to contact him.

XI. Adjournment

Before adjourning, President Gutierrez thanked the members, the office, the Executive Board and allies for their work, noting how far the Commission has come and that the work saves lives, and led a round of applause for the Superintendent and her staff.

- a. Motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made By Chappy Ferrer and seconded by David Ruiz and carried without opposition. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2055 hrs.
- b. Next meeting. The next VACCC Membership Meeting is scheduled for 8 December 2026 at 1900 hrs. location TBD

Submitted by: John Kerrigan, Secretary



VACCC MEMBERSHIP SIGN IN SHEET

22 SEPTEMBER 2026 MEETING

Sheet 1 of 2

Organization	X	Delegate	X	Alternate Delegate
American Legion 36		Patrick Flannigan		Greg Jacobs
American Legion 87		Willie Mack		Ashley Shine
American Legion 104		Dennis Chavez	X	Michael Tuman
American Legion 134		Donna Manella		Joseph Lampert
American Legion 183	X	Raymond P Toczek		Timothy Bodkin
American Legion 208	X	Walter Parus		Greg Padovani
American Legion 216	X	Kevin Ake		None at this time
American Legion 335		Lorenzo A. Fiorentino		George R. Gandara
American Legion 478	X	Beverly A. Fitch		Nickola R Rogers
American Legion 525	X	Laura Matuszal	X	Bill Starr
American Legion 541		Joseph Cook		Patrick Hood
American Legion 547	X	Rudy Acevedo		Jorge Reyes-Ortiz
American Legion 615	X	Ken McClory		John Kaminecki
American Legion 690	X	James Kott		Joseph Kraus
American Legion 758	X	Frank Gutierrez		Beau Butts
American Legion 806		Al Pizarro	X	Peter Hirt
American Legion 829		Chevonne Woodard		
American Legion 888	X	Anthony Muro		Andy Anderson
American Legion 923		Clemente Rodriquez	X	John Kerrigan
American Legion 973		Richard Lee		Aasi Siddique
American Legion 974	X	Anthony Sicilano	X	Tom Zito
American Legion 1028		John Borg		John Ayala
American Legion 1052**		Megan Everett		Brian Phenegar
American Legion 1932	X	James McGee Jr.		Charles Salley
American Legion 1941	X	Robert Stoltz		Edward Krzeminski
American Legion 1983		Anthony J. Thomas	X	Frank Kelly



VACCC MEMBERSHIP SIGN IN SHEET

22 SEPTEMBER 2026 MEETING

Sheet 2 of 2

Organization	X	Delegate	X	Alternate Delegate
AMVETS Post 66	X	James E. Schultz	X	James Parker
AMVETS Post 192	X	Herman Deckys	X	Gabriel Bedolla
AMVETS Post 268		Eddie Brown Jr.	X	Richard Nielsen
CVO	X	Larry Nazimek		
DAV Chapter 84	X	Ken Boor	X	Bill Byers
JWV Post 710		Dr. Jerry Field	X	Dennis Kane
MCL Det 553	X	Randall L. Tyner		Paul Zogg
MCL Det 1408		Sergio Correa		Alejandro Morales
MOAA		Matthew Garrison		
MOWW		Zhi-cheng, Chen		
PVA	X	Robert Arciola		Robert Statam
VFW 311	X	Aretha Spurlock		Melissa Farmer-Hill
VFW 981	X	Stewart Abbink		Larry Bielski
VFW 1337	X	John "Dutch" DeGroot	X	Wally Beckman
VFW 2202	X	Glen Johnson		Dino Moran
VFW 2868	X	Eric "Kermit" Morales	X	Eva Marie duff
VFW 2978		Jesus Jimenez		Scott Friedland
VFW 3579	X	Keith Renner		Ramon Prieto
VFW 5079		Jennipher Glenn	X	Antonio Munoz IV
VFW 5979	X	David Ruiz		Don Hanson
VFW 7186	X	Thomas J. Hughes		Elliott Jones
VFW 8322	X	Paul John Bezazian		Paul Michael Knudtson
VFW 9284	X	Arthur J. Ellingsen	X	Phillip Ferrer (Chappy)
VFW 10778		Chuck Bosko		
VVA Chapter 242		Kevin Calkins		John B. Andres Jr.
35 organizaions of 50		Delegates 29 alternates 15 total 44		AML1052** Under Suspension



VACCC ROLL CALL VOTING SLIP

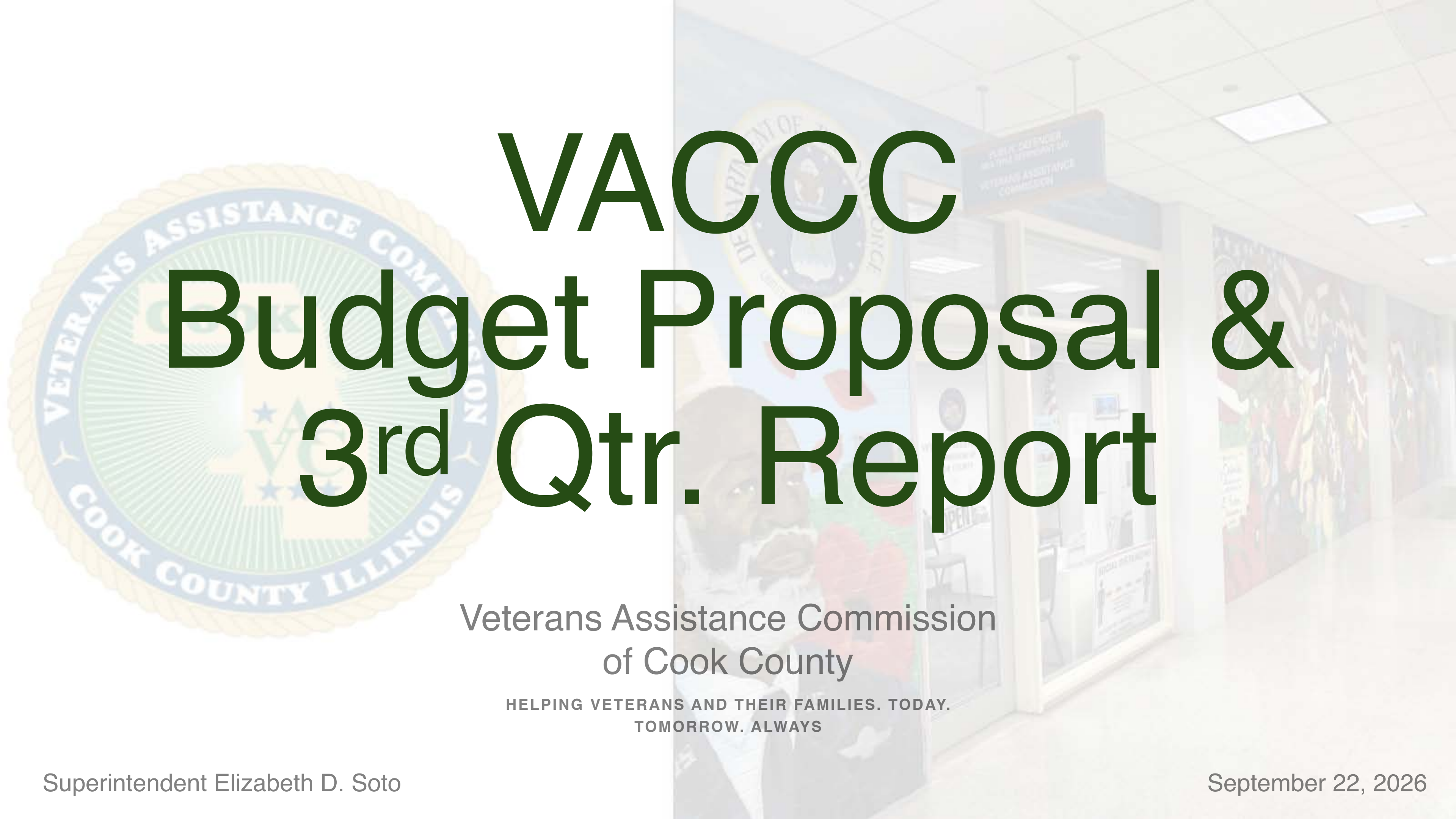
22 SEPTEMBER 2026 MEETING

Organization	Y	N	A	Organization	Y	N	A
American Legion 36				AMVETS Post 66	X		
American Legion 87				AMVETS Post 192	X		
American Legion 104	X			AMVETS Post 268	X		
American Legion 134				Coalition Of Veterans	X		
American Legion 183	X			DAV Chapter 84	X		
American Legion 208	X			JWV Post 710	X		
American Legion 216	X			MCL Det 553	X		
American Legion 335				MCL Det 1408			
American Legion 478	X			MOAA			
American Legion 525	X			MOWW			
American Legion 541				PVA	X		
American Legion 547	X			VFW 311	X		
American Legion 615	X			VFW 981	X		
American Legion 690	X			VFW 1337	X		
American Legion 758	X			VFW 2202	X		
American Legion 806	X			VFW 2868	X		
American Legion 829				VFW 2978			
American Legion 888	X			VFW 3579	X		
American Legion 923	X			VFW 5079	X		
American Legion 973				VFW 5979	X		
American Legion 974	X			VFW 7186	X		
American Legion 1028				VFW 8322	X		
American Legion 1052				VFW 9284	X		
American Legion 1932	X			VFW 10778			
American Legion 1941	X			VVA Chapter 242			
American Legion 1983	X						

One Vote Per Organization Check Sign in sheet to Confirm Delegate/Alternate
Motion To Be Voted on

Motion to ratify the 2027 VACCC Budget
35 of 50 eligible organizations present

Final Vote Y **35** N A



VACCC Budget Proposal & 3rd Qtr. Report

Veterans Assistance Commission
of Cook County

HELPING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES. TODAY.
TOMORROW. ALWAYS

➤ **Mission**

➤ **FY27 Budget Request:**

- Organizational Overview
- FY26 - 27 Office Staff
- Office Space
- VAC Vehicle Fleet
- Programs
- Financial Overview

➤ **FY26 3rd Quarter Financial Report**

➤ **FY26 3rd Quarter VSO Report**

➤ **FY26 3rd Quarter Outreach Report**

➤ **FY26 Membership Focused Rollout – (Commission Admin. Portal)**



MISSION

“...for the just, necessary, and needed assistance and services of military Veterans, who served in the Armed Forces of the United States...”

Veterans and Service Members (330 ILCS 45/) Military Veterans Assistance Act

FY27 VACCC Budget Request

Organizational Overview

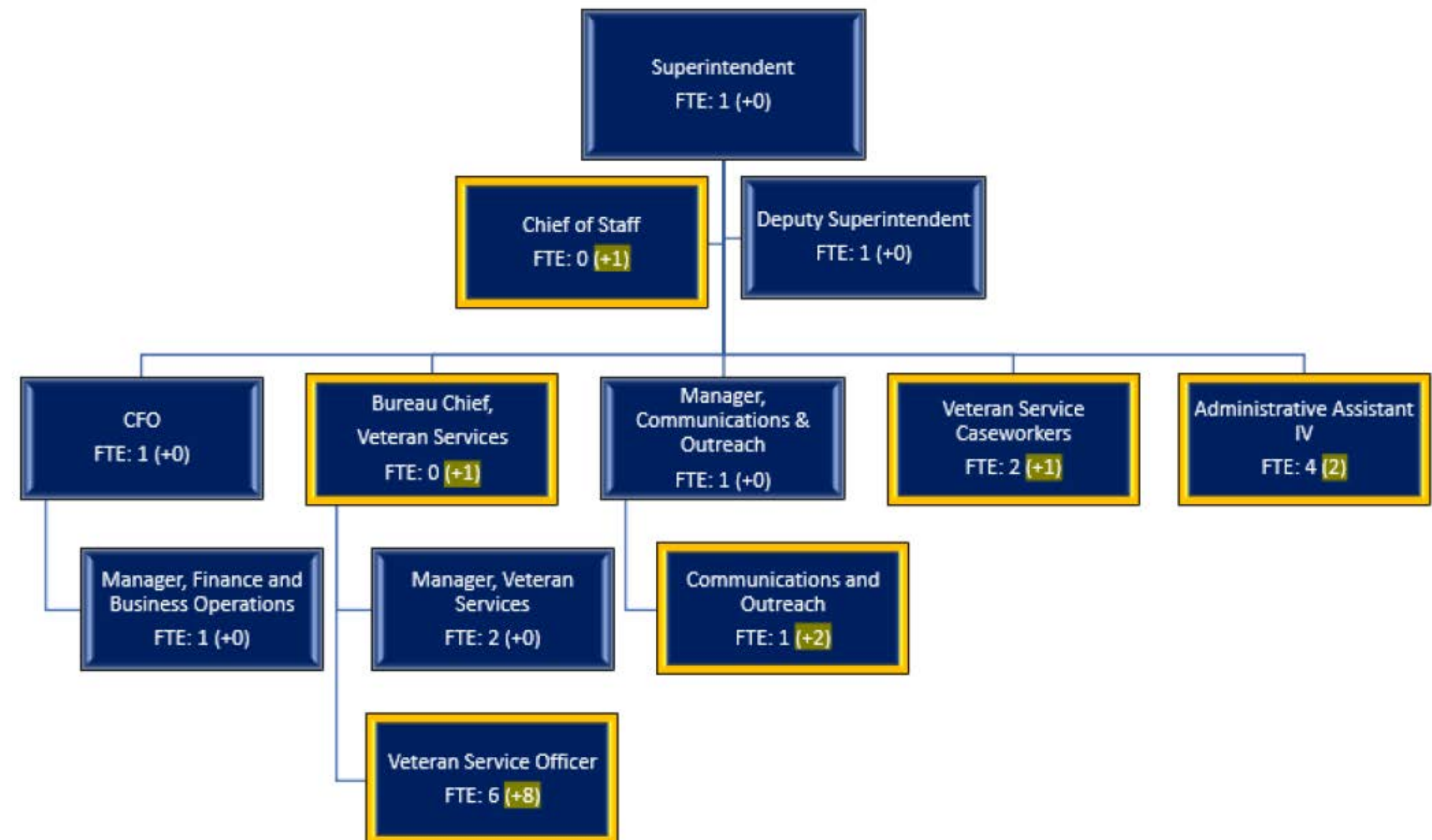
VETERANS ASSISTANCE
COMMISSION OF COOK COUNTY



VACCC OFFICE STAFF FY27

FY27 PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County



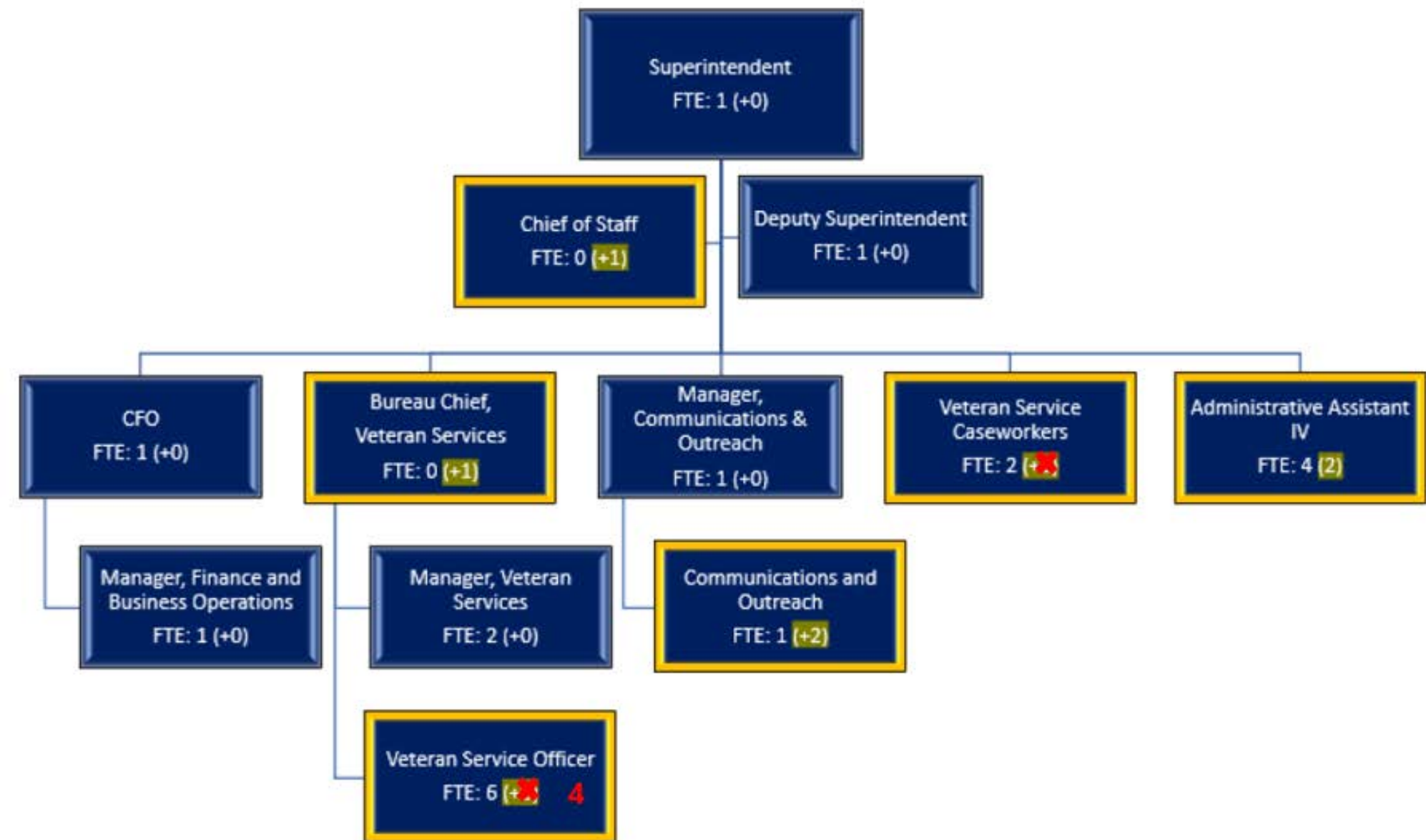
VACCC FY27 Budget Proposal

FTE notation distinguishes current staffing from additional positions proposed for FY27

VACCC OFFICE STAFF FY27 Post County Discussion

FY27 PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County



VACCC FY27 Budget Proposal

FTE notation distinguishes current staffing from additional positions proposed for FY27

VACCC OFFICE SPACE

LOCATION	FY27 STATUS	PRIMARY ROLE
1100 S. Hamilton Ave. Chicago	Operating	Headquarters; administration, fiscal operations, financial assistance, casework, records, and centralized support.
69 W. Washington St., Suite 1420 Chicago	Operating	Chicago Regional Office; discreet, specialized VSO claims assistance and benefits navigation.
2121 Euclid Ave. Rolling Meadows	Secured; grand opening in progress	Northwest Regional Office; VSO hub, Veteran computer lab, appointments, collaboration, and outreach support.
Southland Region Site to be finalized	FY27 priority	Fourth and final planned installation; direct access for underserved south and southwest suburban Veteran communities.
VACCC FY27 BUDGET REQUEST OFFICE SPACE		

VACCC VEHICLE FLEET

VEHICLE	ASSIGNED LOCATION	AUTHORIZED USERS	PRIMARY PURPOSE
Ford Bronco Sport	VACCC Headquarters 1100 S. Hamilton Ave.	VSOs, Outreach, Finance, Deputy Superintendent, and Superintendent	County-wide official travel, claims and outreach support, fiscal/administrative functions, meetings, site oversight, and operational response.
Ford Maverick XLT	VACCC Headquarters 1100 S. Hamilton Ave.	VSOs, Outreach, Finance, Deputy Superintendent, and Superintendent	Shared headquarters coverage, outreach deployment, claims appointments, partner visits, document and supply transport, and leadership travel.
Ford Maverick XLT	Chicago Regional Office 69 W. Washington St.	VSO and Outreach teams	Chicago-based claims assistance, outreach events, community appointments, partner coordination, and movement of approved materials and equipment.
Ford T350 Medium-Roof Wagon	Rolling Meadows Regional Office 2121 Euclid Ave.	VSO and Outreach teams; authorized Veteran transportation	Northwest regional operations and scheduled transportation of eligible Veterans to headquarters for emergency financial-assistance access.

VSO PROGRAM

Measure	Current FY26	FY27 Request	FY27 Total / Capacity
Authorized Veteran Service Officers	6	+8	14
Accredited Veteran Service Officers Available	1 (Most of Q1 & Q2)	+13	14
Veterans Represented	1,224 (Q1 & Q2)	Expanded Operational Capacity	13,000+ Annually
Total Claim Actions	2,292 (Q1 & Q2)	+22,516	24,808 Annually
Annual VA Compensation Generated	\$12.44 Million	+\$115.52 Million	\$127.96 Million Annually
Operational Service Delivery	Limited by Accredited Coverage	North & South Regional Expansion	Countywide Regional Service Delivery Model

VETERAN FAIRWAYS PROGRAM



COUNTY INVESTMENT
Affordable access • instruction •
equipment

PARTICIPATION
Outdoor activity • movement • peer
interaction

NEAR-TERM
Connection • confidence • service
awareness

LONG-TERM GOALS
Wellness • sustained recreation •
community engagement

VACCC FY27 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FY2027 PROPOSED

\$5.665M

Total operating budget

YEAR-OVER-YEAR

+\$2.465M

77.0% increase

DIRECT ASSISTANCE

\$2.0M

100% program increase

VSO

Department

FY2026

Updates and Data Breakdown



VETERANS ASSISTANCE
COMMISSION OF COOK COUNTY

Operational Updates

- 1 Faris Karadsheh has been promoted to Veterans Service Manager.
- 2 Interview process has begun for six new VSO positions to help offset the high demand for our services.

Operational Activity

POA Established: **360**

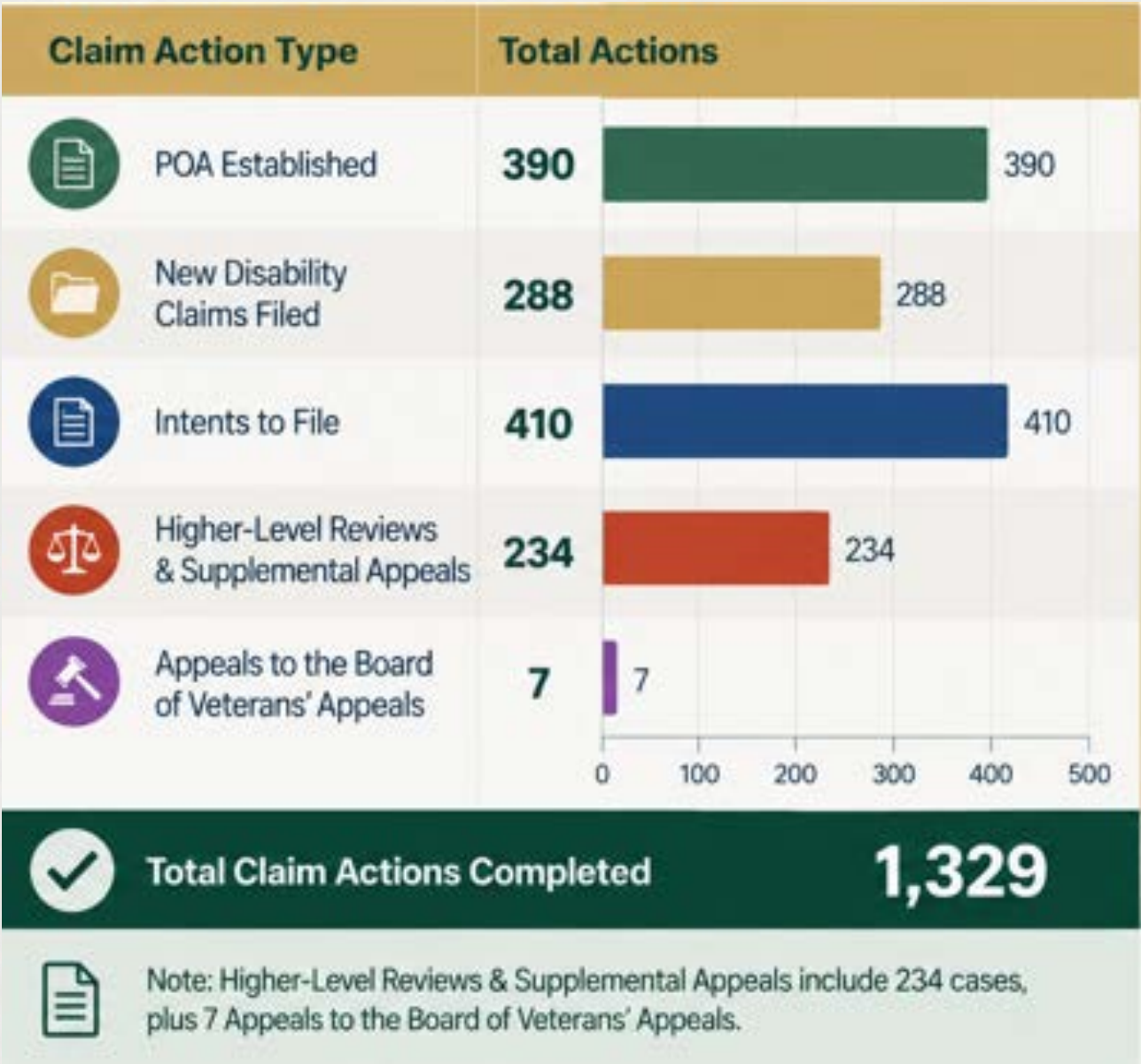
New Disability Claims: **330***

Intents to File: **273**

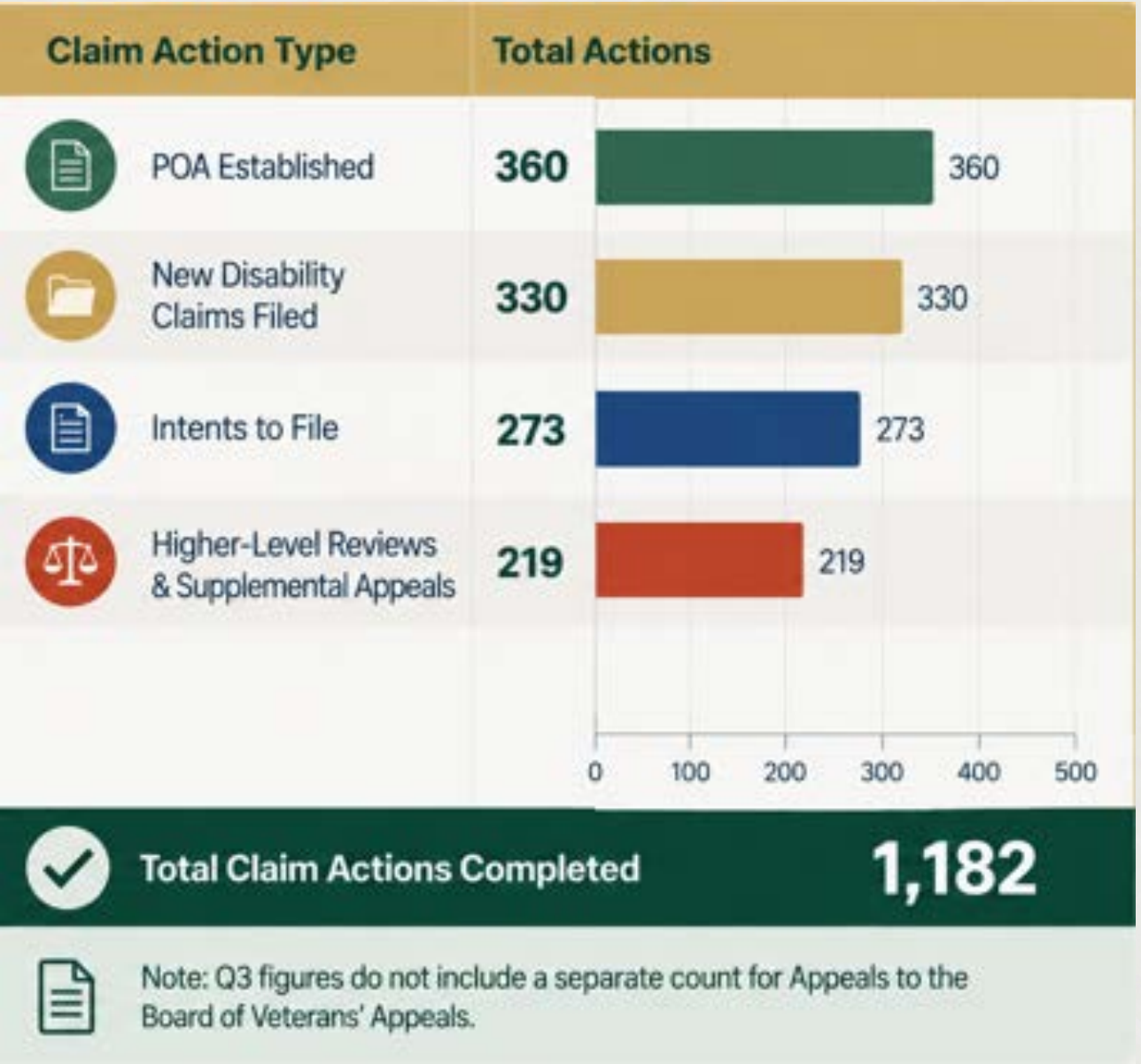
Higher-Level Reviews:
219**

Total Claim Actions: **1182**

Q2, FY26



Q3, FY26



*Includes VA Form 21-526ez, VA Form 21P-527ez, & VA Form 21P-534ez

**VA Form 20-0996), Supplemental Appeals (VA Form 20-0995), and Appeals to the Board of Veterans Appeals (VA Form 10182

Financial Impact for Veterans

Q2 2026 Retroactive Recoveries

March: **\$179,256.60**

April: **\$194,367.60**

May: **\$262,444.08**

Total Retroactive Recoveries: \$636,068.28

Total Q2 Impact: \$3,045,535.77

VACCC is bringing in a total of \$12,438,197.77 to the county in annual compensation.

Q3 2026 Retroactive Recoveries

June: **\$102,673.58**

July: **\$21,427.63**

August: **\$29,340.09**

Total Retroactive Recoveries: \$153,441.30

Total Q3 Impact: \$3,521,524.15

VACCC is bringing in a total of \$15,959,721.92 to the county in annual compensation.

Communications and Outreach on FY2026

Updates and Data Breakdown



Operational Updates

- 1 Completion of New Comms and Outreach Intake System
- 2 Redesigned Marketing Materials using new Logo
- 3 Trained First Cohort of the VACCC Volunteer Corps

Q3 Outreach Veteran Assistance

Q2 2026 Outreach Assistance Metrics

Total Assisted (directly assisted by staff): **410**

Total Interaction of Veterans: **1,466***

Q3 2026 Outreach Assistance Metrics

Month	Direct Assistance	Interactions
June**	146	299
July**	264	656
August	274	2,212
Running Total***	481	2,500

*This includes all Veterans who attended each event
**Incorporates data from old tracking system
***Running Total of New System

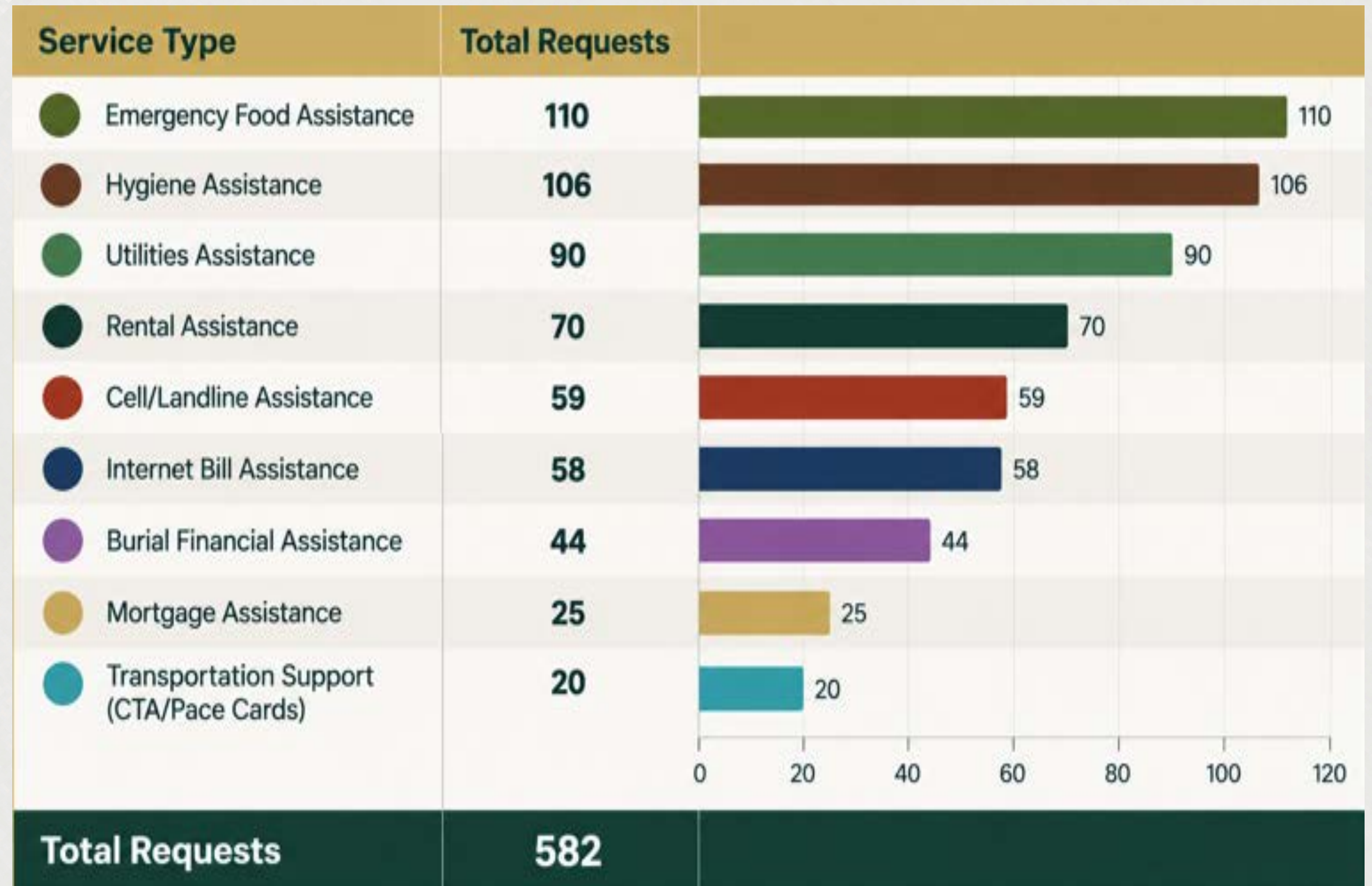
EFS Intake Breakdown (Q3, FY26)

Emergency Financial Services helps eligible Cook County Veterans and their families during times of financial hardship. Assistance can help cover basic needs like housing, food, utilities, and transportation.

Month	Requests Made	Services Provided
June	N/A	N/A
July	89	293
August	74	289
Running Total	163	582

*Data combined from Intake Form, phone call/office interactions and Outreach Events

EFS Q3 Requests Count



VSO Intake Breakdown (Q3,

FY26)
The VSO Services intake helps Veterans understand the claims process, complete initial paperwork, and schedule their first appointment. It also gives Veterans clear next steps to begin or continue the process with our office.

Month	Requests Made	Services Provided
June	N/A	N/A
July	146	211
August	302	484
Running Total	448	695

*Data combined from Intake Form, phone call/office interactions and Outreach Events

VSO Q3 Requests Count



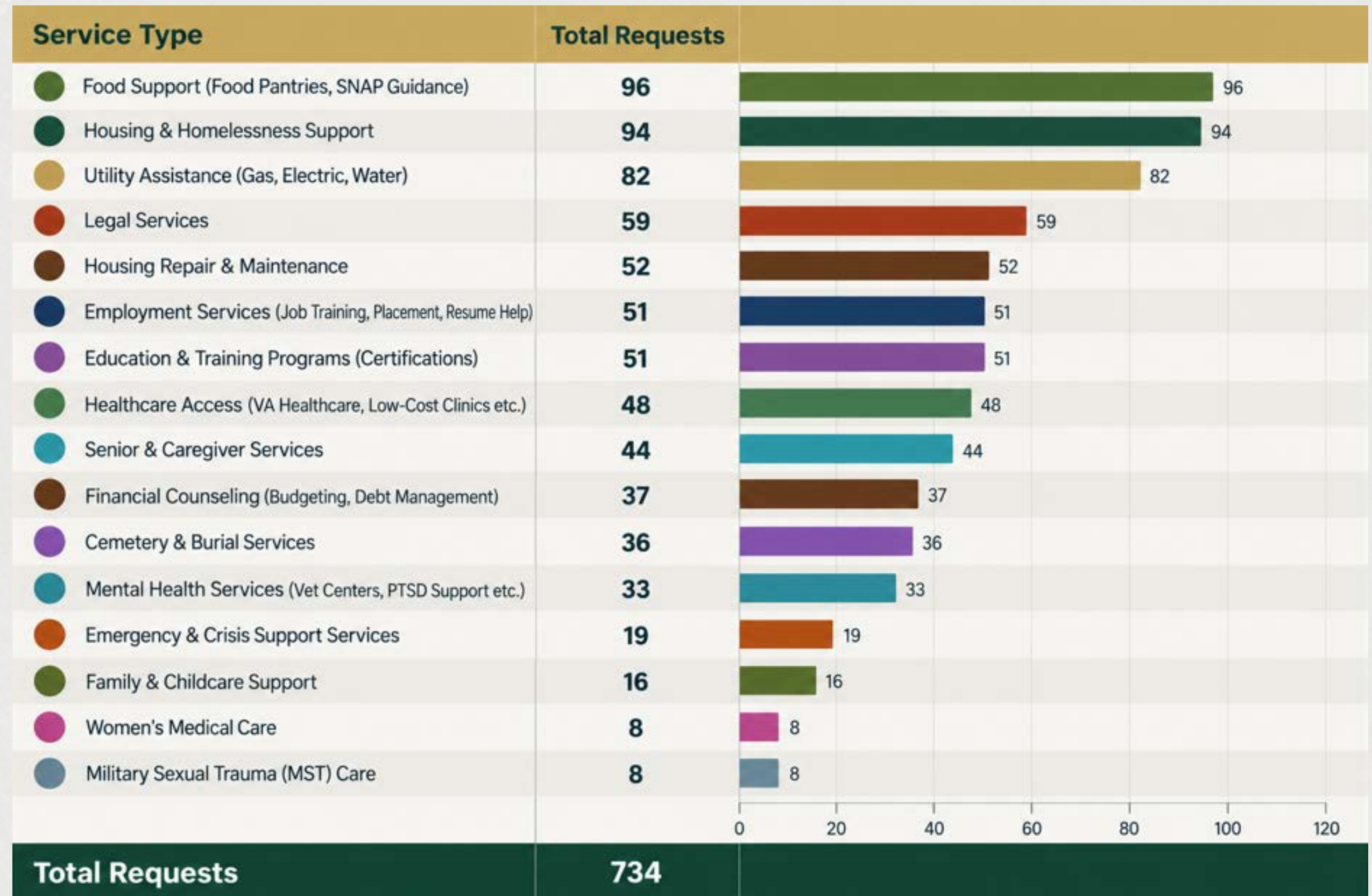
Referral Intake Breakdown (Q3, FY26)

The Partner Referral intake connects Veterans with trusted partners that provide a variety of services across Cook County. It provides direct contact information and clear next steps to help Veterans connect with the right resources.

Month	Requests Made	Services Provided
June	N/A	N/A
July	95	333
August	100	401
Running Total	195	734

*Data combined from Intake Form, phone call/office interactions and Outreach Events

Referrals Q3 Requests Count



VACCC Online Intake Form Data

Month	Intake Requests	EFS Requests	VSO Requests	Partner Referrals
June	1	0	1	0
July	4	4	2	2
August	46	24	39	24
Running Total	51	28	42	26

Q3 Outreach Operational Activity

Q2 2026 Outreach Metrics

VetConnect Events: **69**

VetTalks: **0**

Resource Events: **35**

Ceremonial: **12**

Total Outreach Events: **116**

Q3 2026 Outreach Metrics

VetConnect Events: **74**

VetTalks: **4**

Resource Events: **17**

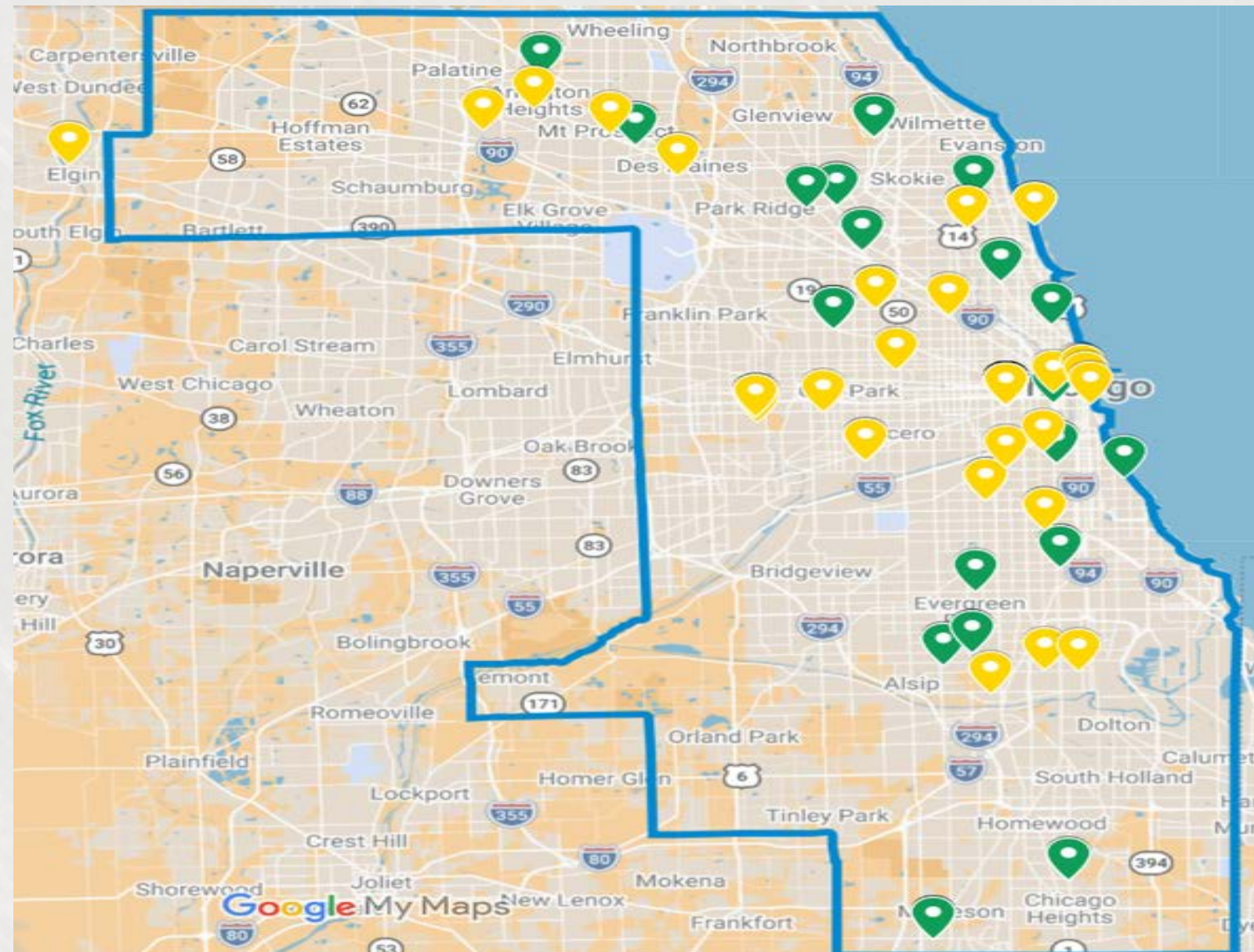
Ceremonial/Speaking Events: **5**

Other: **3***

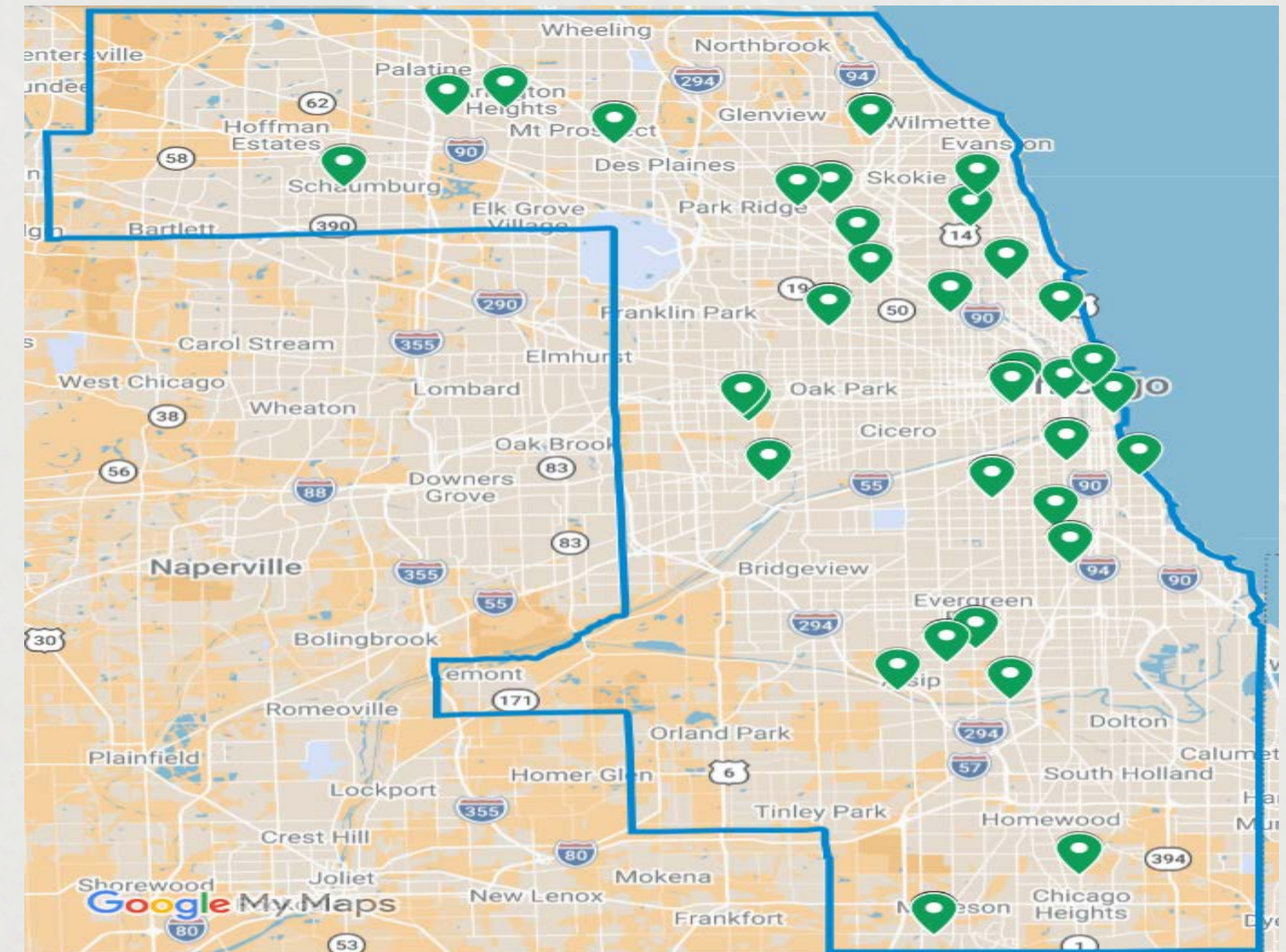
Total Outreach Events: **103**

FY26 Q2 and FY26 Q3 Comparison

FY26 Q2 (116 EVENTS)



FY26 Q3 (103 EVENTS)



FY26 Event List

Event Title	Event Location
Alderman Timmy Knudsen VetConnect Event	2523 N. Halsted Street Chicago, IL 60614
Alderman Gilbert Villegas VetConnect Event	6560 W Fullerton Ave Unit # C118 - Suite A Chicago, IL 60707
Alderwoman Debra Silverstein VetConnect Event	2949 W. Devon Ave. Chicago, IL 60659
Alderman Jim Gardiner VetConnect Event	5460 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL 60630
Auburn Gresham VA Clinic VetConnect Event	7731 S Halsted St, Chicago IL 60620
Jesse Brown VA Medical VetConnect Event	820 s damen ave chicago il 60612
Alderman Lopez VetConnect Event	2650 West 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60632
Wheeling Township Virtual Speaking Event	1100 S Hamilton Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Niles VFW Post 3579 Resource Event	7255 N Caldwell Ave, Niles, IL 60714
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect Event	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Prairie State University VetConnect Event	202 S. Halsted St. Chicago Heights, IL., 60411
VA Health Care Orientation Speaking Event	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
MST Claims Clinic	69 W Washington St, Chicago, IL 60602

Event Title	Event Location
Jesse Brown VA VetConnect	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Richton Park Vet Center Resource Event	4511 Sauk Trail, Richton Park, IL 60471
Skokie Courthouse VetConnect Event	5600 Old Orchard Rd, Skokie, IL 60077
Alderman Nicole T. Lee VetConnect Event	3659 S Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60609
Hines VA HUD VASH Program VetConnect Event	5000 S 5th Ave, Hines IL 60141
Blue Island Legion Post Speaking Event	2427 Grove St, Blue Island, IL 60406
GenCenter Resource Event	52 E Northwest Hwy, Des Plaines, IL 60016
Alderman Gilbert Villegas VetConnect Event	6560 W Fullerton Ave Unit # C118 - Suite A Chicago, IL 60707
Alderman Anthony V. Napolitano VetConnect Event	7231 W. Touhy Ave. Chicago, IL 60631
Commissioner Kevin Morrison VetConnect Event	130 S Roselle Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60193
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect Event	Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect Event
Women's Warrior Resource Event	1900 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60612
Worth Township Vet Preseation	11601 S. Pulaski Road Alsip, IL 60803

Event Title	Event Location
Alderman Matt O'Shea VetConnect Event	3207 W 111th St., Chicago, IL 60655
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect Event	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Richton Park Vet Center Resource Event	4511 Sauk Trail, Richton Park, IL 60471
Coffee and Conversation/Claims Clinic Resource Event	4200 Lawndale Ave, Lyons IL 60534
Veterans Treatment Court VetConnect Event	5600 Old Orchard Rd, Skokie, IL 60077
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect Event	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Niles VFW Post VetConnect	7255 N. Caldwell Ave., Niles, Illinois 60714
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Frisbee Senior Center VetTalk	52 E Northwest Hwy, Des Plaines, IL 60016
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Alderman Gilbert Villegas VetConnect	6560 W Fullerton Ave, Chicago, IL 60707

FY26 Event List

Event Title	Event Location
Alderman Matthew J. O'Shea VetConnect	3207 W 111th St., Chicago, IL 60655
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Richton Park Vet Center VetConnect	4511 Sauk Trail Richton Park, IL 60471
Alderman Nicole T. Lee VetConnect	3659 S. Halsted St. Chicago, IL 60609
Alderman Lamont J Robinson VetConnect	928 E. 43rd St, Chicago, IL 60635
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Alderman Matt Martin VetConnect	4243 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago, IL 60618
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Alderman Stephanie D. Coleman VetConnect	1137 W. 63rd St, Suite C., Chicago, IL 60621
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Alderman Gilbert Villegas VetConnect	6560 W Fullerton Ave, Chicago, IL 60707
Crestwood Police Department Resource Event	13900 S Laramie Ave, Crestwood, IL 60418

Event Title	Event Location
Alderman Debra Silverstein VetConnect	2949 W. Devon Ave. Chicago, IL 60659
Alderman Jim Gardiner VetConnect	5460 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60630
Auburn Gresham VA Clinic VetConnect	7731 S Halsted St, Chicago IL 60620
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Richton Park Vet Center VetConnect	4511 Sauk Trail Richton Park, IL 60471
Commissioner Maggie Trevor VetConnect	220A W. Campbell St. Arlington Heights , IL 60005
Alderman Raymond Lopez VetConnect	2650 West 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60632
Worth Township VetConnect	11601 S Pulaski Rd, Alsip, IL 60803
Alderman Nicole T. Lee VetConnect	3659 S. Halsted St. Chicago, IL 60609
Niles VFW Post VetConnect	7255 N. Caldwell Ave., Niles, Illinois 60714
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Worth Township Resource Fair	11601 S. Pulaski Road, Alsip, IL 60803

Event Title	Event Location
Alderman Raymond Lopez Resource Fair	2650 W 51st St Chicago, IL 60632
University of Illinois - Chicago VetConnect	750 S. Halsted Street, Room 248, MC 117, Chicago, IL 60607
Skokie Courthouse VetConnect Event	5600 Old Orchard Rd, Skokie, IL 60077
Hines VA HUD VASH Program VetConnect Program	5000 S 5th Ave, Bldg 228, 4th Floor (Northside), Hines IL 60141
Frisbee Senior Center VetTalk	52 E Northwest Hwy, Des Plaines, IL 60016
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Cook County Justice Resource Fair	3110 Martin Lane, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
Soldiers Field Resource Event	1410 Special Olympics Dr, Chicago, IL 60605
Commissioner Jessica Vásquez/ Alderman Anthony Quezada VetConnect	2934 N Milwaukee, Unit C, Chicago IL 60618
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Evanston (IL) Vet Center VetConnect	1901 W Howard St, Evanston, IL 60202
Alderman Matt Martin VetConnect	4243 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago, IL 60618

FY26 Event List

Event Title	Event Location
Alderman Matthew J. O'Shea VetConnect	3207 W 111th St., Chicago, IL 60655
Alderman Lamont J Robinson VetConnect	928 E. 43rd St, Chicago, IL 60635
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Skokie Courthouse VetConnect Event	5600 Old Orchard Rd, Skokie, IL 60077
Worth Township VetTalk	11601 S Pulaski Rd, Alsip, IL 60803
Blue Star Families Chicagoland Rock the Block Party	1717 17th St., North Chicago, IL, 60064
Congresswoman Delia Ramirez Resource Fair	4001 N Long Ave, Chicago, IL 60641
Alderman Timmy Knudsen VetConnect Event	6560 W Fullerton Ave Unit # C118 - Suite A Chicago, IL 60707
Alderman Gilbert Villegas VetConnect Event	2949 W. Devon Ave. Chicago, IL 60659
Alderwoman Debra Silverstein VetConnect Event	5460 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL 60630
Alderman Jim Gardiner VetConnect Event	7731 S Halsted St, Chicago IL 60620
Auburn Gresham VA Clinic VetConnect Event	6560 W Fullerton Ave Unit # C118 - Suite A Chicago, IL 60707

Event Title	Event Location
Jesse Brown VA Medical VetConnect Event	820 s damen ave chicago il 60612
Alderman Lopez VetConnect Event	2650 West 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60632
Wheeling Township Virtual Speaking Event	1100 S Hamilton Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Niles VFW Post 3579 Resource Event	7255 N Caldwell Ave, Niles, IL 60714
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect Event	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Prairie State University VetConnect Event	202 S. Halsted St. Chicago Heights, IL., 60411
VA Health Care Orientation Speaking Event	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Jesse Brown VA Vet Connect	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Richton Park Vet Center Resource Event	4511 Sauk Trail, Richton Park, IL 60471
Skokie Courthouse VetConnect Event	5600 Old Orchard Rd, Skokie, IL 60077
Alderman Nicole T. Lee VetConnect Event	3659 S Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60609
Hines VA HUD VASH Program VetConnect Event	5000 S 5th Ave, Hines IL 60141

Event Title	Event Location
Blue Island Legion Post Speaking Event	2427 Grove St, Blue Island, IL 60406
GenCenter Resource Event	52 E Northwest Hwy, Des Plaines, IL 60016
Alderman Gilbert Villegas VetConnect Event	6560 W Fullerton Ave Unit # C118 - Suite A Chicago, IL 60707
Alderman Anthony V. Napolitano VetConnect Event	7231 W. Touhy Ave. Chicago, IL 60631
Commissioner Kevin Morrison VetConnect Event	130 S Roselle Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60193
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect Event	Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect Event
Women's Warrior Resource Event	1900 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60612
Alderman Matt O'Shea VetConnect Event	3207 W 111th St., Chicago, IL 60655
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect Event	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612
Richton Park Vet Center Resource Event	4511 Sauk Trail, Richton Park, IL 60471
Coffee and Conversation/Claims Clinic Resource Event	4200 Lawndale Ave, Lyons IL 60534
Veterans Treatment Court VetConnect Event	5600 Old Orchard Rd, Skokie, IL 60077
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center VetConnect Event	820 S Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60612



Fy26 Q4 Focus

Projects and Priorities

Website Redesign

- Modernize the website, integrate new systems, and make Veteran resources easier to access.

Expand Volunteer Program

- Continue to train and expand our Volunteer Corps to attend more events and create a pool of manpower to support initiatives.

Expand Internship Program

- Expand the program with VR&E candidates and students to increase capacity and develop future staff at no cost to VACCC.

Commission Administration Portal

Operations Update



VETERANS ASSISTANCE
COMMISSION OF COOK COUNTY

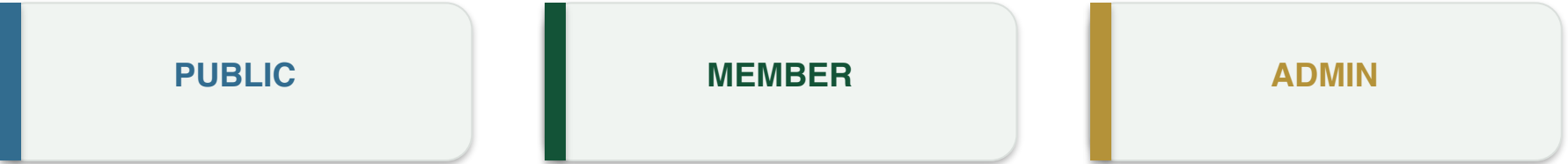
Commission Administration Portal

Membership-Focused Rollout

September 2026

A clearer way to participate in the Commission.

Public access. Member organization tools. Official Commission administration.



Today’s focus: member organizations

Why we built the portal

The goal is not another system. The goal is one clear place to understand and manage Commission participation.

THE GOAL

**Less confusion.
Better records.
Easier participation.**

Organizations should be able to see where they stand, what needs attention, and what to do next.

ONE HOME BASE

Membership, representatives, attendance, meetings, OMA, and member resources in one place.

CLEARER RECORDS

Organizations see the same key information VACCC uses to administer Commission participation.

DEFINED ACTIONS

Renew, update representatives, complete OMA, and RSVP without hunting through old emails.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Members can see status, attendance, upcoming meetings, and what requires attention.

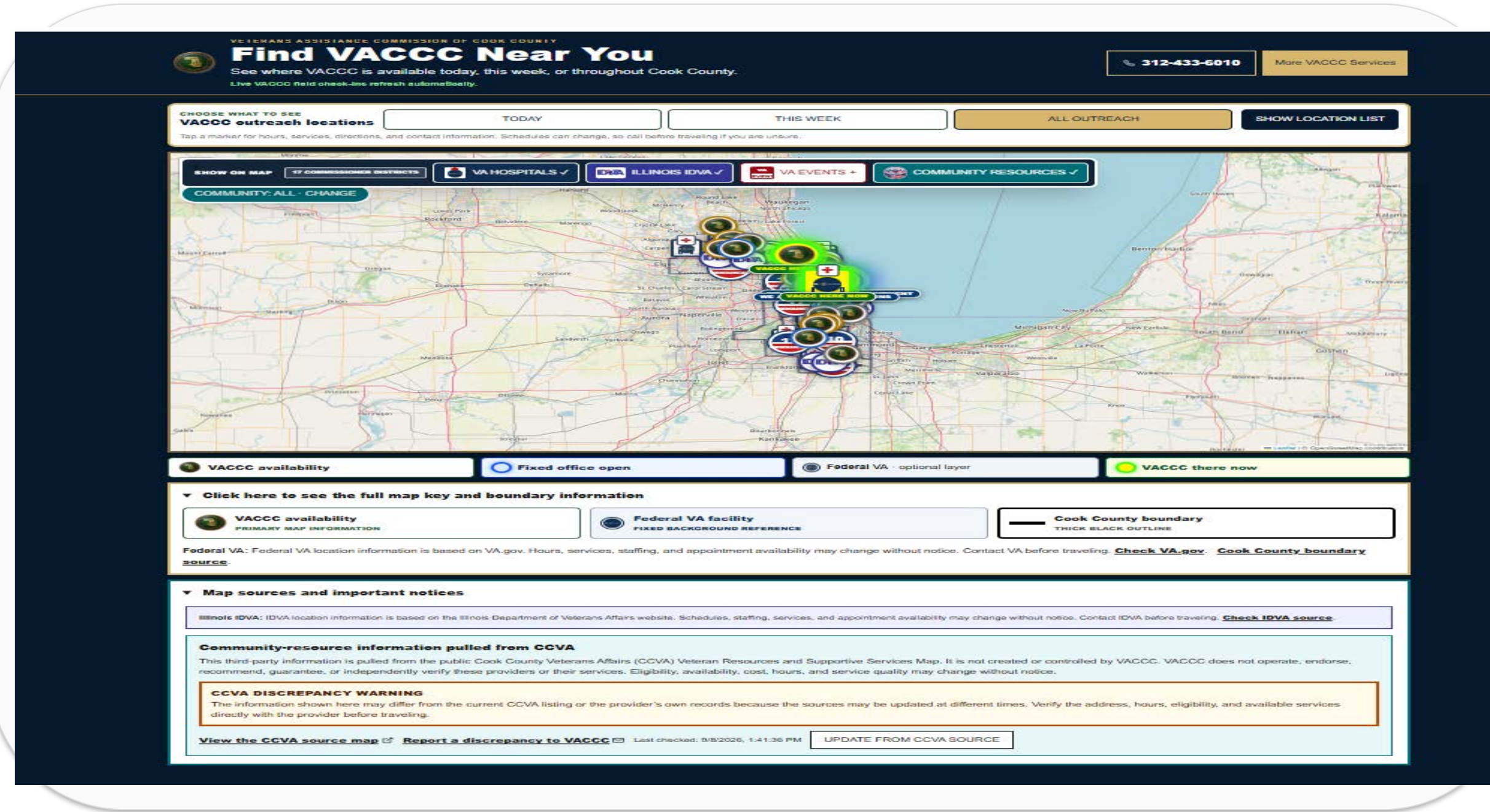
Who uses the portal?

Different access, same connected system.



Find VACCC Near You is the center of the public experience

The public portal starts with one practical question: Where can I get help, and what is available near me?



THE PUBLIC FRONT DOOR

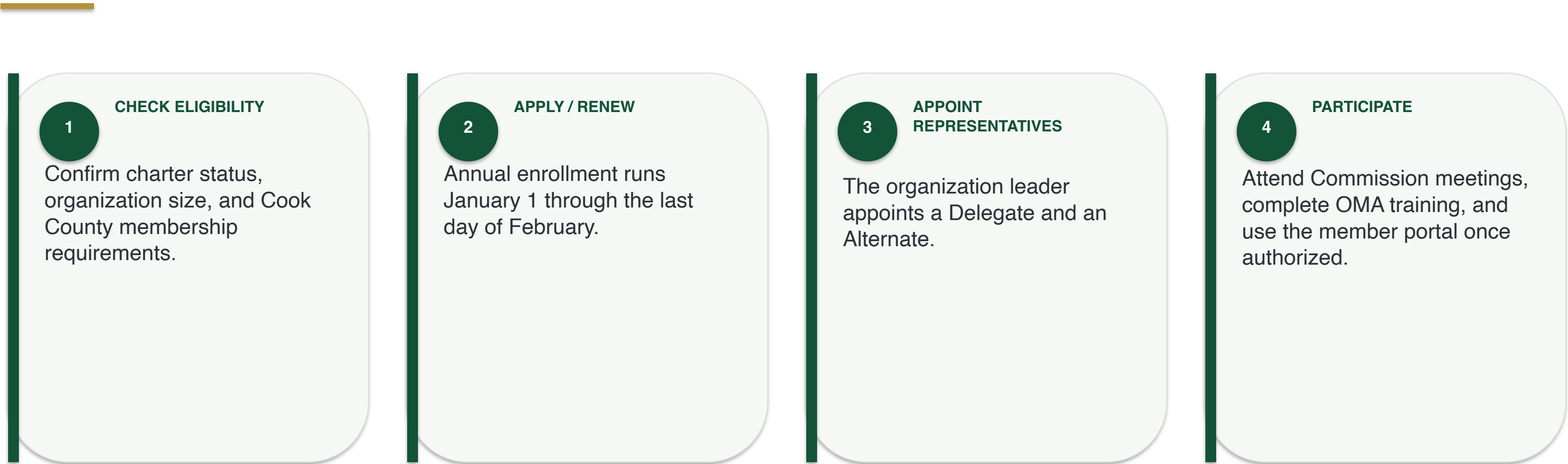
Find help first.

The map is the starting point. The rest of the public portal supports it.

- SEARCH**
Today • This Week • All Outreach
- SEE WHAT IS THERE**
VACCC availability, fixed offices, live field presence, VA, IDVA, and community layers.
- GO DEEPER**
Location list • services • source details

How an organization becomes and remains a member

Membership is organizational. Portal access follows recognition and authorization.



Membership is not just an application. It is an ongoing participation and recordkeeping process.

Your organization’s home page

Everything on this page is specific to the organization that is signed in.

YOUR ORGANIZATION

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 981

Post / Chapter: 981

MEMBERSHIP

Active

Standing is Active or Inactive only.

OMA

Action needed

ATTENDANCE

2 of 2

No absence recorded

COMMISSION STANDING

Active

Eligible for Commission participation.

How attendance is counted: Only completed public General Commission meetings with an explicit organization-level **Present** or **Absent** mark count. Executive Board, private, host, cancelled, incomplete, unmarked, and N/A records do not count. 8 completed meeting records are currently excluded from this organization's attendance calculation.

Action needed

Open Meetings Act training or verification may need attention.

Request organization change

Membership renewal

OMA training

COMMANDER / PRESIDENT

Not on file

No email on file.

No phone on file.

DELEGATE

Stewart Abbink

sabbink41@gmail.com

847-340-8501

ALTERNATE

Larry Bielski

Tanisa25@gmail.com

847-602-3272

OMA training status

Delegate completed OMA training

Not complete

Alternate delegate completed OMA training

Not complete

Commission meetings

Every record below states whether it affects attendance standing and why.

24 March 2026 — General Meeting

3/24/2026

PUBLIC GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING

COUNTED: PRESENT

23 June 2026 — General Meeting

6/23/2026

PUBLIC GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING

COUNTED: PRESENT

Quarterly Commission Meeting

9/22/2026 - VFW Post 2868 (Joshua Harris), 8844 Ogden Ave, Brookfield, IL 60513

PUBLIC GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING

UPCOMING

Quarterly Commission Meeting

12/8/2026

PUBLIC GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING

UPCOMING

Register for the next meeting

Member communications

No sent member newsletters are available yet.

Member resources

VACCC website

Meeting Information

OMA Instructions

Contact a VSO

AT A GLANCE

STATUS

Membership, OMA, attendance, standing

ACTIONS

Renew, update, train

REPRESENTATIVES

Commander/President, Delegate, Alternate

MEETINGS

History, upcoming meetings, RSVP

RESOURCES

Communications and member links

The next slides group the dashboard by function rather than by every individual button.

Status + Action Needed

Start here every time you log in.

YOUR ORGANIZATION

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 981

Post / Chapter: 981

MEMBERSHIP

Active

Standing is Active or Inactive only.

OMA

Action needed

ATTENDANCE

2 of 2

No absences recorded

COMMISSION STANDING

Active

Eligible for Commission participation.

How attendance is counted: Only completed public General Commission meetings with an explicit organization-level **Present** or **Absent** mark count. Executive Board, private, test, cancelled, incomplete, unmarked, and N/A records do not count. 0 completed meeting records are currently excluded from this organization's attendance calculation.

Action needed

Open Meetings Act training or verification may need attention.

Request organization change

Membership renewal

OMA training

STATUS

Membership • OMA • Attendance • Commission Standing

ACTION NEEDED

If something requires attention, the dashboard identifies it.

NEXT STEP

Request an organization change, renew membership, or address OMA training from the same area.

Representatives + OMA

Keep the organization’s people and training records current.

COMMANDER / PRESIDENT

Not on file

No email on file

No phone on file

DELEGATE

Stewart Abbink

@gmail.com

ALTERNATE

Larry Bielski

@gmail.com

OMA training status

Delegate completed OMA training

Not complete

Alternate delegate completed OMA training

Not complete

Best practice: review this section after every organization election or leadership change.

REPRESENTATIVES

Commander/President • Delegate • Alternate

OMA TRAINING

Delegate and Alternate training statuses are shown separately.

WHEN SOMETHING CHANGES

Use Request Organization Change. A request does not directly rewrite the official record.

Meetings + Attendance + RSVP

One section shows where you have been, what is next, and how to register.

Commission meetings

Every record below states whether it affects attendance standing and why.

24 March 2026 — General Meeting 3/24/2026 PUBLIC GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING	COUNTED: PRESENT
23 June 2026 — General Meeting 6/23/2026 PUBLIC GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING	COUNTED: PRESENT
Quarterly Commission Meeting 9/22/2026 · VFW Post 2858 (Joshua Harris), 8844 Ogden Ave, Brookfield, IL 60513 PUBLIC GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING	UPCOMING
Quarterly Commission Meeting 12/8/2026 PUBLIC GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING	UPCOMING

Register for the next meeting

PAST MEETINGS

See the attendance status recorded for qualifying Commission meetings.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Future Commission meetings are clearly identified.

REGISTER

Use Register for the next meeting when RSVP is open. Guests remain separate from quorum representatives.

Three things members need to understand

These distinctions prevent most of the common confusion.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Is the organization’s membership record Active or Inactive?

This is the membership record, not Commission standing.

COMMISSION STANDING

Is the organization currently eligible to participate based on the applicable recorded requirements?

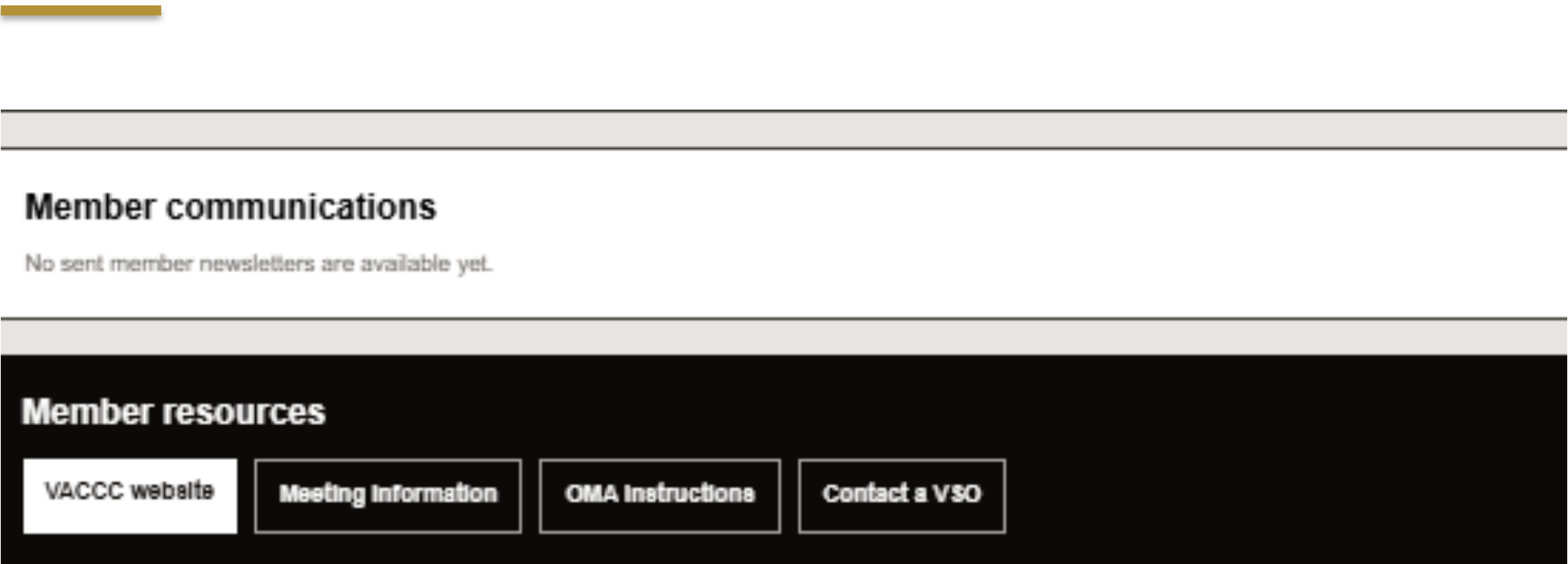
ATTENDANCE

Qualifying completed General Commission meetings count. Canceled, incomplete, unmarked, training, and Executive Board meetings do not.

RSVP supports planning. Attendance credit comes from the official meeting attendance record.

Communications + Resources

The bottom of the dashboard keeps commonly used information within reach.



MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Commission notices and member-specific information can be published directly to the dashboard.

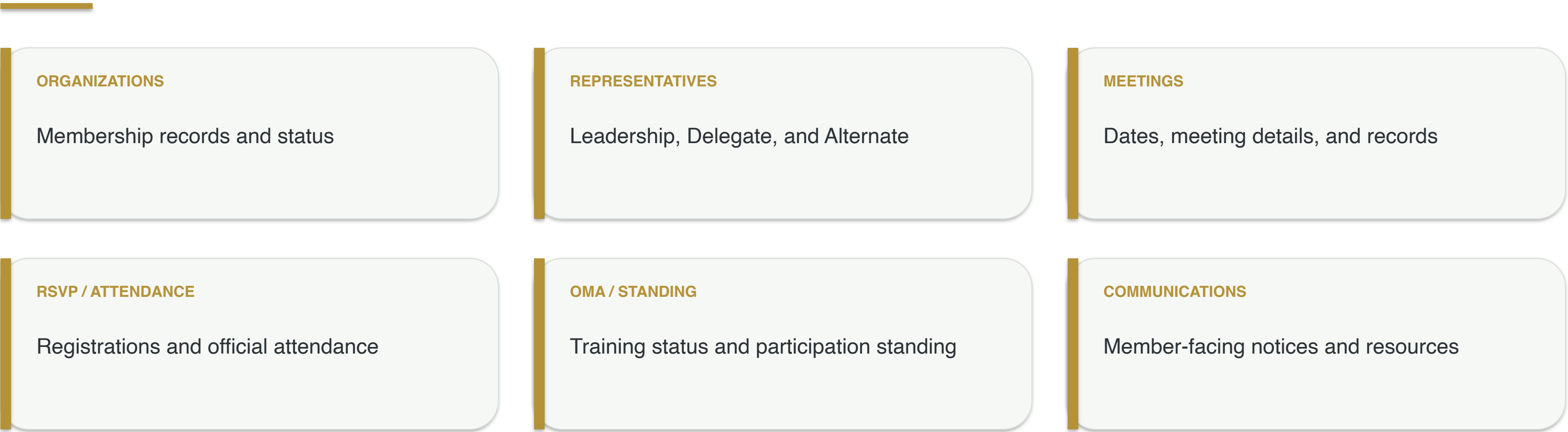
MEMBER RESOURCES

VACCC website • Meeting information • OMA instructions • Contact a VSO

One reliable home base instead of searching old emails for routine Commission information.

What happens behind the scenes

Authorized administration maintains the official records that drive the member dashboard.



Member requests may start in the portal, but authorized administration maintains the official Commission record.

Contact Info

Supporting Veterans and Their Families.
Today, Tomorrow, Always.

PHONE NUMBER **312. 433. 6010**

FAX **312. 433. 6015**

WEBSITE **VACCOOKCOUNTY.ORG**

EMAIL **VACCC@COOKCOUNTYIL.GOV**

ADDRESS **HHC**
1100 S. Hamilton AVE.
SUITE, C-011
(LOWER LEVEL OF THE JTDC
BUILDING)
CHICAGO, IL. 60612

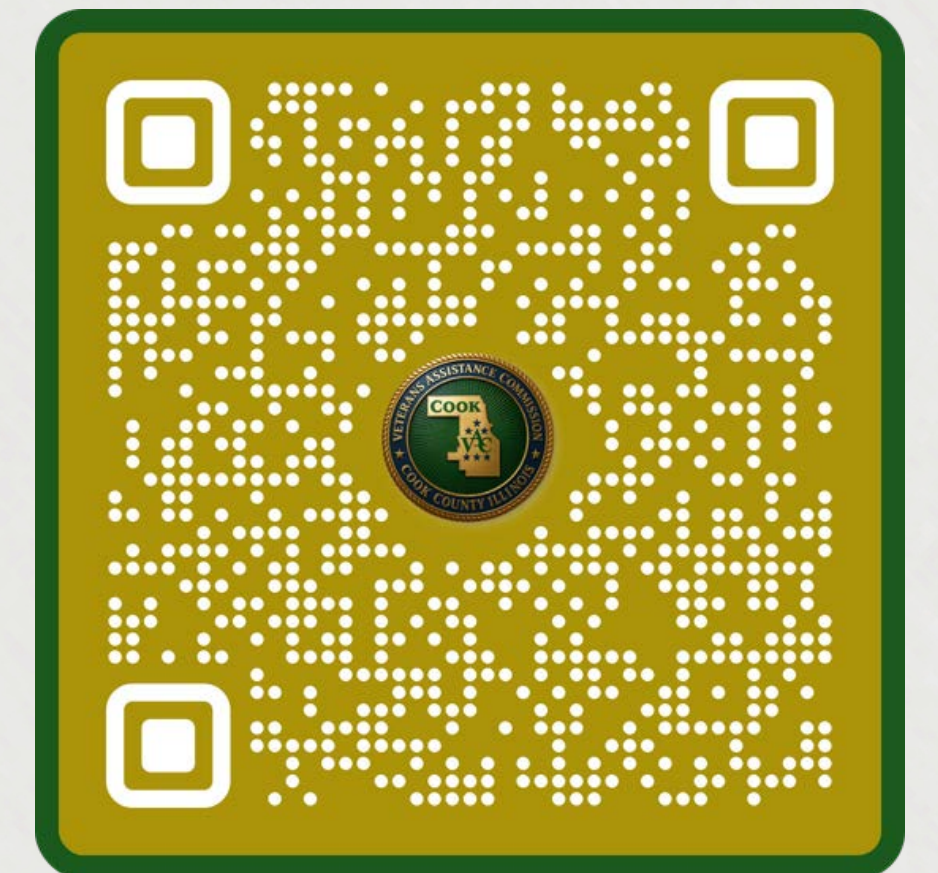
CRO
69 W. Washington ST.
SUITE, 1420
CHICAGO, IL. 60602



**EVENT REQUEST
FORM**

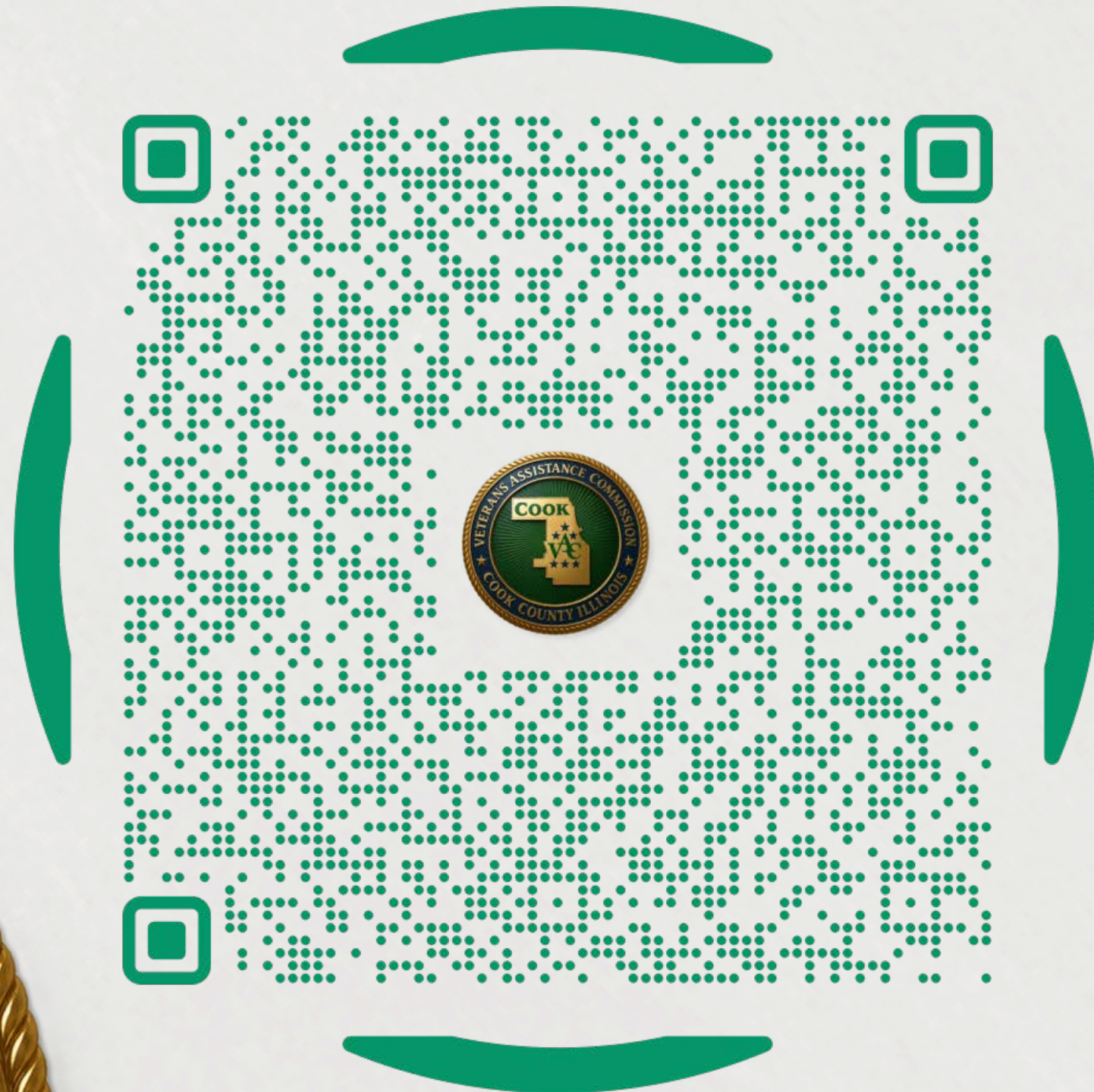


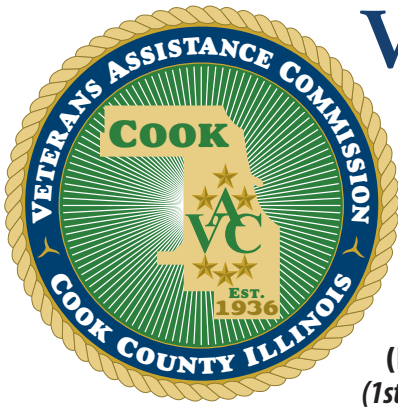
INTAKE FORM



SOCIAL MEDIA

Delegate Request and Suggestion Form





VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF COOK COUNTY

Meeting Agenda
22 Sept 2026 @1900
VFW Post 2868

8844 Ogden Ave, Brookfield, IL 60513

(Executive Board Members): Frank Gutierrez (*President*), Jesus "Chuy" Segura (*1st Vice President*), Dutch DeGroot (*2nd Vice President*), Robert Arciola (*Treasurer*),

At Large Board Members: Greg Jacobs, JRandall Tyner, Evamarie Duff. Non voting **Appointees** John Kerrigan (*Secretary*), George Gandara (*Chaplain*), Pete Hlirt (*Judge Advocate*), Eric "Kermit" Morales (*Sargent at Arms*). Elizabeth Soto (*Superintendent*)

I. Welcome – President Gutierrez

- a.** Call to Order
- b.** Roll Call/Establish Quorum – 2nd VP DeGroot/ Sec. Kerrigan
- c.** Recognition of Guests

II. Opening Reflection – Chaplain

- a.** Prayer/Reflection
- b.** Pledge of Allegiance

III. Consent Agenda – President Gutierrez

- a.** Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – 23 June 2026

IV. Governance Report – Treasurer Arciola

- a.** Treasurer's Financial Report
- b.** Appointment of 501(c)(3) President and Governance Development.

V. VACCC Office Report – Superintendent Elizabeth Soto

- a.** Veterans Served / VSO Report
- b.** Emergency Financial Assistance and Benefits
- c.** Staffing and Hiring
- d.** Outreach and Operations
- e.** Rolling Meadows and Office Expansion
- f.** Records Digitization / Power App / Website
- g.** Fleet and Transportation

VI. Unfinished Business – President Gutierrez

- a.** Appointment of 501(c)(3) President
- b.** Conflict of Interest Forms
- c.** Hines VA Follow-Up
- d.** IACVAC Update
- e.** Veteran of the Year Recognition Program Follow-Up
- f.** Board Development and Training
- g.** Board / Staff Operational Communication Protocol

VII. New Business – President Gutierrez

- a.** FY2027 Proposed Budget - Review, Discussion and Ratification Vote

VIII. Committee Reports

- a.** Benefits / Services Provided Committee
- b.** Bylaws Committee / Bylaws Status
- c.** Other Committee Updates

IX. Good of the Order

X. Public Comment

Public comment for items not on the agenda is limited to three minutes per speaker.

XI. Adjournment

- a.** Motion to Adjourn
- b.** Next VACCC Membership Meeting - 8 December 2026, 1900 HRS

* To allow sufficient time for Commission business, speakers providing announcements for public comment for items not in the agenda or good of the order are asked to summarize their remarks and limit comments to three (3) minutes. Additional details may be provided through handouts, flyers, or other distributed materials.

** Organizations are encouraged to make flyers, event notices, resource information, and community announcements available at the information table near the entrance. Members are also encouraged to submit information electronically for distribution through VACCC communication channels.