

Veterans Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Clinton County Board Room
April 18, 2024 – 6:00 PM

Greg Riechman, Chairman

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman, Greg Riechman.

2. OPENING PRAYER & PLEDGE

Greg Riechman shared a prayer and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Committee Members Present: Holly Clark, Mike Hilmes

4. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Fourteen guests were recognized via the sign-in sheet.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Holly Clark to approve the 03-21-24 minutes and seconded by Mike Hilmes. Motion carried.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Mission Statement

Greg Riechman and TJ Boyd presented the proposed final wording and everyone in attendance liked the wording. The statement will be read one more time at our next meeting and then considered final.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Wreaths Across America Event (Saturday, December 14, 2024)

Bartelso residents Charlie and Stan Todd and Corbin, Tyler and Stacy Whitney were all in attendance to discuss their interest in having a Wreaths Across American Event. We discussed making this county-wide and we will be seeking volunteers (note: over three million volunteers are expected at 4,200+ participating locations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and on foreign soil).

Greg Riechman pointed out the coordination that this will take and the group agreed. Board Chairman Brad Knolhoff invited Charlie Todd and Corbin Whitney to attend the County Board Meeting on Monday, May 20th, at 7 PM to discuss their desire to coordinate this amazing event.

Jim Beasley Veterans Tribute Committee Update

Neely Reed shared the following: 1) additional names are being sought to add to the Honor Wall, which stands at ~55,000 now; 2) \$1,500 was raised during the recent Texas Hold-Em Tournament; and 3) street corner collection efforts to raise funds will be held in Centralia on May 11th and September 7th.

The next Committee Meeting will be held at Kaskaskia College on Monday, April 22nd at 9:30 AM.

Veteran 2 Veteran of Bond County (V2VBC)

Holly Clark shared information about their next event, which will be held at the Greenville First United Methodist Church @6:30 PM on Tuesday, April 23rd.

7. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

VVA Chapter 269 Update

Dave Maue and Bob Zahn shared that concrete was poured on Monday and that the new flag pole will be going up tomorrow (Friday, April 19th). Outdoor Creations is expected to complete the landscaping portion of the project prior to the Memorial Day weekend.

Whispering Pines of Clinton County

Greg Riechman reminded everyone about the following three events that will be held on behalf of Whispering Pines:

- Memorial Day Ceremony (Monday, May 27th @11 AM)
- Annual Fundraiser at Hondo's in Bartelso (Saturday, August 17th @2 PM)
- Veterans Appreciation Day (Saturday, September 7th @10 AM)

Bob Zahn encouraged everyone to get the word out about the property and to consider using the facilities in the future.

Honor Flight Update

Greg Riechman shared that the current count of applications stands at over 100. He will continue to work with Carl Huels and local press to promote the event leaving Springfield on October 15, 2024.

Miscellaneous

Greg Riechman shared that the event to observe National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29th at Carl Huel's Standin' Proud Veterans Tribute in Bartelso went extremely well. The fried fish lunch was delicious and many Veterans were in attendance.

Mike Hilmes reported that the Breese Legion will be hosting a Comedy Show on April 26th.

Nellie Baity shared background information and the mission for the "Take Action Coalition," which was formed in 2017.

Amanda Depew shared background information and the mission for "Illinois Joining Forces," which was formed in 2012.

8. MEETING CADENCE

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 16th @6 PM in the Board Room.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Hilmes, seconded by Holly Clark. Motion carried.