

Veterans Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Clinton County Board Room
August 15, 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

Seven guests (including Board Chairman Brad Knolhoff) were recognized via the sign-in sheet.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Holly Clark to approve the 06-20-24 minutes and seconded by Mike Hilmes. Motion carried.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None

7. NEW BUSINESS

Jim Beasley Veterans Tribute Committee Update

Neely Reed reminded everyone that the next street corner collection effort to raise funds will be held in Centralia on Saturday, September 7th.

Jim Beasley mentioned that the next Committee Meeting will be held at Kaskaskia College on Monday, August 26th, at 9:30 AM and that Bob Netemeyer will be honored after the meeting (light refreshments will be served). Additionally, the next Enduring Freedom Event will be held on Wednesday, November 6th (@Kaskaskia College).

Greg Riechman reminded the group that we need your help at future events to focus our efforts on educating the children of the counties in the college's district.

Jim Beasley suggested that we have a Clinton County fundraiser in Centralia, and asked the group to bring future ideas to our next meeting.

Veteran 2 Veteran of Bond County (V2VBC)

Holly Clark shared that their next meeting will be held at the Greenville First United Methodist Church @6:30 PM on Tuesday, August 27th.

VVA Chapter 269 Update

Discussion was held regarding wheelchair ramps that need to be taken down, with Don Berdeaux offering to provide storage, if necessary.

Installation of a new light for the new flag pole still needs to be completed. Mike Hilmes volunteered to reach out to an electrician to see that this is completed soon, with the cost to be taken out of the War Memorial Fund.

7. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Miscellaneous

It was shared with the group that the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs will have a VSO Officer (Steve Stroup – retired from the Army) at the Carlyle Senior Center every other Friday, starting on August 23rd (from 9 AM to 3 PM and his contact number is 618.583.2065).

Whispering Pines of Clinton County

Greg Riechman reminded everyone about the following events that will be held in the near future:

- Annual “Together We Can Make A Difference” Fundraiser at Hondo’s in Bartelso (Saturday, August 17th @2 PM)
- Veterans Appreciation Day (Saturday, September 7th @10 AM)
- Blessing of the Hunters Prayer Service (Sunday, October 13th @Noon)

Honor Flight Update

Greg Riechman continues to work with Carl Huels, Kathy Rakers Kampwerth and representatives from Springfield to sign up Clinton County Veterans for the following Honor Flights:

- Tuesday, August 27th
- Tuesday, October 15th
- April 15, 2025

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

Greg Riechman reported that Charlie Todd and Corbin Whitney and their parents are doing a great job in preparing Bartelso for the event and that they held an extremely successful “Lemonade and Bake Sale” event on Saturday, August 10th.

In addition to Bartelso, we are working with representatives from the following communities to also participate in this event:

- Albers
- Aviston
- Carlyle/Posey/Hoffman
 - ✓ Cheryl Brinkmann attended the meeting and reported that things are going very well, with K&J as the local Business Sponsor. All cemeteries have been registered with WAA.
- Germantown

8. MEETING CADENCE

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 19th @6 PM in the Board Room.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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