

Veterans Committee  
MEETING MINUTES  
Clinton County Board Room  
January 4, 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**

Thirteen guests were recognized via the sign-in sheet.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

Greg Riechman shared a recap update of the Enduring Freedom Celebration Event at Kaskaskia College on November 7th. It was well attended and all speakers did a great job. Greg mentioned that Senator Jason Plummer gave a very heartfelt and emotional speech.

Greg Riechman shared a recap update of all the activities that occurred in Aviston on Veterans Day, November 11, 2023. The church service, luncheon and parade were all extremely well attended. Charlie Meier and Jason Plummer were both in attendance to dedicate/renote a portion of "old 50!" Greg also thanked Jim Beasley for being the key-note speaker.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

Jim Beasley Veterans Tribute Committee Update

Jim Beasley shared the current activities of the group and reminded everyone of their monthly meeting each fourth Monday of the month. Jim also thanked everyone who was in attendance on Veterans Day and for their support of the raffle for the patriotic solar-powered lawn ornament (Eagle).

A Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration will be held at the Tribute, with more details to follow soon.

Finally, Jim Beasley suggested that this group come up with a Mission Statement.

Veteran 2 Veteran of Bond County (V2VBC)

Holly Clark reported that their next event will be at the Greenville First United Methodist Church @6:30 PM on Tuesday, January 16th. Holly reiterated that she and her husband Mike are available at any time if someone has a need. If so, please feel free to reach out to her @618.741.7339.

VVA Chapter 269 Update

Ferd Mueller provided background information on the Clinton County Veterans Memorial Committee and the past work that they completed years ago to construct the Veterans Memorial.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

### VVA Chapter 269 Update (Continued)

Carl Lammers, Ferd Mueller and the rest of their group shared their interest in completing a flagpole replacement and landscaping improvement project at the southeast corner of the Clinton County Courthouse. Greg Riechman and the County Board will provide their approval to move forward with completion of that project (with a target completion before Memorial Day 2024).

### Miscellaneous

Bob Zahn and Rachele Smith shared their desire to open up Whispering Pines of Clinton County (WPofCC) for Veterans. Additionally, they shared that the Jared Burke Foundation continues to provide many worthwhile experiences and that John Burke is actively involved at WPofCC, as well.

A 100th birthday celebration drive-by (of his home) for Clinton County World War II Veteran Vince Rolves is scheduled for Friday, February 23rd (Donna would like us to assemble at 1:30 PM and start the drive-by at 2 PM). Additionally, a birthday party for Vince will be held at the Carlyle VFW on Saturday, February 24th.

### Meeting Cadence

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 15th @6 PM in the Board Room.

Greg Riechman thanked Bryan Hunt for attending tonight's meeting and for his story in today's paper, as well as for his plan to complete a follow-up story in the upcoming edition of The Breese Journal on Thursday, January 11th.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

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