

Veterans Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Clinton County Board Room
March 21, 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: Mike Hilmes

4. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Nine guests were recognized via the sign-in sheet.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

6. OLD BUSINESS

Greg Riechman reported on the following two events related to the upcoming 100th birthday celebration for World War II Veteran/POW Vince Rolves:

- 100th birthday celebration drive-by at 2 PM on Friday, February 23rd
- 100th birthday celebration at the Carlyle VFW starting at 3 PM on Saturday, February 24th

Vince, his caretaker and family were all very appreciative of the incredible turnout and support for this momentous occasion.

Greg Riechman will reach out to our local VSO Officer in the next month or so to see if he could attend one of our meetings.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Jim Beasley Veterans Tribute Committee Update

Jim Beasley shared that multiple fundraising efforts are in progress to raise funds for four additional walls, including future street solicitation and a Texas Hold'em Tournament that will be held at the Central City Lions Club on March 30th (doors open at 11 AM; tournament starts at 1 PM).

Jim Beasley shared that the new brochure has been reviewed by the committee and it will be a great sales tool to leave at rest stops and other places of interest in Southern Illinois.

Neely Reed shared that there are future plans for an Educational Center/Museum and that a great deal of work/planning will be required to see this through.

Don Berdeaux shared that now would be a great time for a visit to the Veterans Tribute at Kaskaskia College, as the cherry blossoms are in full bloom.

7. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Veteran 2 Veteran of Bond County (V2VBC)

Greg Riechman shared information about their next event, which will be held at the Greenville First United Methodist Church @6:30 PM on Tuesday, March 26th.

VVA Chapter 269 Update

Bob Zahn and Dave Maue shared that a bid of approximately \$1,600 was received from Mr. Petermeyer for updating the landscaping at the flagpole location at the southeast corner of the Clinton County Court House. Greg Riechman reminded everyone that the County Board has already provided the approval to move forward with completion of this project. Additionally, Mike Hilmes shared that the cost for this project can be appropriated from the county's "War Memorial" fund.

A motion was made by Mike Hilmes, seconded by Greg Riechman, to pay for the cost of this project out of the "War Memorial" fund. Motion carried.

Whispering Pines of Clinton County

Bob Zahn and Rachele Smith shared great excitement regarding all the positive things that are planned at the property and encouraged us to get the word out and work with as many groups as we can to showcase the property and provide organizations for a place to meet, etc.

Additionally, Mark Langenhorst shared that there are a lot of projects in progress on the property, including 1) construction of a new Dining Hall and 2) putting a bridge together by welding two trailers together.

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)

Honor Flight Update

Greg Riechman shared that the current count of applications stands at 96, with another six applications expected soon. He will continue to work with Carl Huels and local press to promote the event leaving Springfield on October 15, 2024.

Miscellaneous

Greg Riechman confirmed that Carl Huels will be hosting a ceremony to observe National Vietnam War Veterans Day on Friday, March 29 (Noon – 3 PM), at his Standin' Proud Veterans Tribute in Bartelso. A fried fish lunch will be provided and all Vietnam War Veterans and a guest are encouraged to attend.

Mission Statement

Greg Riechman and TJ Boyd will present the proposed final wording at our next meeting.

8. MEETING CADENCE

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 18th @6 PM in the Board Room.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Hilmes, seconded by Greg Riechman. Motion carried.