

Veterans Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Clinton County Board Room
May 16, 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 Member Present: Mike Hilmes

4. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Eight guests were recognized via the sign-in sheet.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mike Hilmes to approve the 04-18-24 minutes and seconded by Greg Riechman. Motion carried.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Mission Statement

Greg Riechman asked if there were any suggested changes to the Mission Statement that was read at the April meeting. There were none, so this effort will be considered complete.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Jim Beasley Veterans Tribute Committee Update

Jim Beasley commended the group for leading the charge to sign up as many Veterans as possible for future Honor Flights. Additionally, Mr. Beasley reminded the group that we need to focus our efforts on educating the children of the counties in the college's district, and that he may ask members of this committee to be guest speakers at events, field trips, etc.

Neely Reed shared that a street corner collection effort to raise funds was held in Centralia on May 11th, with \$1,502 being raised. The next effort will be on September 7th.

Neely Reed shared that the VFW and Centralia American Legion will be hosting a Memorial Day Ceremony at 10:30 AM at Hillcrest Cemetery.

The next Committee Meeting will be held at Kaskaskia College on Monday, May 20th at 9:30 AM.

Veteran 2 Veteran of Bond County (V2VBC)

Holly Clark was ill and not able to make the meeting; however, she shared with Greg Riechman that their next meeting will be held at the Greenville First United Methodist Church @6:30 PM on Tuesday, May 28th.

VVA Chapter 269 Update

The Carlyle VFW and VVA Chapter 269 will be hosting a Memorial Day Ceremony at 10 AM at the main cemetery in Carlyle.

The VVA Chapter 269 Annual Golf Tournament will be held at Governor's Run on Saturday, June 8th, with at least 35 teams.

7. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Dave Maue and Bob Zahn shared that they are very pleased with the installation of the new flag pole and flags and completion of the new landscaping by Outdoor Creations. A new light will be installed at a future date. Greg Riechman thanked VVA Chapter 269 for their efforts and also recognized the financial support that was provided by the Carlyle American Legion toward the cost of the landscaping improvements.

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 continue 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 continues to grow. He will continue to work with Carl Huels and local press to promote the event leaving Springfield on October 15, 2024.

The idea of having matching shirts for the Honor Flight was mentioned; however, it was shared that Veterans will receive a jacket and hat, so perhaps providing a patch for everyone could be a good idea.

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

Stan Todd continues to move forward with coordination for this event in Bartelso and Greg Riechman is in talks with residents of other communities to discuss their potential interest in this effort.

Greg Riechman reminded the group that Charlie Todd and Corbin Whitney will be attending the County Board Meeting on Monday, May 20th (7 PM) to discuss this effort further.

Miscellaneous

Brad Knolhoff shared that a representative from Mike Bost's office will be available to answer any questions in the Boardroom on Monday, May 20th, from 10 AM to 3 PM.

Mike Hilmes reported that the Breese Legion will be hosting a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Legion at 10:30 AM.

8. MEETING CADENCE

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, June 20th @6 PM in the Board Room.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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