

Veterans Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Clinton County Board Room
November 6, 2023 – 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

Jim Beasley, Don Berdeaux, Bob Netemeyer, and Neely Reed (all with the Jim Beasley Veterans Tribute Committee) were in attendance.

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

Update - Local Veterans Advocate

As a follow-up to Tim Persing attending our last meeting, Holly Clark reported that Jeffery Lewis is the Supervisor of the Southern Region for the VSO. He may be reached @jeffery.lewis@illinois.gov or @618.367.3064!

7. NEW BUSINESS

Jim Beasley Veterans Tribute Committee Update

Although it was a chilly and rainy evening, the Annual Centralia Halloween Parade went well, with multiple members in attendance. Jim Beasley shared his appreciation for those who attended.

Jim Beasley encouraged everyone to attend the “Enduring Freedom Celebration Event” that will be held at Kaskaskia College on Tuesday, November 7th. The schedule is as follows:

Breakfast: 7:30-9:30 AM (free to all Veterans and their guest)

Program: Begins @9:45 AM, with Illinois Senator Jason Plummer, as the Featured Speaker

Greg Riechman reminded everyone that tickets are still available to win a patriotic solar-powered lawn ornament (Eagle). Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5, with the drawing to be held on Veterans Day at the Aviston Legion. Over \$10,000 worth of tickets have been sold so far.

Jim Beasley shared that the marketing materials promoting the Veterans Tribute are getting close to being final copy ready.

VVA Chapter 269 Update

No report, as no members were present.

7. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Discussion - Veterans Day Activities in Aviston on Saturday, November 11th

Greg Riechman reported that many parade entries have been received and everything is set for this coming Saturday, with the following schedule of activities:

Mass: 9:30 AM

Lunch: 11:30 AM (@Legion)

Program & Road Dedication: 1:00 PM

Parade Line-up: 2:00 PM

Parade Starts: 2:30 PM

Veteran 2 Veteran of Bond County (V2VBC)

Holly Clark encouraged all attendees to consider attending future events and to feel free to reach out to her @618.741.7339 at any time.

Miscellaneous

Neely Reed and Don Berdeaux discussed the idea of having Veterans go to the local schools to educate kids about the history of previous wars. Additionally, having a 5k/10k walk/race and bringing back "Bikes Around the Lake" (which Ed Kleber participated in years ago) was also discussed.

Greg Riechman thanked Mike Hilmes for working with Dan Behrens to see to it that two Veterans Tribute signs will be installed near Kaskaskia College on Shattuc Road.

Meeting Cadence

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 4th @6 PM in the Board Room.

Greg Riechman shared that he plans to create a new Facebook Group and contact the local newspapers to get the word out about that and our next meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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