

Veterans Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Clinton County Board Room
October 2, 2023 – 7:00 PM

Greg Riechman, Chairman

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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

Also Present: Brad Knolhoff (Board Chairman)

4. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Jim Beasley, Don Berdeaux, Bob Netemeyer, and Neely Reed (all with the Jim Beasley Veterans Tribute Committee) and Tim Persing (Aviston resident) were in attendance. These gentlemen all introduced themselves and shared their military background/affiliation.

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

N/A

7. NEW BUSINESS

Jim Beasley Veterans Tribute Committee

Jim, Don, Bob and Neely shared about having their float in the Annual Centralia Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 28th @7 PM and in the Veterans Day Parade in Aviston on Saturday, November 11th @2:30 PM.

The group discussed their fund-raising efforts and that tickets are being sold 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.

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

VVA Chapter 269 Update

No report, as no members were present

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

Greg Riechman reported that parade entries are coming in and that members of the Aviston Legion, Auxiliary and SAL will be meeting later in the month to finalize plans for activities that day in Aviston, which include the following:

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

Discussion - Local Veterans Advocate Update on VA/Medicare Benefits for Plan

Tim Persing of Aviston informed the committee of his intent to become a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) and serve voluntarily in Clinton County. After explaining to the committee that there was not a VSO within 30 miles of the County and the frustration that overwhelms veterans, along with his passion to help fellow veterans and their dependents get the benefits that they deserve and are entitled to, the committee agreed that having Mr. Persing's expertise and experience available to the Veterans of Clinton County would be a valuable asset to our local population and are looking forward to working with him, pending his VA certification. For more information, Tim can be reached at 618.304.5847.

Veteran 2 Veteran of Bond County (V2VBC)

Holly Clark shared that there will be an Octoberfest Potluck, as follows:

When: Tuesday, October 24th @6 PM

Where: Greenville First United Methodist Church

What: Brats and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share!

Other: Please RSVP to Holly @618.741.7339!

7. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Meeting Cadence

Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 6th @6 PM in the Board Room.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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