

Veterans Committee  
MEETING MINUTES  
Clinton County Board Room  
October 17, 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, Greg Riechman

**4. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Eight guests (including Board Chairman, Brad Knolhoff) were recognized via the sign-in sheet.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Holly Clark to approve the 09-19-24 minutes and seconded by Mike Hilmes. Motion carried.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

Jim Beasley Veterans Tribute Committee Update

Greg Riechman mentioned that the next Committee Meeting will be held at Kaskaskia College on Monday, October 28th, at 9:30 AM.

Additionally, the Annual Enduring Freedom Event will be held on Wednesday, November 6th (@Kaskaskia College with the following schedule):

Breakfast (KC Student Center)	7:30 AM – 9:30 AM
Celebration (Jane Knight Auditorium)	9:45 AM
Trauma Comes Home: The Battle for the Warrior Family*	11 AM – 12:30 PM & 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

\*Craig Roper will continue to promote the aforementioned presentation, by working with the College's Marketing Department to develop press releases, social media announcements, etc. and a Training Activity is scheduled for Thursday, November 7th (at KC from 9 AM to 3 PM).

Greg Riechman reminded the group that we need your help at future events to focus our efforts on educating the children/students of the counties in the college's district.

Greg Riechman reminded everyone that Jim Beasley previously suggested that we have a Clinton County fundraiser in Centralia, and asked the group to bring ideas to future meetings.

Veteran 2 Veteran of Bond County (V2VBC)

Holly Clark shared that their next meeting will be held at the Greenville First United Methodist Church @6:30 PM on Tuesday, October 22nd.

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

### VVA Chapter 269 Update

Several members shared their incredible experiences of attending the Honor Flight to Washington D.C., which flew out of Springfield on October 15th. Everyone was very thankful and encouraged by the very large crowd in attendance for the send-off on October 14th in Bartelso, which started the day off with a nice program and then proceeded thru the County down Old Route 50 and on to Lebanon.

The festivities at Albers Legion Post 1026 and the Clinton County Veterans Day Parade were discussed, with Greg Riechman sharing the following schedule:

- Church Service at St. Bernards – 9:30 AM
- Dinner at the Albers Legion Hall – 11:30 AM
- Program: Guest Speaker, Chief Master Sergeant (ret) Robert M. Dandridge – 1 PM
- Parade Line-up – 2 PM
- Veterans Day Parade – 2:30 PM
- Dance: Music by The Buzzards – 4 PM
- 50/50 Raffle Drawing – 6 PM

### Honor Flight Update

Greg Riechman shared his amazing experience of serving as a Guardian on the Honor Flight on October 15th. He also shared his sincere thanks to everyone that attended the send-off in Bartelso and/or lined up in all of our communities along the route as they headed west on Old Route 50.

Greg Riechman will continue to work with Carl Huels and Kathy Rakers Kampwerth to plan for the next send-off on Monday, April 14th, in preparation for the Honor Flight departing Springfield on Tuesday, April 15th, 2025.

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

Cheryl Brinkmann updated the group on the tremendous success at the “K&J Chevrolet & The City of Carlyle’s Family Fall Fun Fest at the dealership in Carlyle on October 5th. A large amount was raised and fun was had by all with free food, bounce houses, a corn pit, pumpkin painting and bowling and potato sack races.

K&J has formed an amazing team to help, and they will be ready on December 14th.

### Veterans Assistance Commission

Holly Clark shared her pleasure of attending several VSO meetings so far to discuss forming a potential Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) in the County. She will continue to attend further meetings and provide an update at our next meeting. Holly then thanked Rachele Smith for her help and support.

Additionally, three Veterans Service Officers will be coming to New Baden from 5-7 PM on Thursday, November 7th (contact Wayne Madson at 618.806.1408 if you have questions).

## **8. MEETING CADENCE**

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 21st @6 PM in the Board Room.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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