

Carroll County Veterans Assistance Commission

17612 E. Benton St., P.O. Box 126, Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053

Carroll County Veterans Assistance Commission

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 @ 7 pm at Senior Citizens Center Meeting Room

Meeting was called to order by Lee Gibbs at 7:00 pm. Invocation was given by Ellis Boughton. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Roll call was taken. Present was Lee Gibbs, Ellis Boughton, Lamoille Poffenberger, Joe Drozd, Kevin Hovorka, Ernie Johnson, Nelson Preston, Susan Jacobs, Anthony Barker, Kevin Melancon, Wayne Leonard, Doug Bergren, and Ronda Rathje. Absent members were Rod Clemens, Chris Meier, and James Yenney. Guest was Trevor Miller.

A motion was made by Joe Drozd and seconded by Anthony Barker to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was given by Trevor Miller from Garman & Meade. He supplied a packet with all the journal entries from the beginning of our fiscal year, August 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026. He was also available to answer any questions as the format is different than what everyone was used to. A motion was made by Anthony Barker to accept the financial statement. Seconded by Preston Nelson. Motion carried

Old Business:

Garman & Meade – took over April 1, 2026. All records have been brought to VAC office to conform to FOIA regulations. Bank account signatories were changed. All checks, mail, bills, etc will show and be delivered to CCVAC address in Mt. Carroll

A donation of \$111.59 was received but we did not know where it came from. Ellis stated that he did not know.

New Business:

Individual Bylaw change was needed to allow a spouse of a Veteran to be on the board but not hold an officer position. This was brought about due to the decrease in membership or those willing to volunteer in each of the posts. The MVAA law does allow this to take place. The spouse would need to be appointed a delegate or alternate by the individual post commander. A motion to accept this bylaw change was made by Kevin Melancon and seconded by Joe Drozd. Motion carried.

Individual Bylaw change was needed to show that the CCVAC is not allowed to do any fund-raising and/or raffles. We are 100% funded by taxpayer money. Any fund-raising and/or raffles need to be done by the individual posts and then can make a monetary donation to the

CCVAC afterwards. Motion was made by Nelson Preston to accept the bylaw change. Kevin Melancon seconded. Motion carried.

A vote for new officers needed to be taken. A couple of nomination changes needed to be made. Ernie Johnson wanted his name removed from Sgt at Arms. Nelson Preston made a motion to remove Lee Gibbs from Vice President and nominate Kevin Hovorka for that position. Kevin Melancon seconded it. Motion carried.

Lamoille Poffenberger made a motion for the officers to be listed as follows.

- President – Lee Gibbs
- Vice President – Kevin Hovorka
- Treasurer – Ellis Boughton
- Sgt at Arms – Joe Drozd
- FOIA Officer – Ernie Johnson

Joe Drozd seconded the motion. Motion carried. The above are officers who will take over at the July 29, 2026 meeting.

Discussion was held on the Voting rules for the CCVAC. (who can vote and on what issue). Per the MVAA and our bylaws, there is only one vote per post, regardless of how many members from that post are there. Also, officers do not vote. The President will only have a vote if there is a tie. All post members were advised to fill out new delegate forms as soon as possible and be sure to have them signed by their post commander.

Roberts Rules of Order charts were passed out to each officer and each post. These charts will help us all be sure that we are staying in line with the Open Meetings Act.

Two proposed 2026-2027 budgets were passed out. One of these budgets is what we would present to the county board for our request. The first proposal shows our figures totaling \$142,300. This figure would include a 3% raise for Wayne, Doug, and Ronda. This figure also includes \$45,000 for Transit for our veterans to get to their doctor appointments. The second proposal shows our figures totaling \$156,300. This figure would include the same amount for transit, \$45,000, but an increase in wages to account for a \$5 an hour increase for each of us. Wayne explained that we are the lowest paid ones in the state. We are \$10 an hour lower than anyone. The MVAA states that we should be paid “fair and comparable” wages according to our county. Wayne, Doug, and Ronda agreed that asking for \$10 an hour would be a bit much to ask for, so they came up with \$5 an hour to split it with the county. Wayne advised that both of these figures would amount to being over the 0.02%, which is the minimum the County can give. With the new EAV, the 0.02% this year would only amount to an additional \$178 more than last year. (\$120,000). Given these two budget proposals show figures, we would be approaching the county board with a percentage. The percentages closest to those

figures would be 0.023% of the EAV at \$138204.91 and 0.026% of the EAV at \$156231.63. Wayne explained that it was up to the CCVAC Board to decide as to which one of the two to choose. He advised that if the county board did not agree, we could file an arbitration/mandamus but that would be up to the CCVAC board as an attorney would need to be hired. If we were to lose, we would have to pay the attorney fees, but if we were to win, the county would have to pay the attorney fees. Kevin Melancon made a motion to accept the budget proposal of \$156300 so that the employees can get properly paid for the wonderful work they do for the veterans. Anthony Barker seconded. The motion carried.

Wayne Leonard gave the Superintendent's Report. He advised that we were working on getting all our bylaws in order. Once he does, he will present them to the board. He also stated that our office was approached by a college student looking to do an internship with us. He said that he would set up a meeting with her to see what the internship entailed as this would not cost the CCVAC anything other than maybe another phone line and a desk.

Board President Lee Gibbs states that he is all for going to court, if need be, against the county to get the proper funding. He also asked Wayne to check on the intern and see if it would work out.

No further discussion was held.

No public comments were offered.

No executive session was called or held.

President Lee Gibbs asked Ellis Boughton for an invocation, which he gave.

Motion for adjournment was made by Anthony Barker and seconded by Kevin Melancon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.