VAC Veterans Assistance Commission of WC Washington County

updated 16 Oct 2026

Meeting Minutes Sep 23, 2026

The Veterans Assistance Commission of Washington County (VAC WC) Meeting was held at the Washington County Court House at 7:00 pm.

Members' present: (7)

Larry Harrison, Chairman, Alternate Delegate, AL Post 110
Lance Carr, Vice Chairman, Delegate, AL Post 233
Matthew Kasten, VAC WC Superintendent
Jane Clarke, Secretary/Treasurer, Delegate, AL Post 110
Steve Elliott, Delegate, VFW Post 5596
Kevin Pierce, Alternate Delegate, Post 233
Ken Storck, Alternate Delegate VFW Post 5596

Members absent:

None.

Others Present:

None.

1. Chairman Larry Harrison confirmed those present. He asked members to participate in the pledge. He asked for the monthly report from Matt Kasten.
2. Matt told the Commission that is was a slower month with training and getting ready for the Okawville festival. Matt's report will be available upon request.
    a. Matt attended the IACVAC training in Peoria the week of Sep 14th. The previous training was in Feb/Mar. One of the topics was the abundance of asbestos and the effect it is having on the health care system and VA claims. This catches us up for Matt's training for the coming year.
    b. The conference costs were captured. We are up to date on training now. This gives up access to the program that we need for our reports for the VA.
    c. Veteran turnout at the High School football game was great, about 50 vets, and the High School wants to do this again next year. New pins were added on the contact board, and we made some good contacts. The Vets in wheelchairs made a big impact on the students as well.
    d. At the Wheat Festival he met a connection from the St Louis record archives which could be very helpful. Getting records from the archives takes a long time. A lot of positive feedback from people with the help provided.

e. We are still awaiting Kaskaskia College action on the work study assignment, an HR department to know the next steps. This status is not in our hands and he keeps checking for any progress. An issue with liability of a person working off campus.
f. No work on the budget at this time.
g. *We have a requirement for members to review the Financial Assistance Packet for discussion in the next meeting. The packet was provided last year to members. These minutes will be provided to members as a reminder to be prepared for this requirement.
    i. Lance talked about some protection for future health assessments and how it will be split up.
    ii. Matt gave 2 examples of financial assistance issues to be filed. He talked about needing to be able to respond to walk-ins like these and using AI to support building the packages. Doing a little better with the packages but digging out of a hole.
h. The High School sold shirts and made $500 in cash for us. Matt has not made contact yet for the non-profit. We want the cash to be used in Washington County. If we put into the non-profit, we can pull cash out of that. This was great for the High School to support us with cash and the recognition on the football night.

3. Steve had spoken with Jim Page on the bank about 501C, and got cash from the bank to give money to Matt. He was not at all sure if the bank would put the money in a CD or shares. We have $515.00 right now in the bank.
4. Larry had talked with the attorney on the budget for any status. Matt said if they don't challenge it the budget will look very different. Steve asked when they must vote. Larry and Matt said we are 2 months from deadline. Larry said the state attorney will have to get involved to explain what it means now. We are paid up until the budget kicks off.
5. Larry brought up the possible resolution about the description and use of AI in the daily duties of the commission. Matt uses a lot of AI pieces to do the job, and it is needed, but he said a lot of regulations are coming and table it for now. Ken recommended tabling it for now, and Lance second. We are now waiting for regulations.
6. *We went through the Application for the Five-Year Accreditation. All commission members need to be certified in Open Meetings Act Part III 3., and a single member needs Part III, 2. Freedom of Information. Staff completion of Ethics training and sexual harassment training needs to be completed within the last year. Larry is considering giving a briefing at the October meeting that may support the Open Meetings Act requirement.

7. Matt provided a copy of Jane's appointment letter for record for the Secretary file.

8. Larry asked if there was anything else for the meeting. Lance recommended the meeting be adjourned which was second by Keith. Meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

//signed//

Jane E. Clarke, Post 110 Delegate
VAC WC
Secretary/Treasurer

Reference:

1) Agenda
2) Superintendent's Report
3) Budget Use By Line Item
4) Tyler Technologies Invoice and License Agreement
5) Instructions for Five-Year Accreditation