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Veterans Assistance Commission of Kane County, Illinois

March 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The quarterly delegate meeting was called to order on March 23, 2026 at 7:02pm and was convened in standard fashion by President John Westphall.

Roll Call		
Post	**Delegate/Alternate**	**03/23/2026**
Elgin American Legion Post 57	Robert A. Getz Dennis R. Beach	**X**
Geneva American Legion Post 75	Robert Bigelow Patrick Dickinson	**X**
Elgin Marine Corps League Detachment 77	Diane M. Ahrens	**X**
Aurora American Legion Post 84	John C. Muschler Peter A. Regnier	**X**
Elgin Amvets Post 202	Carlos A. DeJesus Joseph P. McKeown III	**X**
Maple Park American Legion Post 312	Dave Trumble Kevin H. Kostuchowski	
Saint Charles American Legion Post 342	Charles Wittleder Ronald Sassano	**X** **X**
Saint Charles Amvets Post 503	John R. Westphall Robert L. Phillips	**X** **X**
Batavia American Legion Post 504	David M. Jordan Nate R. Gustafson	 **X**
Elburn American Legion Post 630	Norman E. Welker Charles F. Coffey	**X**
Huntley American Legion Post 673	Dan Vital Kyle Batker	**X**
Carpentersville American Legion Post 679	Michael R. Holt Trish A. Glees	
Vietnam Veterans of America Post 693	William L. Troth Stanley E. Herzog	**X**
Marine Corps League Detachment 1233	Richard R. Matthys Shannon N. Callahan	
Elgin VFW Post 1307	Robert A. Getz Shirldine-Kay Nohl	**X**
Dundee VFW Post 2298	Theodore N. Biever Jr.	**X**
St. Charles VFW Post 5036	John J. Erwin Mark F. Powell	**X**
Montgomery VFW Post 7452	Kenneth Periman Robert J. Bailey	**X**

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Opening:

President Westphall led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Phillips gave the invocation and a moment of silence for Amvets Post 202 Commander Michael Landt. Secretary Ahrens called the roll and a quorum was established.

Last Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Delegate Muschler and seconded by Delegate Welker to accept the minutes as distributed. Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Public Comment:

None.

Elections:

President Westphall turned the meeting over to Superintendent Jacob Zimmerman to conduct the annual Election of Commission Officers. Nominations were received for John Westphall for President, Theodore Biever for Vice-President, Diane Ahrens for Secretary, Robert Getz for Treasurer, Norman Welker for Director, Robert Phillips for Director, and Kenneth Periman for Director. No other nominations were received after calling three times for each position. A motion was made by Alternate Gustafson and seconded by Delegate Vital to elect the uncontested positions as a slate instead of individually. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. The slate of uncontested candidates was recommended to be elected by a motion from Alternate Gustafson and seconded by Delegate Vital. Motion carried by voice vote and the officers were installed.

Treasurer's Report:

Superintendent Jacob Zimmerman gave the Treasurer's Report on behalf of the Treasurer, which showed a balance of $105.23 in savings, $480.25 in checking, and $47,923.59 in Money Market for the Commission's non-profit foundation accounts with $21.55 received in dividends year-to-date. Superintendent Zimmerman also stated that Consumers Credit Union merged with KCT Credit Union and the non-profit accounts are now held by Consumers Credit Union as a result. A motion was made by Delegate Welker and seconded by Delegate Periman to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Zimmerman provided the Superintendent's Report. Superintendent Zimmerman reported on the operations of the VAC with disability claims being processed slower than the average Illinois' veteran's claim due to a few recent long-pending claims that have been decided but that pension claims are going more than one month faster on average. VAC staff has secured more than $2.9 million in new benefits this fiscal year with more than 150 service-connected disability compensation claims filed this fiscal year. The Superintendent also provided a written report on office expenditures from November 18, 2025 through March 16, 2026. Superintendent Zimmerman also notified Delegates of the change in the financial assistance threshold, which took effect on December 1st and also shared the results of the Fiscal Year 2025 Not-for-Profit audit. A motion was made by Delegate Welker and seconded by

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Delegate DeJesus to accept the Superintendent's Reports as read. Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Superintendent Zimmerman presented Resolution 26-001 a resolution to Dispose of Legacy Commission Records. He explained this is an annual housekeeping action. A motion was made by Delegate Vital and seconded by Alternate Gustafson to pass the resolution as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Superintendent Zimmerman presented Resolution 26-003 a resolution to move the date of the November Meeting. He explained this was due to a personal conflict and if not passed he would have the Assistant Superintendent fill in his absence. A motion was made by Delegate Erwin and seconded by Delegate Biever to pass the resolution as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Superintendent Zimmerman presented Resolution 26-003 a resolution to adopt and adapt the County's Blood and Organ Donation Policy. He explained this is a housekeeping item required under the Military Veterans Assistance Act and the new policy is a result of new state statute. A motion was made by Delegate Erwin and seconded by Delegate Vital to pass the resolution as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Delegate Erwin reported that there were some accessibility issues, particularly with mental health providers at Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital. Superintendent Zimmerman said that he was attending the Director's Meeting on Thursday, that he will bring the issue up, to send him any examples of this, and that he will report back following the meeting. It was also mentioned that there have been on-and-off staffing issues that were not supposed to effect patient care and that some had been stayed as a result of court action. Alternative mental health treatment including at the Vet Center, Rush Road Home, Headstrong Project, and Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans was shared for anyone having access issues.

Delegate Erwin also reported about Illinois House Bill 5085 and there was a general consensus that this Bill was not good for Commission's across the State.

Good of the Commission:

Superintendent Zimmerman shared flyers about the upcoming Veterans Resource Fair, Ride-in-Kane, Statement of Economic Interests, a visiting veteran program through Senior Services, and mentioned the opportunity for a joint-organization color guard for America 250 Celebrations in July.

Delegate Palmer shared a flyer on the Jonathan Scott Cundiff Golf Outing on July 17th and also spoke about the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Delegate Ahrens shared a flyer on the Veterans Brunch Club in Elgin on alternating Tuesdays.

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Delegate Getz presented about a book he had for sale “Hearts of Heroes” and a nice jacket he had available for anyone who needed a jacket.

Delegate Erwin shared information about the Heroes Home Project in Wheaton, the Major Richard Starr Act, the VFW Day of Service on May 9th at a veteran’s home in Aurora, that grants are available for suicide prevention, and concerns about the current conflict in Iran.

Alternate Gustafson presented about the American Legion’s Coffee Call on most 1st Saturdays at Apple Villa in Batavia.

Delegate Vital shared that his Post’s Birthday Dinner also celebrated three 100-year-old veterans living in the area

Delegate Muschler spoke about the Fox Valley Veterans Breakfast Club taking place at the Riverview Restaurant in Montgomery on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays.

Delegate Periman shared that they have bingo on Mondays and Tuesdays and also fish fries at the Post through Lent.

Delegate Westphall mentioned that the Maple Park American Legion also has a good fish fry.

Alternate Phillips shared information about the Bake Sale Fundraiser for Be a Hero to a Hero.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Delegate Muschler and seconded by Delegate Vital to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

DocuSigned by:
Diane M. Ahrens
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Diane M. Ahrens, Secretary