



# Veteran Assistance Commission of Will County



Kristina McNichol – Superintendent  
Glenwood Center 2400 Glenwood Ave. Ste 110 Joliet, IL 60432  
Ph: (815)740-8389 Fax: (815)740-4329

**11 Jan 2022**

**VAC Executive Commission Meeting**

**7:00 AM**

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor’s recent disaster proclamation, the number of COVID-19 cases in Will County and the CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19, the President of the Veterans Assistance Commission has determined that in-person meetings are not practical nor prudent. Therefore, all meetings for the Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County shall be held via video and/or audio until further notice.*

*The public is invited to comment or pose a questions by email at [vacwc@willcountyillinois.com](mailto:vacwc@willcountyillinois.com). At the For Good of the Commission/Public Comments portion of the meeting, the emails will be read into the record. Please email [vacwc@willcountyillinois.com](mailto:vacwc@willcountyillinois.com) for a link to attend the meeting via ZOOM*

- I. Call to Order: Picciolo
  - A. Pledge of Allegiance
  - B. Opening Prayer: Mlynek
- II. Roll Call of Attendees: Williams

VAC Commission		
Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jack Picciolo	President	P
Nicholas Barry	Vice President	P
Denise Williams	Secretary	P
Amanda Koch	Sgt-At-Arms	P
Jim Singler	Chaplain	A
Tom Mlynek	Member	P
Janet Blue	Member	P
Steve Benicke	Member	P
Vic Martinka	Past Chairman	A
John Kestle	Past Chairman	A
John York	Past Chairman	A
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	A

- III. Introduction of Guests and/or First Time Attendees: Debra Sirek, Catholic Charities; Danielle Gritzenbach, Catholic Charities; Darcy White, Catholic Charities; Bry Williams, Catholic Charities; Kathleen Schweikert, Catholic Charities; Natalie Manley, State Rep; Robert Gilbert, Chief of Staff Natalie Manley; Steve Daly, AL 52; William Sutton, AL 13; Geriann Weisbrook, Hey G!; Julie Sander, WCVAC; Greg Wiza, WCVAC; Kristi McNichol, WCVAC; Jen Solum, WCVAC; Joe Martin, WCVAC; L. Gleeson; E. Papineau WCVAC;
- IV. Chris Wise, States Atty; Brandi Mullins-WCVAC-(Powerpoint, Contact Sheet attached below)
  - A. Deborah Sirek; Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet Foster Grandparent Program & others Catholic Charities programs existing and/or initiated in Will County for Seniors, homebound, supportive in-home services, financial/resources counseling; various programs for Will County residents 18-59 on disability/60+ w/w/out disability; recreation, physical/social classes; “Telephone Reassurance Program”, volunteers contact seniors for social/isolation remediation; SHIP/SHAP-certified medicare guidance counselors, benefit access;

D. White-Longterm Care Ombudsman-cover Manteno Veterans Home, 83 other facilities; makes unannounced/unimpeded visits at least every 3 months; seeking volunteers, community resources to share w/residents;

D. Sirek-Foster Grandparent Program-all programs looking for volunteers; participants go to schools in Joliet, Valley View, Headstart Sites, Afterschool, YMCA; 65+, receive stipend requires at/below 200% Fed. poverty line; volunteers tutor/mentor children; classroom aids; events 2x yearly for recognition of volunteers; provides socialization for seniors;

Blue-can volunteers not meet income eligibility?

-Sirek-yes, there is a waitlist for non-income eligibles

B. Williams-Senior Companion Program Kankakee, Will, Grundy, Iroquois; volunteers visit w/seniors, tax-free stipend to volunteers; companions are 55+, socialization, transportation, respite for caregivers;

K. Schweikert-Money Management Program; 60+ and disability, sponsored by Dept. on Aging, matches volunteers to organize, pay bills, intervening w/creditors; clients referred by protective services, disabled, etc.;

Mylnek-are clients in facilities or homebound?

-yes, in Senior building/independent living, not in facilities

V. Minutes of Previous Meeting 14 Dec @ 7:00 AM (A)

Special Meeting 20 Dec @ 7:00 AM (B)

A. Motion: Blue, Barry-

Roll Call Vote- Barry	Aye
Koch	Aye
Mylnek	Aye
Blue	Aye
Benicke	Aye
Williams	Aye

Passed, Unanimous

B. Motion: Barry, Benicke

Roll Call Vote- Barry	Aye
Koch	Aye
Mylnek	Aye
Blue	Aye
Benicke	Aye
Williams	Aye

Passed, Unanimous

VI. Superintendents Report:

McNichol-

A. Award Log: Line Graph added to Governors Report, visual depiction of report, see progress throughout year

B. Project 150 Report: ESG balance, J. Solum tracking the grant, \$75k left to spend on emergency shelter, at current spending is 2 ½ months;

Solum-most recent is most expensive due to Holidays/Winter;

-Rep. Manley advised she is leaving meeting; McNichol asked Manley to please advise WCVAC if there is any further housing funding coming from State; Manley will advise

-Picciolo asked when funding ends; McNichol-ESG monies to be spent by Jan. 2023;

-Blue asked about other funding; McNichol- being sought

-McNichol advised avg. length of stay is 43 days

Motion-Blue, Mylnek

Roll Call Vote- Barry	Aye
Koch	Aye
Mylnek	Aye
Blue	Aye
Benicke	Aye
Williams	Aye

Passed, Unanimous

## VII. New Business

### A. Marketing Campaign Wrap-Up

-G. Weisbook, Hey G! Consulting-(powerpoint attached below)-Phase 1 updated social media, daily outreach, organize information in public domains of State, local resources, branded to WCVAC outreach/content; strategic cross-referenced to other agencies;

-Williams-is there a breakout of FB vs Instagram demographics?

-Weisbrook-due to FB owning Instagram, not able to differentiate, in general Instagram is 35-44 yr old demographic heavy

Phase 2-added radio, media, advertising direct costs breakdown;

-Williams-Do we need a motion to accept report?

-Wise-yes

-Blue-request to table to next meeting as it is a lot of information

Motion to Table to 2/8/2022-Blue, Benicke

Roll Call Vote- Barry	Aye
Koch	Aye
Mylnek	Aye
Blue	Aye
Benicke	Aye
Williams	Aye

Passed, Unanimous

### B. IDVA Lottery Scratch Off Grant

-McNichol-advised grant exists, WCVAC can/will apply, primarily to supplement housing

### C. VAC Post Notifications sent 12/23/2021

-McNichol advised only response so far is Romeoville, reminded minimum 15 paid members per Bylaws to be eligible for Exec. Board

-Blue volunteered to contact Posts, VSO's

VIII. Old Business

A. DCEO Appropriation \$41,172.29-

-McNichold advised due to Covid outbreak, grant was accepted, awaiting award letter

-McNichol advised contacted Sen. Duckworths office re:veteran deportations, no response as of yet

-Picciolo-1/13 9:00am, ALNC Committal Shelter C, unattended veterans burial; DAR official sponsor to allow for

-Benicke-Romeoville Post Habitat for Humanity veteran build on hold, seeking location

-Mylnek- Plainfield AL 13 Queen of Hearts is over \$53k

-McNichol advised Orland Park Vet Center, sections of VA are remote for next 2 weeks

B. -Every Tuesday – VAC at Orland Park Vet Center – G. Wiza

C. Every Monday – VAC at Orland Park Vet Center – A. Georgakopoulos

D. Every Thursday – Together We Stand, Peer Support Group @ VAC Office

E. Third Thursday – VAC at Peotone American Legion

F. Second Monday - VAC at Manhattan American Legion Breakfast

G. February 8, 2022 – Listen & Learn, Plainfield American Legion

IX. Motion to Adjourn: Mylnek, Benicke

Roll Call Vote-	Barry	Aye
	Koch	Aye
	Mylnek	Aye
	Blue	Aye
	Benicke	Aye
	Williams	Aye

Passed, Unanimous

**VAC Executive Committee Meeting  
02/08/2022 @ 7AM  
VIA Zoom**

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Williams  
Secretary VACWC Board