

Veterans' Assistance Liaison Committee Meeting

April 22, 2017 at Department Headquarters in Bloomington, IL

0945 hrs. – Chairman A.C. “Dave” Davis opened the Veterans’ Assistance Liaison Committee meeting.

Roll call of committee members taken: Division 1 - Jan Lepinski (Present)
Division 2 - A.C. “Dave” Davis (Chairman) (Present)
Division 3 – Elmer “Leroy” Davis (Vice Chairman) (Present)
Division 4 - Richard Moran (Present)
Division 5 - Bernard Schwarz (Present)

“Dave” Davis explained to the new member “Leroy” Davis about the purpose of the VA Liaison Committee and how it helps Counties without VACs to get one started. Chairman Davis also explained that the committee also reports any news about VACs that already exist, about VA Clinics, about VA Hospitals and about any transportation issues or transportation news concerning a VAC’s transportation services to and from our VA Hospitals. “Dave” then asked “Leroy” to introduce himself and had each member also introduce themselves.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

“Dave” Davis again discussed about changes in Illinois VAC codes due to a lawsuit within Grundy County.
Main Changes:

1. Code changed to indicate that over 50% (NOT 100%, as previously written) of a county’s Veteran Organizations needed a Delegate and Alternate to have a legal VAC.
2. Code changed to allow organizations having multiple “Posts” within the same county representation for the entire group by ONLY one Delegate and one Alternate if they so choose. (I.E. multiple VFW Posts, multiple American Legion Posts, etc.)
3. Code changed requiring the Commission to send notices to every County Veteran’s Organizations on January of EACH year requesting the Organization supply a Delegate and an Alternate if they wish to continue or be represented at a VAC meeting. The Code was also changed to allow EACH organization only 60 days to respond to said notice.
4. Judge’s write-up declared that the Commission CANNOT control how an Organization chooses its Delegates and Alternates. The Judge even declared that any Delegate and/or Alternate does NOT have to be a member of said “Post”, or even be a Veteran, to be selected as a Delegate or Alternate. Selection is entirely up to the “Post” or group of “Posts” as they so choose.
5. “Dave” further recommended that ALL VACs review their VAC Bylaws and adjust them, if needed, to fit the revised Codes and the Judge’s Write-Up.

“Dave” Davis of 2nd Division also mentioned that Winnebago County has been paying a bi-annual leasing fee for use of a VA owned van for several years now. They recently discovered that this van has been operating completely through donations to the VA hospital in Madison and that the County Veterans probably should NOT have been paying a leasing fee for its use. Further information will be available as disclosed. (NOTE: Winnebago County may NOT be the ONLY County with this happening.)

Rich Moran of 4th Division said that the AMVET’s Post 210 of McLain County recently came into a substantial donation. As a result, the AMVET Post purchased and donated a van to the VAC of McLain County for transportation of their Veterans.

Bernard Schwarz of 5th Division said that the Madison County VAC's superintendent was finally allowed to return to his office at the County Court House. He had been blocked from entering the Court House for over a year now and had been running the VAC from his own home.

"Leroy" Davis of 3rd Division said that Counties in his Division have several vans that transport Veteran's to multiple sites upon request. (I.E. Iowa City, IA and if needed, even to VA hospitals in Missouri.)

Jan Lupinski of 1st Division stated that Cook County has only one VAC, as required by Code. As a result, it is difficult to coordinate drivers and transportation services for the entire County. They solved the dilemma by providing rides on public transportation, several vans at various locations throughout the County, and even individuals volunteering to drive folks, using their own privately-owned-vehicles, to-and-from VA hospitals throughout the County.

Meeting Completed: Motion/Second and Unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 1045 am.

A.C. "Dave" Davis (Division 2)

Chairman, Veterans Assistance Liaison Committee