

Veterans Assistance Liaison Committee Meeting, Saturday, 17 October 2020

The Veterans Assistance Liaison Committee (VALC) meeting was held at the Department of Illinois American Legion Headquarters, Bloomington, Illinois on 17 October 2020. The meeting convened at 1320 with the following members present: John Wowk, Mark Young, Donald Scheyer, and Ashley “Dave” Davis (via phone).

After introductions were made, Dave welcomed Mark and Don to the committee and explained the purpose of the Veterans Assistance Liaison Committee. Dave noted some Illinois Counties do not have a Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) that helps provide support to Veterans and their families. Committee Members are encouraged to contact County Governments and Veteran Organizations within their Division to verify if a VAC exists in their County. If we discover that a VAC does not exist in a county it is our responsibility, as VALC Committee Members, to contact Veteran organizations within that County and to offer our assistance in establishing a VAC for their county. Dave will forward materials to members of the committee to review prior to contacting County Officials.

A County VAC is a county level government agency that is set up and run by the Veteran Organizations of that county. The VAC is separate from County Government and from the County Board. The only connection with County Government is financial support for the VAC. The County is solely responsible to supply funds for the VAC to assist and operate (usually through County Property Taxes). Most VACs supply financial help to Veterans. However, some VACs provide additional services for their Veterans such as free transportation services to VA medical care and in some cases full Veteran Service Officer (VSO) support.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1345.

Respectfully submitted,

John Wowk