

VA & R Commission Meeting
Saturday, 13 April 20, 2024

10:07 am – Open and Pledge by Chair Rodger Bennett.

Present - Rodger Bennett (Chair)

1st Division - Bernie Stegmuller

2nd Division - A.C. "Dave" Davis

3rd Division - Wade Hudson (New Member)

Discussed D.C. Conference – The only VA & R Member to attend was Bernie. Rodger was booked to go, however could not attend. Bernie said there was much lower attendance than normal & fewer meetings because Congress was not in session.

A question was raised at the conference about Camp Lejune and the cost for lawyers. Bernie said the answer was that the Law Offices now must be vetted by VA to represent the Veterans. However, the offices have used a flaw to get their entire staff approved. Only ONE LAWYER needs to be vetted, and then the ENTIRE GROUP is eligible to represent any Veteran. According to Bernie, there was no indication that this would be fixed soon.

10:20 am – Department Commander Buske temporarily visited the meeting. He said if the Commission or any of us need help or assistance from him or the Department, just let his "crew" know.

Discussion about the VA Liaison Committee by "Dave" Davis – "Dave" pointed out that the State of Illinois was now Certifying Veteran Organizations that were not on the Federal Certification List. This will allow them to serve as Delegates and Alternates for County VAC's. Forms to apply are available on-line.

Next Meeting - Rodger announced that the next meeting will be at the Department Convention at Saputo's Restaurant in Springfield.

11:55 am - Meeting closed by Rodger Bennett.

A.C. "Dave" Davis,
Temporary Secretary