

VETERANS ASSISTANCE LIAISON COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

The Veterans Assistance Liaison Committee (VALC) met on September 26, 2026 at 1:00pm at Headquarters in Bloomington, IL.

We had three (3) of five (5) committee members present. One (1) was excused and one (1) was absent.

Committee Chair Don Scheyer called the meeting to order.

We were visited by Department Commander Celeste Latham, Department Senior Vice Commander Wayne Erickson and Department Adjutant Josh Thielen.

Commander Latham thanked us for stepping up to serve. She requested that the committee review our mission and determine if any changes were needed. She stated that each committee had two (2) goals this year the Commander's and the Committee's.

Commander's goal (Department priority):

Connect veterans and their families to local assistance resources by strengthening partnerships between American Legion Posts, Veterans Assistance Commissions, and community service organizations throughout Illinois.

Committee goal (as determined by the committee):

To create goal:

Ask ourselves:

What can we accomplish this year that will make a difference?

What would we like to improve?

How can we better support our members and posts?

What would make us proud to report at next year's convention?

Department Adjutant Thielen distributed copies of Video Conference Guidelines and Committee Chairman Expectations.

Following their departure we began to discuss our mission. We determined that there were no changes required to our mission at this time.

We then discussed establishing our goals. A review of the Divisions Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC's) indicated that the 3rd and 5th Divisions had the greatest opportunities to establish VAC's. Our goal will be to work toward the establishment of five (5) VAC's.

What we would like to improve communications throughout the Department about VAC's. We believe this can be accomplished by sharing information in Division and District caucuses at a minimum.

Attaining these goals would clearly, make us proud to announce at next year's convention.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Donald Scheyer

Committee Chair