

Attendance:

Roll Call completed: Attached sheet

Sick call: Review of members who have medical conditions

Previous Month Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: 1st motion: Kevin Kastelic 2nd motion: Edward Klundt

Financial Reports:

Treasurer read report: Admin budget, Veterans Relief, Emergency Relief Report, Medical Equipment fund report and CD account information reviewed

Motion to approve: 1st motion: Edward Klundt 2nd motion: Charlie Thompson

Guest speaker: Jill Cejka from Deafinitely Dogs! Service Dogs!

Deafinitely Dogs focuses on the human/dog relationship. The dogs are puppy raised from 6 to 8 weeks old. The dogs go through a thorough training, to provide assistance with multiple medical conditions to include PTSD, hearing loss, anxiety, and other disabilities. Jill is the community outreach liaison, and provides presentations about the organization.

The process for allowing a dog to pick their person increases their success rate. The national average for team rates (person/dog) matches is 65%, their retention rate is 100%. The dogs are puppy raised from 6 to 8 weeks, 13 dogs are annually assigned. Approximately 2 years of training for the puppies. Once the dogs are with their person for a few months, there is a graduation ceremony. Applying to receive a dog begins with a 17-page application, doctor records are reviewed and the process takes months not days. The dogs are trained to take care of the person, not trained as a support dog. They keep in touch with families after the dog has graduated the program.

Veterans are not charged for a dog, paid for through grants, donations, and sponsorships. A veteran cannot be homeless and has to be able to pay for vet cost, take care of self and dog. If veteran dies the dog is allowed to stay with the family. Deafinitely Dogs! Serve Dogs! is 1 of the 24 organizations that are part of the Wounded Warriors services. Average cost to train a service dog is \$28,000 to \$38,000. Program was approved to 2028, however funding may be affected due to current.

Upcoming event: Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 1-3 pm. Think Tank at Cedar Rapids (Cory, Brad, Parris)

VETPRO Data Report:

Parris presented the VETPRO report. \$81,308.10, great month. Results are coming in for Cory and Jason. 91 new veterans for the month of September 2025. Secretary asked for 2024 numbers to compare.

Old Business:

Brad read and discussed new bylaws. Changes in the way the bylaws are written and highlighted on new bylaws. New Acronym VACRICO

-75% vote needed to approve the New Bylaws and will be reviewed next meeting

- new bylaws to be taken home and reviewed and voted on at November 2025 meeting
- Future plans: present changes for commission in June meeting and vote at July meeting.

Bridging the Gap:

Parris and Brad attended, September 26, 2025. Due to lack of support this was the last event being held. More veterans attended than last 2 years. Many agencies were present and available to assist homeless veterans.

Vetfest:

Event located at LeClaire Park in Davenport, IA. VACRICO participated in events held, booth was manned by Parris, Jason, Damion and Maria. Information given to attendees regarding services available. Some referrals/appointments scheduled from event. Annual attendance is planned.

VACRICO Commission Positions:

Kevin Kastilic was sworn into Vice President position by Jerry Goodwin, President

Vote on Board Members: Elective officials being moved to April 2026.

Chaplain position is needed, is currently vacate: Nomination of Ed Klundt 1st by Kevin Kilkenny. Any other nominations were asked for 3 times. Vote: Yea-10 Nays-0

Gift cards:

-Gift cards donated by the Illinois Elks Association and given out to veterans.

Testimonies: A veteran who got out of prison, is 100% total disability and permanent. He received 1 week of funding assistance from prison and needed assistance. The veteran was able to utilize a Hy-Vee gift card to purchase essentials.

CALM training:

October 22, 2025 Jason and Cory will be attending CALM training at Trimble Funeral Home

Anonymously Grateful Banquet:

Cory provided information about the banquet held on September 12, 2025. Prior donations were divided up and given to the 3 Gold Star families at the banquet. Fundraisers resulted in \$3,300 being raised in silent auction and \$7,405 donations for mission being received at banquet.

Bring to Light breakfast monthly meeting on 1st Saturday of each month, at Cornerstone Church, 775 E LeClaire Road, Eldridge, IA 52748. Veterans welcomed to come for breakfast, and get free pizza, doughnuts, coffee, information and camaraderie. November 1st meeting veterans and spouses welcomed to attend.

Black Hawk Social Services Fair:

Event held at Black Hawk College on 10/8/2025 and was attended by Cory. Free Tacos are given out to attendees and vendors. VACRICO has a good relationship with the college and POC Tom Reagan

QUAD CITIES OPEN NETWORK:

Quad Cities Open Network (QCON), is a collaborative group of over 100 not-for-profit human service agencies in the Quad Cities region that works together to increase community well-being through a strong human service sector. Working with QCON, VACRICO was able refer a veteran for assistance with to avoid disconnection of his utility bill. VACRICO point of contact is Maria.

1st Army briefing:

Brad and Parris are scheduled to provide a briefing at 1st Army on the Rock Island Arsenal.

Rock Island Arsenal Retiree Day:

RIA will be having the Retiree Day Outreach on October 18, 2025. Cory is scheduled to be attending.

Rock Island Board Meeting:

Board meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2025. Brad and Parris will be attending October and future meetings. Brad will introduce the VACRICO, brief numbers and state board numbers.

IANACVSO State Conference:

Brad attended event September 15-19, 2025. Brad stated the event was great and provided information that could be utilized. VACRICO Commission secretary Kevin Kilkenny attended conference as well.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion to approve: 1st motion: Dennis Johnson 2nd motion: Kevin Kilkenny

Meeting minutes Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gerald E. Goodwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'G'.