DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission

American Legion Posts 66, 99, 181, 337, 654
Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts 1486, 5768, & 8387
40 et 8 Voiture 207

President Celeste Latham, Vice-President Jim Cox, and Treasurer Bob Coulter

Non-Certified Posts: American Legion Posts #598, #772, #1010, AmVets Post #90, Marine Corps League Detach. #847

2500 N. Annie Glidden Rd., Five Seasons Room
DeKalb IL
January 13th, 2025 starting (tentatively) at 6:00pm

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call of Delegates/Alternates

IV. Public Comment

V. Reading & Approval of the December 2024 Meeting Minutes

VI. Treasurer's Report

VII. Superintendent's Report
   a. Approval of December 2024 Expenses

VIII. Committee Reports

IX. Unfinished Business

X. New Business
   a. Delegate/Alternate Forms
   b. OMA Requirements

XI. For the Good of the Commission

XII. Adjournment

DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting Minutes
December 9th, 2024
DCVAC Meeting

Meeting started at 6:04pm with President Celeste Latham presiding.

Board Members Present: Vice President H. James Cox, Treasurer Bob Coulter, Director Bob Bend, Director Ed McComb and acting Secretary Tammy Anderson.

Delegate/Alternate: Ernie McGee (D), Frank Beierlotzer (A), Joseph Hodder (D), Charlotte Hodder (A), Dwain Adkins (D), and William Lambert (A). George Schippits - guest

Public Comment: N/A

Meeting Minutes: The November 18th 2024 minutes were reviewed. No changes were discussed – Motion made by Joe Hodder to accept the meeting minutes as read, seconded by Bob Bend - Minutes passed.

Treasurer's Report: There was no activity for the month of November, so the beginning and ending balance was $5,763.30. Motion was made by Dwain Adkins to accept the Treasurer's report as presented subject to audit, seconded by Bill Lambert subject to audit – Vote called – Motion passed.

Superintendent's Report:

Meeting	Month Expenditures	Total Activity	Recoveries YTD	Financial Assistance	Transport
12/09/2024	November /$53,317.20	1,831	$2,493,599.88	11/$6,025.00	41 Trans/29 Trips

A motion was made by Ed McComb to approve November's monthly expenses as presented, seconded by Ernie McGee – Roll Call Vote – Motion Passed.

Committee Reports: Frank Beierlotzer presented a flyer (see attached)

Unfinished Business: N/A

New Business: Nomination for FY2025 Board Memebers was reopened, a request for additional nominations was made. Amotion was made by Frank Beierlotzer to make one vote for all positions, seconded by Bill Lambert – Vote Called – Motion Passed. The following are DCVAC Board Memebers for FY2025:

Name	Position	
Celeste Latham	President	Accepted
H. Jim Cox	Vice President	Accepted
Bob Coulter	Treasurer	Accepted
Ed McComb	Director	Accepted

For the Good of the Commission: Charlotte Hodder let us know that there will be a meeting in January to continue with Operation Her Story. She will provide additional information at the next DCVAC meeting & will pass the information on to Superintendent Tammy Anderson to distribute to fellow female Veterans.

Adjournment: Being no further business, a motion was made by Ed McComb to adjourn, seconded by Frank Beierlotzer – Vote called – Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted by acting Secretary Tammy Anderson.

DEKALB COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2025
STATE OF THE BUDGET

Communication	QUANTITY	YTD
Phone	447	447
Office Visit	122	122
Outreach/Home Visits	7	7
Email/Mail	246	246
Direct Submit	60	60
Fax	4	4
Other/General Contact Log	425	425
Total Employee Communications	1311	1311
Total Employee Activity	1876	1876

VA AWARDANCE	MONTHLY	YTD
Monthly	$ 27,992.91	$ 27,992.91
Retro	$ 44,922.02	$ 44,922.02
Total	**$ 72,914.93**	**$ 72,914.93**

EXPENDITURES		MONTHLY	YTD
Salaries and Benefits		$ 32,024.17	$ 32,024.17
Training and Meetings		$ 38.01	$ 38.01
Office Expenses		$ 3,898.85	$ 3,898.85
Building Space/Maintenance		$ -	$ -
Direct Assistance to Veterans	**Number Assisted**		
Shelter	11	$ 6,025.00	$ 6,025.00
Other	0	$ -	$ -
Drivers Per Diem		$ 630.00	$ 630.00
Disaster Assistance	0	$ -	$ -
Vehicle Expense			
Fuel Cost ($2.54 per gal)		$ 426.97	$ 426.97
Maintenance			$ -
	Totals	**$ 43,043.00**	**$ 43,043.00**

Transportation Logs	QUANTITY	YTD
Trips	30	30
Hours Donated	175.00	175.00
Transported	38	38
Miles	4868	4868
Fuel (gallons)	168.1	168.1

SUMMARY	PERCENTAGE	AMOUNT
Budget	100%	$ 729,600.00
Previous YTD Expenditures	0%	$ -
Current Month Expenditures	-6%	$ 43,043.00
Balance	94%	**$ 686,557.00**

Restricted Fund Balance	$ 1,133,582.00

DEKALB COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
VETERANS ASSISTANCE DECEMBER 2024/ TRANSPORTATION REPORT NOVEMBER 2024
MEETING MONTH OF JANUARY 2025

	Shelter		Transportation
Towns	**Amount**	**# of Vets**	**# of Vets**
Cortland			1
DeKalb	$ 4,025.00	7	17
Fairdale			
Genoa			2
Hinckley			
Kingston			
Kirkland			3
Lee			
Malta			
Sandwich	$ 800.00	2	2
Shabbona			
Somonauk			
Sycamore	$ 1,200.00	2	12
Waterman			1

Total	$ 6,025.00	11	38

DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission
2500 N. Annie Glidden Rd., Suite A
DeKalb, IL 60115
815-756-8129 fax 815-748-2142

DCVAC Delegates & Alternates
2500 N. Annie Glidden Road
DeKalb, IL 60115

December 31, 2024

Delegates & Alternates,

The Dekalb County Veterans Assistance Commission office (DCVAC) has been located in the DeKalb County Community Outreach Building in DeKalb since 2009. The facility was established with taking into account our disabled Veterans by providing easy access into the building and our offices.

The year 2024 has changed the way we help our Veterans, and I can confidently say our office has met the challenge of adapting to these changing times. We are still providing the highest quality of services to our Veterans, in person and through other means.

We are excited to report for 2024 our services have been provided to over 5,436 Veterans and/or Veteran families, who have sought information or assistance from our office.

We have processed 425 applications for VA Disability, 224 applications for VA Pensions, 92 applications for VA Healthcare and 17 applications for VA Education benefits. Also, we have processed over 1,536 miscellaneous claims for benefits such as: Burial, Death Insurance, Headstone, VA Waivers of Debt, CHAMPVA, VA Audits, etc.

Of the 674 claims we filed last year, 227 have been adjudicated so far. I am extremely proud to report that the total retroactive compensation these claims have brought to our Veterans' in 2024 is $2,111,778.55 and continued monthly payments of $413,505.32. This brings a total of $2,493,599.88 in monetary Federal benefits brought into DeKalb County for the calendar year 2024. I would also like to note that the monthly payments listed above are a one-time only amount. If we did an accruement of the monthly payments for 2024, the amount for Total Awards for 202 would be $4,774,107.91. In 2025, we will start from scratch again and hope we can be as productive as last year.

We also worked with those who have little or no means to care for themselves. We have paid, for direct financial assistance, totaling $53,800.00 via vouchers to vendors. This included payments for shelter, education assistance, and transportation.

We have Volunteer drivers that are utilizing our vehicles to transport DeKalb County Veterans to and from VA Medical Centers in Illinois and Wisconsin. Our 7 volunteers completed 310 trips totaling 46,379 miles transporting 427 Veterans with a total of 1,782 hours of their time donated.

The VA Healthcare is a major benefit for many of our county Veterans. We have enrolled 92 Veterans in the VA Healthcare system this past year, which enables the county Veterans to have more disposable income to spend in DeKalb County.

We believe the 19th year of our Veterans Assistance Commission has provided great benefits for the county and our county Veterans. We believe we will play an even greater role in the coming years, as we continue to expand and reach out to a far greater number of Veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Anderson (USAF Veteran), Superintendent
DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission
2500 N. Annie Glidden Rd., Suite A
DeKalb, IL 60115
815-217-0414

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs | News Release
Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations
Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 8, 2025

EMBARGOED UNTIL 5AM ET ON 1/8/25

VA makes several cancers presumptive for service connection – lowering the burden of proof for Veterans to receive no-cost health care and earned benefits

WASHINGTON — Today, in a step that builds on the Biden-Harris Administration's focus to fulfill our nation's sacred obligation to our nation's Veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it is making acute and chronic leukemias, multiple myelomas, myelodysplastic syndromes, myelofibrosis, urinary bladder, ureter, and related genitourinary cancers presumptive for service-connection for:

- **Gulf War Veterans:** Veterans who served in Somalia or the Southwest Asia theater of operations (which includes Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations) during the Persian Gulf War on or after August 2, 1990.
- **Post-9/11 Veterans:** Veterans who served in Afghanistan, Iraq, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, or Uzbekistan and the airspace above these locations during the Gulf War on or after September 11, 2001. This includes Veterans who served at the Karshi-Khanabad (K2) base in Uzbekistan after September 11, 2001.

This step lowers the burden of proof for these Veterans, meaning that they do not need to prove that their service caused their condition to receive benefits for it. Instead, VA automatically assumes service connection for the condition and provides benefits accordingly. Additionally, when a Veteran becomes service connected for a health condition, it gives them access to free health care for that condition. The presumptions for urinary bladder, ureter, and related genitourinary cancers went into effect on January 2, 2025, and the presumptions for acute and chronic leukemias, multiple myelomas, and myelodysplastic syndromes, myelofibrosis will be effective on January 10, 2025.

This expansion is part of a comprehensive, yearslong effort by VA and the entire Biden-Harris Administration to expand access to benefits for Veterans as part of President Biden's Unity Agenda for the nation. In 2022, President Biden signed the PACT Act into law – the largest expansion of Veteran benefits in generations. VA then made millions of Veterans eligible for health care and benefits years earlier than called for by the law and launched the largest outreach campaign in VA history to encourage Veterans to apply. As a result, VA is currently delivering more care and more benefits to more Veterans than ever before – and earning Veteran trust at record rates.

> "At VA, our goal is to provide *every* Veteran with the care and benefits that they've earned for their service to our nation – and that's what this is all about," said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough.** "Adding these presumptives lowers the burden of proof for Veterans to get the benefits they deserve for the conditions that followed them home from war. We encourage Veterans with these conditions – and all Veterans – to apply today for the benefits they deserve today."

Since the PACT Act was signed into law, VA has conducted the largest outreach campaign in VA history to ensure that Veterans are signing up for the care and benefits they are newly eligible for. As a result of this effort, nearly 890,000 Veterans have signed up for VA care since the bill was signed into law (a nearly 30% increase over the previous equivalent period) and Veterans have submitted more than 4.8 million applications for VA benefits (an 42% increase over the previous equivalent period and an all-time record). In total, more than 1.3 million Veterans have enrolled in VA health care since President Biden took office in 2021, and VA has delivered more than $600 billion in earned benefits directly to Veterans, their families, and survivors during that time.

In addition to supporting all Veterans who served during the Gulf War, Iraq War, and Afghanistan War, these steps are also a part of a comprehensive effort VA is undertaking to listen to Veterans who served at the Karshi-Khanabad (K2) base and ensure that we are providing them – and their survivors – with the care and benefits they deserve. Partly as a result of these efforts, K2 Veterans have higher claim and approval rates than any other cohort of Veterans: 13,002 K2 Veterans of the approximately 16,000 known K2 Veterans are currently enrolled in VA healthcare, more than 11,800 are service-connected for at least one condition, the average K2 Veteran is service connected for 14.6 conditions at a 70% disability rating, and the average service-connected K2 Veteran receives an average of $30,000 a year in earned benefits. VA continues to work to ensure that all K2 Veterans get access to the benefits they deserve.

VA encourages Veterans with these conditions to apply for benefits today, and we encourage eligible Veterans with previously denied claims to reapply. VA will update publicly available information and conduct general outreach to Veterans and survivors to publicize this new eligibility and how to apply. To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit VA.gov or call 1-800-MYVA411.

###

Sweet Heart Meat Raffle

Saturday, February 8, 2025, 1:00pm until Finished

Genoa Veterans Home, 311 S. Washington St., Genoa, IL 60178

Luncheon available from Noon to 2:00pm, Meat Raffle starts at 1:00pm followed by several Lightning Games

Chef de Gare
Celeste Latham
115 Boulevard St.
Sandwich, Illinois 60548
E-mail celestelatham@yahoo.com

DeKalb County
Forty et Eight
Voiture 207

Correspondent
Dr. John Chatellier
PO Box 179
DeKalb, Illinois 60115 815-786-4874
E-mail ajchat3@aol.com 815-748-3102

The ***2025 MAYORS' MEMORIAL DAY BREAKFAST*** **will be on Monday, May 26, 2025** from 6:30am to 7:15am at the **Elks DeKalb Lodge No. 765,** 209 S. Annie Glidden Road, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

This will be the 33rd breakfast on Memorial Day and the 9th breakfast at the Elks Lodge. We are asking everyone to join us and then attend one or more of the Memorial Day events. There will be a United Prayer at 7:15am, a short program at 7:30am and we will be done by 8:00am. Motorcycle ride starting at about 8:10am.

Sincerely,

POW*MIA
YOU ARE NOT
FORGOTTEN

Remembering veterans
on Memorial Day
and all year long.

Grande Voiture d' Illinois, Forty et Eight,
DeKalb County 40&8 Voiture 207
Public Relations, Frank F. Beierlotzer,
1384 Omega Circle Drive, DeKalb IL 60115

E-mail ffb66@juno.com or Phone 815-758-5788

Please RSVP and prepay by Check. **Please clip on the line and return as soon as possible.**

Title_____ Phone #_____

Name_____ **E-mail**_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Guest(s) Name(s)_____
I/we will be at the 2025 Mayors' Memorial Day Breakfast. (please circle one) yes or no # (_____) attending

$10.00 RSVP Check mailed before 05-21-2025. **CHECKS payable to:** **40&8 - 2025 Mayors' Breakfast**

Please pay in advance to help us with our planning. **Check No.**_____ Amount_____

Mail to: Frank Beierlotzer, 1384 Omega Circle Drive, DeKalb, IL 60115 SHMR-MMDB-2025-05-29-Inv.002____

Otherwise, just show up and pay $15.00 at the unpaid table located in the bar area.

Veterans and Community Activities List for 2024-2025 as of **Monday, January 13, 2025**

To receive information about veteran or motorcycle activities please email ffb66@juno.com

Almost Every Sat		Noon	2:00pm	**Luncheon, Genoa Veteans Home,** 311 S. Washington St., Genoa, IL 60115
Almost Every Sat		Noon	2:00pm	Genoa Veterans Home, 50/50 Raffle almost every Saturday
Mon	2nd Mon	6:00pm	6:30pm	**DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission** (DCVAC) **Meetings**, **815-756-8129** 2500 North Annie Glidden Road, Suite A, DeKalb, IL 60115 (Anyone may attend the meetings but please call to confirm the meeting date and time) **(Veterans)** (Please call **815-756-8129** to make an appointment for help)
Sat	2nd Sat	10:00am	11:00am	**DeKalb AMVETS Post 90 Meetings** at 421 East Oak St., (1st year membership is free)
Sat	2nd Sat	Noon	12:30pm	**DeKalb Sons of the American Legion (SAL)** Squadron 66 **Meetings** in DeKalb
Sat	2nd Sat	2:00pm	2:30pm	**Genoa American Legion Riders** (ALR) Post 337 **Meetings** at Genoa Veterans Home
Sat	2nd Sat	2:30pm	5:00pm	Weather permitting, a motorcycle ride (2:30pm) after the luncheon and meeting (You do not need to be a veteran or member to ride with us) **(RIDE FOR FUN)**
Sun	3rd Sun	4:00pm	5:00pm	**Northern Illinois Veterans Memorial** (NIVM) Committee **Meetings** at the Resource Bank (The current project is to replace all faded panels on the southeast side of the memorial) NIVM is an Internal Revenue Code tax exempt IRC Section 501(c)(3) organization. Donations can be sent to: Resource Bank, PO Box 464, Kirkland, IL 60146 Make checks payable to: Northern Illinois Veterans Memorial (Memo: NIVM Restoration) (For more information go to www.nivmkirkland.org/ or **Call Guy Sparrow**, 920-570-3434)
Mon	4th Mon	5:00pm	6:00pm	**Genoa Veterans of Foreign Wars** (VFW) Post 8387 **Meetings** at Genoa Veterans Home
Sat	02/08/25	Noon		Genoa Veterans Home
Sat	02/08/25	Noon		**Sweet Heart Meat Raffle**
Sat	02/08/25	Noon	2:00pm	**Luncheon, Genoa Veterans Home,** 311 S. Washington St., Genoa, IL 60115
Sat	02/08/25	1:00pm		**Sweet Heart Meat Raffle** at 1:00pm followed by several Lightning Games
Mon	05/26/25	6:30am	7:15am	**33rd Mayors' Memorial Day Breakfast**
Mon	05/26/25	6:30am	7:15am	at the DeKalb Elks Lodge 765, $10.00pp RSVP Pre-Paid
Mon	05/26/25	7:30am	8:00am	Short program and done by 8:00am, RSVP prepaid $10. pp, Frank Beierlotzer, 815-901-3834
Mon	05/26/25	8:00am	12:30pm	Three Motorcycle Parade Escorts for the DeKalb, Sycamore and Genoa Memorial Day Parades
Sat	06/14/25	9:00am	3:00pm	Flag Day - Military Veteran Car Show - HYVEE - Sycamore, Michael Embrey, 815-756-1263
	07/26/25	to	07-27-25	Kishwaukee Fest - Celebration of DeKalb County, Michael Embry, 815-756-1263
Fri	08/01/25	**Friday and Saturday**		**18th Annual Veterans Weekend, Friday and Saturday**
Fri	08/01/25	5:00pm	Until Close	**Veterans Appreciation WEEKEND, Kick Off, at the DeKalb AMVETS Post 90, 421 E. Oak St.** Food available after 5:00pm and a short veteran recognition ceremony at 6:30pm
Fri	08/01/25	Late Fri. and Sat.		**Living History Military Encampment**, Late Friday and Saturday at the Genoa Veterans Home Genoa Veterans Home, 311 South Washington Street, Genoa, Illinois 60115
Sat	08/02/25	8:15am	2:30pm	**Motorcycle/Motorcade Parade** of Vehicles, **Honoring Senior Veterans,** sycamore.alr99@yahoo.com
Sat	08/02/25	8:15am	2:30pm	2 wheelers, 3 wheelers, 4 wheelers and all wheelers invited to participate.
Sat	08/02/25	8:15am	9:00am	Stage at DeKalb Recreation Center, 1765 S. 4th St., DeKalb, IL, Safety brief 8:55am
Sat	08/02/25	8:15am	10:15am	**French Toast and Sausage Breakfast** at the Genoa Veterans Home, 8:15am-10:30am ($5pp)
		Noon	2:00pm	**Luncheon,** Genoa Veteans Home, 311 S. Washington St., Genoa, IL 60115
Sat	08/02/25	2:00pm	4:00pm	**Veterans Awareness Fair, Genoa Veterans Home, 311 South Washington St., 60135**
Sat	08/02/25	3:00pm	6:00pm	**Corn Boil,** Hosted by the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) from Belvidere and Genoa
Sat	08/02/25	3:00pm	6:00pm	Corn Boil will be at the Genoa Veterans Home, 311 South Washington St., 60135, ($3pp)
	Planning for October of 2025			Seeking female veterans to go to Washington DC on Operation HerStory Flight
	Planning for October of 2025			Contact Charlotte Hodder at 815-751-1805 or cashodder1976@comcast.net

Provided by DeKalb County 40&8, Voiture 207 ***(Updated almost weekly)*** **All events are subject to change**

Frank Beierlotzer, Public Relations Officer 815-901-3834 ffb66@juno.com DeKalbCoVAL2025-01-13.001

DeKalb County Veterans Orginizations
Voting Monday January 13th, 2025

Veterans of Foreign Wars	Delegates & Alternates	Present	Superintendents Report Approval December 2024		
	D: H. James Cox (V.P.)	X	Y		
Post #1486 Sandwich.	*A: Rebecca Ropp*				
	D: Gerald Drake				
Post #5768 Sycamore	*A: Ernie McGee*	X	Y		
	D: Donald Brown	X	Y		
Post #8387 Genoa	*A: Frank Beierlotzer*	X	Y		

American Legion

	D: Joseph Hodder	X	Y		
Post #66 DeKalb.	*A: Charlotte Hodder*	X	Y		
	D: Dwain Adkins	X	Y		
Post #99 Sycamore.	*A: Ed McComb (Dir 2025)*				
	D: Celeste Latham (President)		Abstain	Abstain	
Post #181 Sandwich	*A: Joseph Kotalik*				
	D: George Schippits	X	Y		
Post #337 Genoa	*A: William Lambert*	X	Y		
	D:				
**Post #598 Hinckley*	*A:*				
	D.Robert Bend (Dir 2026)	X	Y		
Post #654 Waterman	*A: Nicole Begne*				
	D:				
**Post # 772 Somonauk*	*A:*				
	D:				
**Post #1010 Kingston*	*A:*				

	D: Robert Coulter (Treasurer)	X	Y		
40 et 8 Voiture 207	*A: Loren Monsess*				

**Marine Corps League Detachment #847 DeKalb Cty*	*D:*				
	A:				

	D:				
**AmVets Post #90 DeKalb*	*A:*				

* Not Regular Attendees

NC= not coming

DCVAC Superintendent	Tammy Anderson	X	Abstain	Abstain

DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission

American Legion Posts 66, 99, 181, 337, 654
Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts 1486, 5768, & 8387
40 et 8 Voiture 207

President Celeste Latham, Vice-President Jim Cox, and Treasurer Bob Coulter

Non-Certified Posts: American Legion Posts #598, #772, #1010, AmVets Post #90, Marine Corps League Detach. #847

Sign in for DCVAC meeting on January 13th, 2025

Name & Organization		Circle One
1. Robert Coulter	HQ&B	Driver/Passenger
2. James Cox	VFW 1486	Driver/Passenger
3. Don Brown	VFW 8387	Driver/Passenger
4. Frank Beierlotzer	VFW 8387	Driver/Passenger
5. Bill Lemstuth	337	Driver/Passenger
6. George Schippits	337	Driver/Passenger
7. Charlotte Hodge	66	Driver/Passenger
8. Joe Hodder	66	Driver/Passenger
9. [illegible]	Au 654	Driver/Passenger
10. Dwain Adkins	99	Driver/Passenger
11. Ernie McGee	5768	Driver/Passenger
12.		Driver/Passenger