

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION BOARD  
April 28, 2026**

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Ceremony – Pledge of Allegiance – Post Colors
3. Prayer including a moment of silence for Don Raines
4. Roll call of Officers

MCL 1253 – **David Allen, Willie Berry**

DAV 34 – Ken Brooks (excused), **Ed Peters**

AL 1164 – Mark Straughn(excused), **Jim Grimes**

AL 1019 – **Carey Hall, Jim Wasser**

AL 408 –**Mark Warpet**

AL 755 - **Dan Horton, Joe Gaca**

AL 766 – **Wayne Burgess, Fritz Fitzgerald**

AL 795 – **Dennis Pankey**

VFW 9961 **Manny Quinto, Michael Lockwood**

VFW 2857 - Roger Bean (excused), **Nick Monacelli**

Office staff: Eric Peterson, Chris Senesac, Karen Smietanski

5. Public Comment - none

6. Nominations and appointment of new Chairman

Vice Chair David Allen sat as chair calling for nomination for new chair to replace Don Raines. Nominations were called 3 times. Fritz volunteered. Nick Monacelli made a motion to nominate Karl “Fritz” Fitzgerald as a new chairman. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Wasser. Roll Call note was taken. Motion passed.

7. Appointment from chairman to replace Don as alternate to IACVAC. Willie Berry volunteered to take Don’s spot. We also discussed replacing Don on committees and fill in. Dan H and Manny Q will help on the Superintendent review committee. Fritz will be new chair over committees.

8. Reading & Approval of the minutes of the Commission Meetings

A motion was made by Ed Peters, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Manny Quinto to approve Minutes commission meetings for March. Motion Carried.

9. Approval of Veterans Financial Assistance and Financial Claims

Claims and financial reports were reviewed. A motion was made by Michael Lockwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Warpet to approve all financial business. Motion carried.

Also discussed was the phone call made to delegates on the board on March 13 to approve the Emergency Disaster Relief fund using donations made to the VACKC. Now that this has been declared a state of emergency by Gov., Eric asked for an amendment to the SOP that for the payout to vendors to be up to \$2500. A motion was made by Michael Lockwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Manny Quinto to approve the change in the SOP to up to \$2500 for help with disaster relief per veteran up to \$15000 total out of donation funds.

10. Report of committees – (none)

11. Approval of Office Report

The office report was reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Ed Peters, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Horton, to approve the office report. Motion carried.

12. Old Business

13. New Business

Discussed Memorial Day services around the county.

14. Retire Colors

15. Adjourn – A motion was made Mark W, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Wasser to adjourn. Motion carried.