

CLAYTON COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS MEETING  
600 Gunder Road NE, Suite 6 Elkader, Iowa 52043  
Clayton County Office Building/ Public Meeting Room  
November 15, 2022

Veterans Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. on November 15, 2022, by Eilers, at the Clayton County Office Building, Public Meeting Room.

Roll Call: Eilers, Clark, Torkelson, and Jordan.

Motion was made by Eilers and seconded by Clark to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2022 Meeting; motion carried.

Public Comments: Jordan reported on the "Green Light" project, November 7-13. Jordan said he had responded to the Clayton County Register's inquiries.

Old Business:

The current budget for Fiscal: 2022-2023 Period Ending: 10-31-2022 was presented by Jordan. \$19,590.15 has been spent with \$64,336.85 remaining. 76.66% is remaining in budget. Motion was made by Eilers and seconded by Clark to approve the budget; motion carried.

Jordan shared a copy of the VSO Monthly Activity Report for October, 2022. 30 Total number of calls this month re: veteran related concerns, 15 total office visits from veterans, and 3 general inquiry questions (license, genealogy, referral/inquiry).

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of commissioners. Each county has the option of appointing 3 or 5 commissioners. Jordan stated that the terms are 3 year terms. The following is the current Clayton County Commissioner Terms: Clark December 31, 2022; Eilers December 31, 2023; Torkelson December 31, 2024. Commissioners are to be paid for meeting attendance and mileage. The \$25.00 fee is a flat fee for attending the meeting, and the mileage is paid by calculating mileage from home of record/mailing address.

Jordan thanked Torkelson for assisting him with providing a list of the Legion Commanders and Adjutants for Posts in Clayton County. He was asked to research other veterans' organizations in the County and would return this information to the commissioners with these additions.

Discussion was held about decline of veterans involved in veterans' groups. Jordan urged the Commission to look at the commitment of veterans to help in service to country and community.

Jordan said that he had talked with Jennifer Garms and Frank Phippen about the list of veterans buried in the county. He said that the information was entered on two spreadsheets. Jordan said that 85-90% of the funeral homes report to his office regarding the burial of service members. The current listing will be maintained and updated as necessary.

The issue of the telephone system for the office was discussed. Jordan said that this issue is being reviewed with the new IT person and Alpine Communications. Problems have still not been resolved. The Board of Supervisors is aware of the problem and it is hoped that the Board will assist the office and Veterans Commission with this problem.

The Veterans Van was discussed. Jordan said that he had met with K. Seenev, Transportation Coordinator. The ridership is trending downward. Some veterans have found other means of transportation to their medical appointments. The Commission would like to meet with K. Seenev to discuss future plans and logistics of van operations.

New Business:

Jordan had attended the Fall School/Training.

- 1) He reviewed the application of benefits/strategies/and creative approaches to supplement veterans' claims.
- 2) Military sexual trauma plans to be put in place.

Jordan suggested that the Commission establish goals for 2023. These will be addressed at the next meeting.

Jordan encouraged Commission members to attend the "Your Mental Health Matters Meeting" at the Legacy Center in Elkader from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on November 16.

Commissioners reviewed and approved claims.

Next Meeting Date will be December 13 at 7:30 a.m.

Eilers made the motion to adjourn. Clark seconded the motion; motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

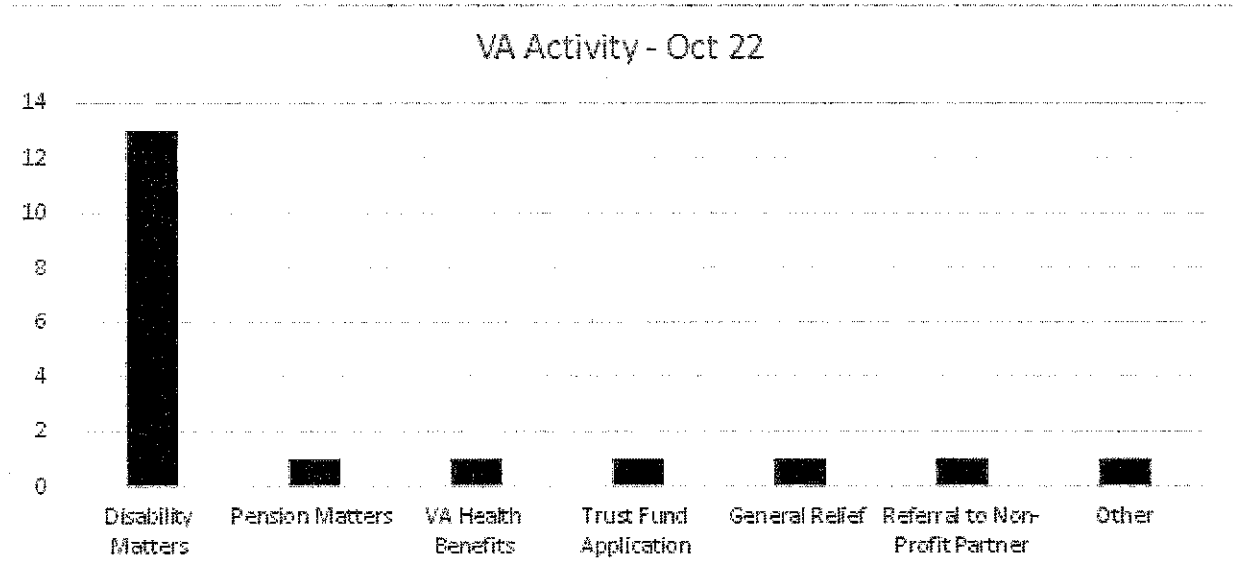
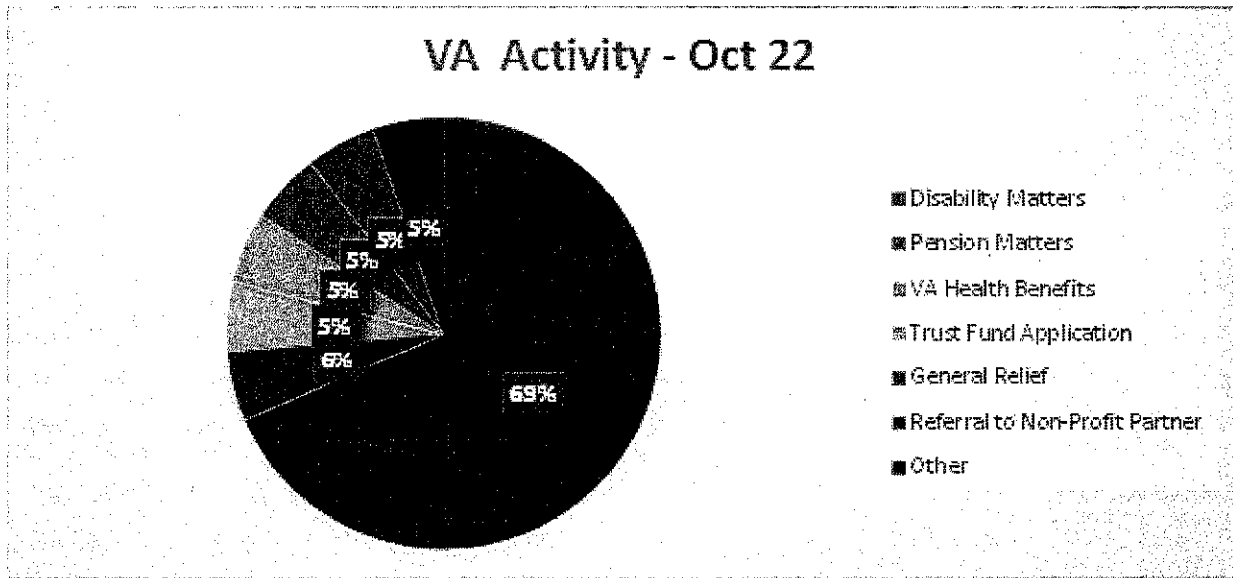
Respectfully submitted by Geralyn Torkelson

# October Report

30 total number of calls received this month re: Veteran related concerns

15 total office visits from Veterans

3 general inquiry questions (license, genealogy, referral/inquiry)



Notable Inquiries:

1. Veteran needed travel assistance for an appointment outside of Iowa City. This was an appointment with a provider not affiliated with VA. Was able to partner with outside non-profit to get matter taken care of and fill this need. Inquiry originally came from external partners in Guttenberg. Veteran Spouse called and expressed her appreciation to our office and NEIA Vietnam Veterans Association for their support.
2. Veteran was inquiring about disability claim. Had managed the process themselves and was seeking some advice. Veteran had all materials and documents completed. No need to interfere given their familiarity with the process.