

MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Marion County Courthouse, Room 302

Meeting convened at 6:30 P.M. with Steve Whritenour, Marion County Board Chairman, leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Invocation presented by Claude Howell.

Roll Call taken by Lori Linder, Marion County Board Secretary. Present were Tracy Murray, Brock Waggoner, Sharon Woodward, Michael Douglas, Jack Riley, Deborah Reed, Timothy McCance, Steven Whritenour, Judith Meeks-Hakim, Christopher Krupp, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi. Absent was Cody Rose.

MARION COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN STEVEN WHRITENOUR

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour reiterated that there was a vacancy on the Board in District 3 due to the resignation of Tyson McHenry. Chairman Mr. Whritenour followed the proper procedure and nominated Josh Dunahee for the position. Steve Whritenour made the Motion for Josh Dunahee (who resides in District 3) to fill Tyson McHenry's position and was seconded by Adam Smith. Prior to Roll Call Vote, a brief conversation regarding the length of his term took place. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed. He will be sworn in at a later date.

Board Chairman Mr. Whritenour continued by conveying that Tyson McHenry was also the Marion County Board Vice Chairman; therefore, Steve Whritenour made a Motion to appoint Tracy Murray to fill the position of Vice Chairman and was seconded by Brock Waggoner. Prior to Roll Call Vote, Brock Waggoner called Point of Order regarding Mr. Whritenour calling for any other nominations. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Lastly, Board Chairman Steve Whritenour stated that Tyson McHenry was the Law Enforcement Committee Chairman. He announced that Marion County Board Member Sharon Woodward would be appointed to that Committee's Chairwoman.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST

See attached list.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth communicated that Chelsea Simmons, the Victim Advocate for Marion County, was recently presented the Amy Center Going Above & Beyond Award. She has been with Attorney Hudspeth's office since May, 2021. He provided a description of her

position and commended her for her work. Board Chairman Steve Whritenour also expressed his and the Board's gratitude to her.

Next, Bob Shehorn from VFW Post 2055 and President of the Veterans Assistance Commission in Marion County distributed a handout (see attachment). He shared the priorities of the VAC; which includes hiring a Veterans Assistance Commission Superintendent/Veterans Service Officer, to get that person trained, and lastly, is to join the Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commission. He stated that the next opportunity for training is in October, 2025. Mr. Shehorn requested consideration, from the Board, of funding for this program to begin in 2025.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Iossi made a Motion to approve the Full Board Meeting Minutes dated March 25, 2025 and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

COUNTY CLERK STEVE FOX CORRESPONDENCE

Marion County Clerk Steve Fox was absent.

Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth conveyed that the Illinois Department of Revenue 2025 figures were approximately \$1,000.00 lower than the 2024.

Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth conveyed that a letter was received from Patoka Fire Protection District regarding the reappointment of Jeremy Landreth to the Patoka Fire Protection District Board of Trustees for an additional 3-year term commencing on May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2028. Debbie Smith made a Motion to reappoint Jeremy Landreth and was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER KRUPP:

Finance Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp requested to address the Veterans Assistance Commission. He provided the Board Members with a copy of the VFW Departments of Illinois Districts and VAC's by County (see attachment). A brief discussion transpired. This topic will be further discussed at the Budget Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 12, 2025.

Next, Mr. Krupp relayed that a Finance Committee Meeting was conducted prior to this evening's Full Board Meeting. During the meeting, the members discussed the County Procurement Process Ordinance. He conveyed that the Committee's decision was to follow the State guidelines. Currently anything over \$30,000.00 up to \$2 million has to be put out for bid. Board Member and Budget Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner questioned if this applies to a single project or projects accumulated over the year for the County. State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth responded that his interpretation would be per project. A guest from the audience also voiced his interpretation. Attorney Hudspeth will proceed to draft an Ordinance to present to the Finance Committee at their meeting scheduled for Monday, May 12, 2025.

Finance Committee – Continued:

Mr. Krupp then addressed the Resolutions on the Agenda. He stated that the amount of money that Marion County will receive from the Resolutions is \$900.00. Omnibus Motion to approve Resolutions 2025-24, 2025-25, and 2025-29 was made by Christopher Krupp and seconded by Debbie Smith. Voice Vote: 12 ayes – 1 nay (Brock Waggoner). Motion passed.

Regarding the FY 2023 Audit update, Marion County Treasurer Gary Purcell stated that WIPFLI had previously issued a list to each department requesting the requirements to complete the audit. He is unsure of the response status. Committee Chairman Mr. Krupp will follow through with obtaining a completion date for the FY 2023 Audit.

In conclusion, Mr. Krupp addressed the matter of funding for FY26 University of Illinois Extension. He conveyed that after speaking with Bellwether and the issues with Budget constraints, this expense was eliminated from the FY 2025 Budget. Board Member and Budget Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner questioned if the FY 2025 Levy contained a portion for U of I Extension. A definite response was not made. A brief discussion regarding the letter requesting the funds occurred.

BUDGET COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN BROCK WAGGONER:

Budget Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner began by conveying that he had received a Letter of Agreement from Bellwether after submitting the information for his portion of the Agenda. This item will be reviewed at the Budget Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 12, 2025, and then presented to the Full Board for approval on May 27, 2025.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN DAVID IOSSI:

Insurance Committee Chairman David Iossi announced that Tom Simpson from Dimond Brothers Insurance, will be conducting a presentation with respect to his company's coverage for the County on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

BUILDING & HISTORICAL COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN DEBORAH REED:

Building & Historical Committee Chairman Deb Reed began by addressing the Pre-Trial Services Office Lease Agreement in the Marion County Public Service Building. She explained that as of July 1, 2025 the Office of Statewide Pre-Trial Services (OSPS) will be established as an independent Illinois state judicial branch agency. Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) has requested to transfer the lease contract to OSPS. The current agreement is in effect until February 29, 2028. A brief discussion with respect to renegotiating the lease occurred. It was revealed that it is not mandatory that the County provide space for them, but that the previous lease agreement will stay in effect. Further deliberations will happen.

Next, Committee Chairwoman Mrs. Reed relayed that the sidewalk on the Northeast side of the Courthouse has been replaced and is very pleased with its appearance. She explained that the invoice for the services will have to be paid by the County and then will be presented to the City of Salem for reimbursement through the city's downtown TIF district. A brief discussion occurred between Mrs. Reed and Budget Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner with respect to how this process should be handled for budgetary purposes and will be further addressed.

Building & Historical Committee – Continued:

Following, Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps stated that the window projects at the Courthouse and the Public Service Building have been completed. The doors have also been installed at the Courthouse. He conveyed that he has received multiple compliments regarding their appearance. The only negative issue is with the sun that has previously been addressed. He continued by relaying that the signage display and the bicycle rack at the Courthouse have been put in place, and the “dirt work” on the Courthouse lawn will be held to a minimum this year.

Prior to the next topic of discussion under Old Business, Marion County Circuit Clerk Tiffany Schicker informed the Board that the ADA renovation in the large Courtroom is to begin the following Monday.

The update on the window blinds was presented by Marion County Supervisor of Assessments Mark Miller. He communicated that they were ordered on April 15, 2025. Marion County Probation Director Renee Pride had opted to not receive blinds for 7 upper windows in her building; therefore, the invoice had been altered to reflect the difference. The 50% deposit has been paid and shipping is anticipated to be in 2 weeks followed by the installation. Committee Chairwoman Deb Reed commended Mr. Miller for all of his work on this project.

Marion County Treasurer Gary Purcell shared that the expense line item for the Debt Services Bond for the window project will need to be further discussed with Mrs. Reed and Budget Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: CHAIRWOMAN SHARON WOODWARD:

Newly appointed Law Enforcement Committee Chairwoman Sharon Woodward began by allowing Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps to present his report. Sheriff Cripps stated that currently there are 67 inmates with 37 being Federal prisoners. He reiterated that that his Department responded to over 1,200 calls (average of 38/day). Sheriff Cripps shared that a new School Resource Officer, Kevin Berry, had begun his work at the Selmaville and Raccoon Grade Schools. He has received very positive feedback since Officer Berry’s hiring.

Prior to the Marion County Coroner’s report, Sheriff Cripps shared gratitude to the First Responders, Utility Crews, Linemen, and everyone involved during the last storms in Marion County.

Next, Marion County Coroner Claude Howell presented his March 2025 report. Mr. Howell announced that there were 33 deaths which included 32 natural causes and 1 accidental. He commended his “team” for reestablishing an excellent working relationship with the Sheriff’s Department, the City Police Departments in Marion County, and the ambulance services.

Following, Sheriff Kevin Cripps communicated that the renovation projects at the Sheriff’s Department Building, that were previously approved, had begun. Board Member Brock Waggoner questioned if a policy existed regarding the opening/bidding process involving Office Holders and the Marion County Board. A debate ensued. Marion County State’s Attorney Tim Hudspeth recommended including the process in the County Procurement Process Ordinance. Former Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith was granted permission to address that Board with respect to the process followed previously. Building & Historical Committee Chairwoman Deb Reed inquired if Sheriff Cripps’ projects are to be paid through special funds. Sheriff Cripps confirmed that it will be paid from the Safety Tax Fund and had previously been approved by the Board. Further discussion transpired. Mr. Waggoner stated that he “just wants

Law Enforcement Committee Continued:

to follow the State's Statutes." Law Enforcement Committee Chairwoman Sharon Woodward expressed that Sheriff Cripps was correct with respect to following the current guidelines, but further consideration regarding the process of opening bids for Office Holders and whether to include a policy in the Procurement Ordinance will be discussed in the future.

Prior to continuing with the 911/ESDA report, Insurance Committee Chairman David Iossi mentioned that he reported the damaged fence and roof at the Highway Department facility to the appropriate Insurance agency. They were to assess the damages today. Board Chairman Steve Whritenour stated that this could be addressed during the Road & Bridge Committee Report

Marion County ESDA Coordinator Sherri Barter was absent.

The New Business under the Sub-Committee 911/ESDA was addressed by Personnel/Labor Relations Committee Chairman Adam Smith. He stated that it was determined that the Marion County ESDA Coordinator position is currently and has always been part time. This matter was discussed and agreed by the Full Board at the Special Full Board Meeting conducted on April 8, 2025.

Next, Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour conveyed that the encoders of the Federal Signal Commander One have been installed at each emergency center in the County. This will allow the 911/ESDA centers in Marion County to monitor and control the sirens from any device and from any location.

After a brief discussion regarding Resolution 2025-15: Participation in State of Illinois Federal Surplus Property Program, Brock Waggoner made a Motion to table Resolution 2025-15 and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Voice Vote: 12 ayes – 1 nay (Dr. Mike Douglas). Motion passed.

COUNTY & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN TRACY MURRAY:

County & Community Chairman Tracy Murray conveyed that transition is occurring between the Doggie Den and the Barking Lot in Centralia for housing of dogs for the Marion County Animal Control. He emphasized that this is a temporary solution while permanent options are being considered.

Next, Ken Ferguson, Marion County Animal Control Administrator, presented his monthly report. He began by stating that there were 45 calls during the month with no dog bite cases, but he did have 2 cat bites. The calls also included a chicken and a dog being shot that the Sheriff's Department is currently handling. He continued by conveying that 25 dogs were returned to their homes and 6 dogs were adopted with 1 pending adoption. There are currently 9 dogs and 7 puppies being housed at the Barking Lot. Committee Member and Board Member David Iossi expressed his satisfaction with the utilization of the Barking Lot after visiting the facility. Mr. Ferguson had questions regarding the confinement of aggressive or sick or flea/tick infested animals that are picked up and rejected by Barking Lot. A brief discussion transpired with respect to this matter and included a conversation regarding the FY 2025 Budgeted monies for Animal Control. In addition, Mr. Ferguson was directed to prepare a list of items that is needed to help him fulfill his duties and bring it to the County & Community Committee for review.

Following, Board Chairman Steve Whritenour briefly addressed the Marion County Animal Control employees' employment status. County & Community Committee Member and Board Member Brock

County & Community Committee – Continued:

Waggoner voiced his perception of the subject which included the “temporary employee” that was hired during Mr. Ferguson’s medical procedure and aftercare. Mr. Ferguson stated that he has not been released to full duty. This matter will be further addressed at a later date.

Under New Business, Committee Chairman Tracy Murray communicated that he will be reaching out to the Office Holders for their employee information to be included in the Countywide Directory. He continued by addressing Ordinance 2025-04: Raffle Ordinance for Marion County, Illinois. A brief explanation of the Ordinance and its purpose was presented by State’s Attorney Tim Hudspeth and Board Chairman Steve Whritenour. Mr. Whritenour expressed his support of this Ordinance. Tracy Murray made a Motion to approve Ordinance 2025-04 and Adam Smith made a second. Prior to the Roll Call Vote, Mr. Waggoner had questions which were addressed. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next, State’s Attorney Tim Hudspeth provided information regarding Ordinance 2025-05: Solar and Wind Ordinance for Marion County, Illinois. After a brief discussion occurred. Brock Waggoner made a Motion to table Ordinance 2025-05 and send it back to the Committee and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Prior to Voice Vote, Chairman Steve Whritenour suggested to contact Bellwether for their review. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Sub-Committee Codification: Brock Waggoner

Sub Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner stated that all of the documents have been located and will need to be scanned and sent to American Legal Publishing. Mr. Waggoner commended Board Secretary Lori Linder for her diligent work on this project.

Sub-Committee Broadband:

Nothing new to report.

ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE: CO CHAIRMEN: ADAM SMITH & TIMOTHY MCCANCE

Co-Chairman Adam Smith conveyed that the Marion County Highway Department report was given at the Special Full Board Meeting conducted on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

Next, Mr. Smith addressed the Resolutions listed on the Agenda and presented a brief description of each.

Adam Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution 2025-27: County 2025 MFT Bituminous Bid Approval and was seconded by Tracy Murray. Roll Call Vote: All ayes - No nays. Motion passed.

Adam Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution: 2025-28: Township 2025 MFT (01-17) Bituminous Bid Approval and was seconded by Jack Riley. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Co-Chairman Adam Smith relayed that the Capital Improvement Plan for Marion County Highway Department facility and equipment will be addressed at a future Committee Meeting with the Alex Kreke, the new Highway Engineer, after he begins his employment on May 1, 2025.

Road & Bridge Committee – Continued:

Prior to the conclusion of the Road & Bridge Committee's report, Mr. Smith conveyed that a fence at the Department's facility had been damaged during the last storm. He expressed that the damage was fairly minor and voiced his disappointment that the Department's employees have refused to repair it themselves. Insurance Committee Chairman David Iossi reiterated that he had contacted the Insurance Agency regarding an estimate on the repairs and is awaiting a response. After a brief discussion, Board Chairman Steve Whritenour stated that he would contact Chris Guy, the foreman for the Department regarding the repairs.

PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN: ADAM SMITH

Personnel/Labor Relations Committee Chairman Adam Smith stated that there was nothing new to report.

DECENNIAL COMMITTEE:

Full Board Member Debbie Smith made a suggestion to remove the Decennial Committee from the Agenda due to nothing coming before the Board and just filing the reports. Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour concurred with removing it from the Agenda.

LIQUOR LICENSE COMMITTEE – STEVE WHRITENOUR

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour stated that there were no renewals of Liquor License.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

911

Marion County Board Representative Steven Whritenour stated that there was nothing new to report.

708 MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour conveyed that due to the resignation and expiring terms of Members of the 708 Mental Health Board that it is essential to appoint 3 new Board Members and reappoint the Marion County Board Representatives. Steve Whritenour made a Motion to appoint Rob Barton, Lori Demijan, and Nikki Krupp to the 708 Mental Health Board and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Prior to the Voice Vote, Brock Waggoner questioned if there was a conflict due to Rob Barton being a County Employee. He was told that it did not exist. Voice Vote: 12 ayes – No nays – 1 Abstain (Chris Krupp). Next, Steve Whritenour made a Motion to reappoint Marion County Board Members Judith Meeks-Hakim and David Iossi to the 708 Mental Health Board and was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. A brief discussion regarding the appointment of a Chairman to the Board transpired. The next Meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. at the Community Resource Center in Centralia.

MARION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Marion County Board Representative Dr. Mike Douglas stated that he attended a meeting on December 17, 2024 and an addition quarterly meeting. His report from the December meeting included the Health

Marion County Health Department – Continued:

Department's financial status, the availability of Narcan (Naloxone) for the public, the approval of the Veteran Assistance Commission Representative's office space in the Centralia facility, and concerns with the Animal Control Administrator's involvement with animal bite cases. The next meeting he attended was on March 18, 2025. The topics of discussion included foreign disease risks in Marion County, the WIPFLI audit that was passed, and concerns from Melissa Mallow with respect to grant funding from the State and Federal levels.

SCIRPD

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour announced that Marion County Treasurer Gary Purcell had resigned from his position on the SCIRPD Board. His replacement will be determined at a later date. Dr. Mike Douglas stated that he attended the last meeting and shared information regarding the topics of discussion, and that he had spoken with Luke Eastin, SCIRPD Executive Director on the subject of grant writing. Dr. Douglas would like to form a plan for Marion County's Economical Development in order to obtain more grants for Marion County. Marion County Board SCIRPD Representative Debbie Smith concurred. In addition, she stated that possibilities for an Animal Control facility grant may exist.

MARION COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Marion County Board Representatives Judith Meeks-Hakim stated that the next Marion County Housing Authority meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2025 at 12:00 P.M. at the Chamber of Commerce in Centralia.

WIB (WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD)

Marion County Board Representative Deb Reed stated that there will be a meeting in June, and that the meeting in March did not provide any significant information to pass along.

ENTERPRISE ZONE

Marion County Board Representative Adam Smith stated that there have not been any recent Meetings, and is unsure when the next one will be conducted.

BCMWW

Marion County Board Representative Adam Smith stated that there will be a meeting conducted on Monday, April 28, 2025. He stated that he had received an email conveying that the State and Federal funding for their programs may be cut.

Nothing further to come before the Board, Adam Smith made a motion to adjourn with mileage and per diem and seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

Time: 8:35 P.M.

Approved: ✓

Date: 5-27-25

Steven A Fox

Steve Fox, Marion County Clerk and

Clerk of Marion County Board



4-22-25

Full Board Meeting

Guests

St. Dun

Bill Smith

~~Les Shedd~~

Juffany Schucker

Lee Ray Roper Jr

Phillips

Anthony M. Angelone III

~~Frank Jones~~

Danny Dempsey

Randy Humpen

AM

Matt & Sue Huelskötter

SHERY WALSH

M. W. B.

Kenne Durahoe

Jeff Dempsey

Paul Sullens

Veterans Assistance Commission of Marion County

April 22, 2025

Priorities

1. Hire VAC Superintendent/Veteran Service Officer.
 - a. Enabling Objectives
 - i. Determine approximate loaded labor rate so the VAC can accurately estimate labor cost for remainder of 2025.
 - ii. Support full county board approval of \$31,000 previously approved by the finance committee.
 - iii. Identify funding source for 2026 labor cost.
 1. Tax levy
 2. General Fund
2. VAC Superintendent completion of National Association of County Veterans Service Officers Basic Benefits Course.
 - a. Superintendent (VSO) must join NACVSO.
 - i. Dues are currently \$50.
 - b. Basic Benefits Course – Cost \$400
 - i. This course is designed for the new or inexperienced CVSO and for CVSOs seeking NACVSO accreditation. For CVSOs seeking NACVSO accreditation, this course is mandatory with a required test at the completion of the instruction. Basic Benefits is a virtual course offered three times per year. You need to be a County, State, Township, City, or Tribal Veterans Service Officer to take this course.
 - ii. Next offering: October 20-24, 2025.
3. Join Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commission
 - a. Dues \$200 per year.

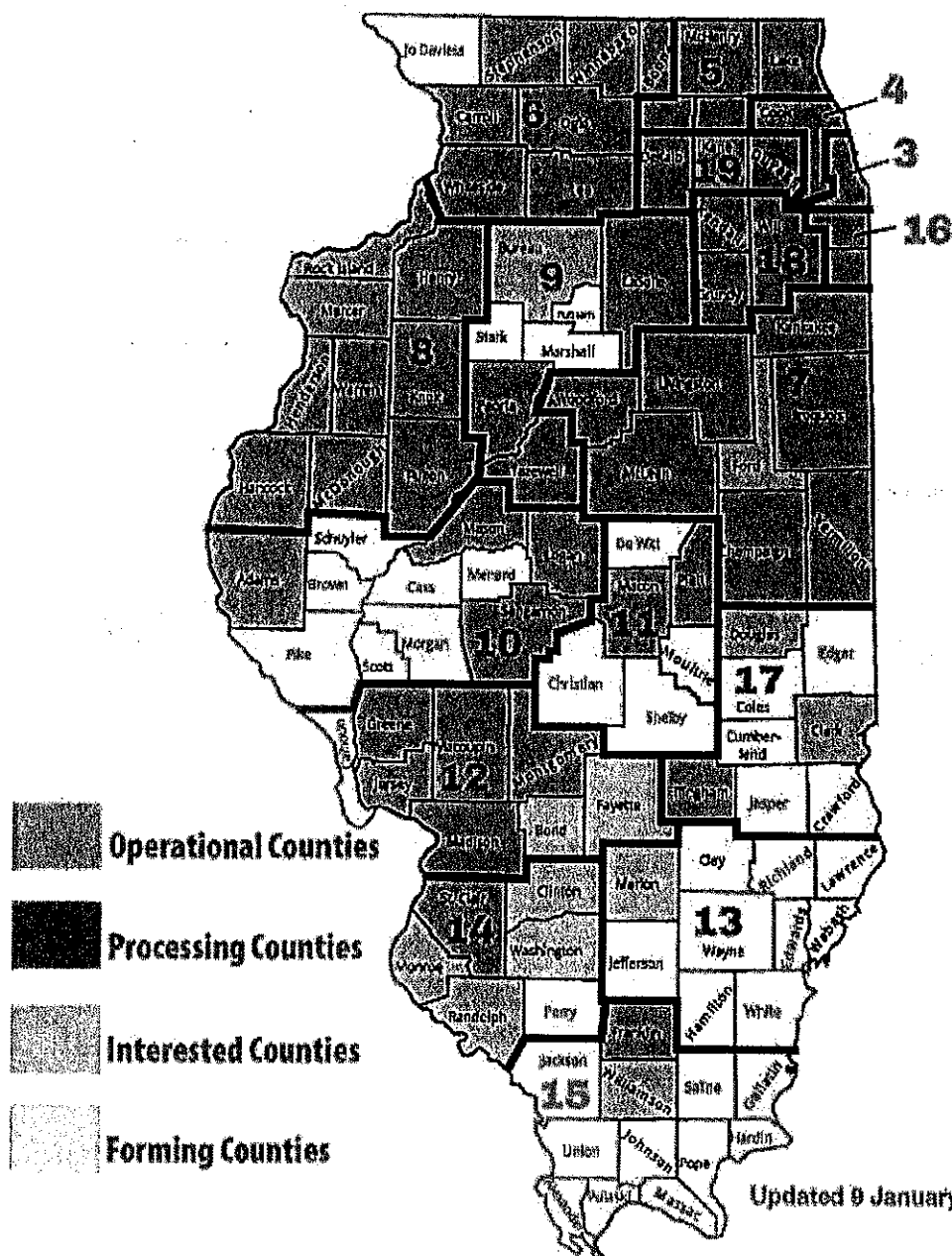
- b. The Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commissions is organized and operated for the educational purposes of the Association's Veteran membership, which, in part, consists of Veteran Service Officers throughout the State of Illinois. This mission conforms to the terms established in the 501 (c)(3) section of the Internal Revenue code. To serve as the central counseling and coordinating office for all County Veterans Assistance Commission offices included as members of the Illinois Association of County Veterans Service Officers to be referred to as Association. To foster and perpetuate VAC's in all counties where viable commissions do not exist and provide such information and training as deemed necessary. To have general oversight of the rules, laws, and regulations pertinent to governing and administering the County VAC's within the State of Illinois for the benefit of Military Veterans and their dependents. To establish communication and recognition with all local, state, and federal service officers for processing Veterans and their dependents' claims as may be referred to the Commission office. To promote the welfare of all Military Veterans and their dependents.
- c. Complete Annual Training which meets the continuing education requirements of the Department of Veterans Affairs to maintain Veterans Service Officer Accreditation.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Department of Illinois Districts &

VAC's by County



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.