

CLAYTON COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS MEETING

600 Gunder Road NE, Elkader, Iowa 52043

September 11, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.

Veterans Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:38 a.m. on September 11, 2023 by Commissioner Clark at the Clayton County Office Building Meeting Room.

I.) Roll Call: Commissioners Clark, Eilers, Torkelson and Jordan, Director present.

II.) Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Eilers to approve the minutes from August 14, 2023. Motion was seconded by Clark; Motion carried.

III.) Public Comments: No comments currently.

IV.) Budget Review. Jordan distributed the current Fiscal Budget for 2023-2024. Veterans Affairs office spent \$3161.45 during the month with 91.34% remaining. Eilers made the motion to approve the budget, Clark seconded the motion; motion carried.

V.) Old Business: a). The Internship program for the Veterans Affairs Office was once again discussed. The Board of Supervisors has approved the job description. The implementation and details of this program are a work in progress. Salary/stipend details are being reviewed.

b). The purchase of a step for ease of boarding and onboarding the van was discussed. Director stated that these devices ranged from \$40.00 to \$300.00. The steps that the Director reviewed were not collapsible. Clients riding the van are to be ambulatory. Questions were raised as to the cost of the Earl van to take clients with ambulatory concerns to Iowa City. The cost per trip would be \$400.00. Discussion continued to possibly secure a van from Iowa City that would accommodate clients having ambulatory concerns. Director will investigate.

c). Jordan will be attending VSO Fall Meeting from October 9-12, 2023. Torkelson will also be attending commissioners' training on October 9, 2023, at the Fall Meeting in Altoona.

VI.) New Business a). The 1812 brass markers and flag holders have been received.

b). The July Statistical Report was distributed. 51 total number of calls received this month re: Veteran related concerns. 22 total office visits from Veterans, and 1 veteran outreach event.

c). Upgrade the current Commission Van Coordinator cell phone. The Director will look into possibly purchasing a new cell phone from Alpine.

d). Discussion was held regarding collaboration with the Clayton County VA office and other veteran organizations to update/provide a flag holder for all veterans' graves in Clayton County. Director stated that there are currently approximately 5000 veterans interred in more than 20 cemeteries located throughout the County. It would be ideal to have these markers in place by commemorative date next year (i.e. Memorial Day, Veterans Day).

VII. Review and approval of Claims.

VIII. Confirmation of Next Meeting. Next meeting will be on October 9 at 7:30 a.m.

IX. Adjourn. Clark made the motion to adjourn, Eilers seconded the motion; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 a.m.

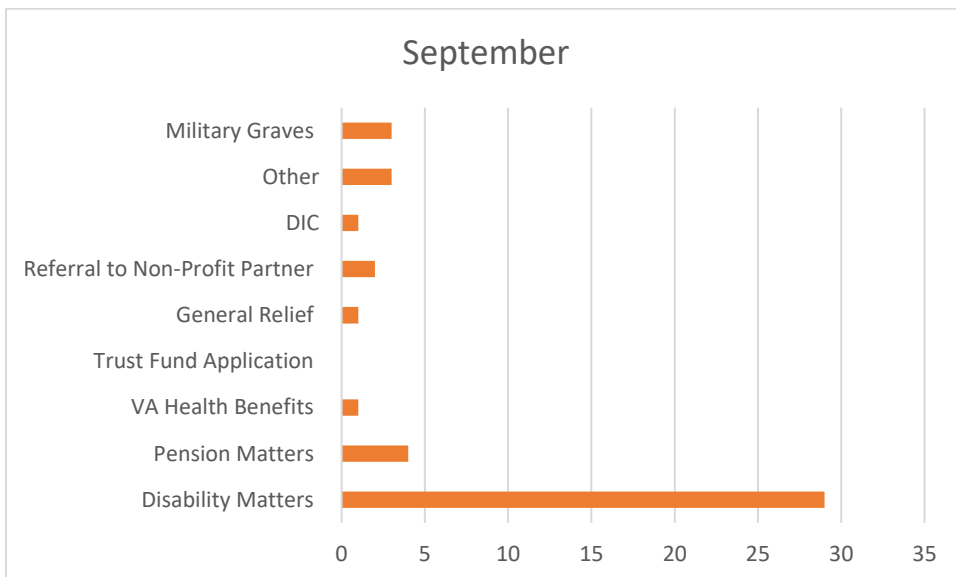
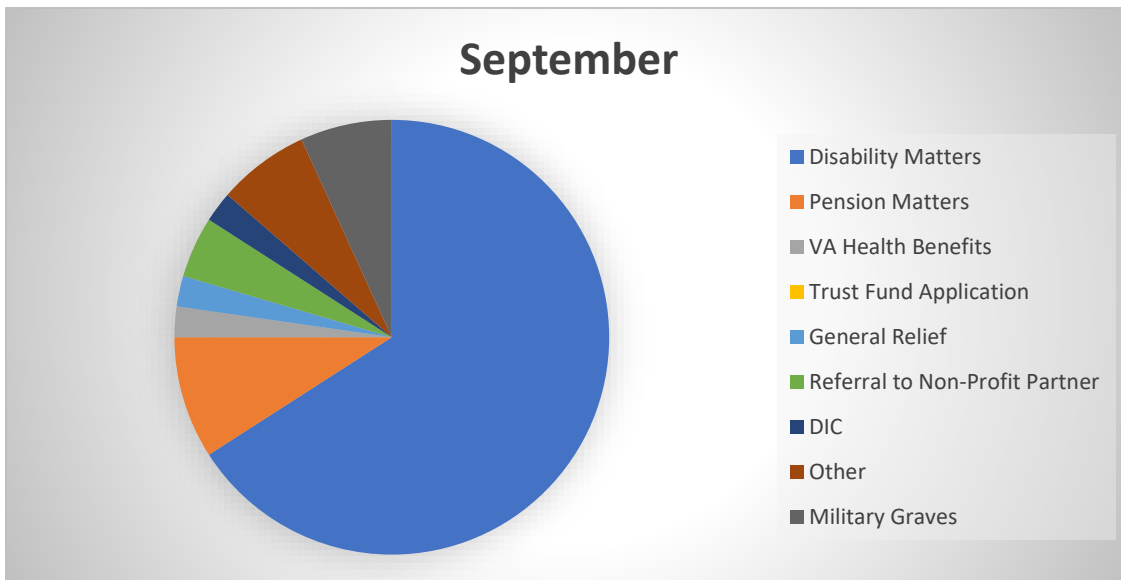
Respectfully submitted by Geralyn Torkelson

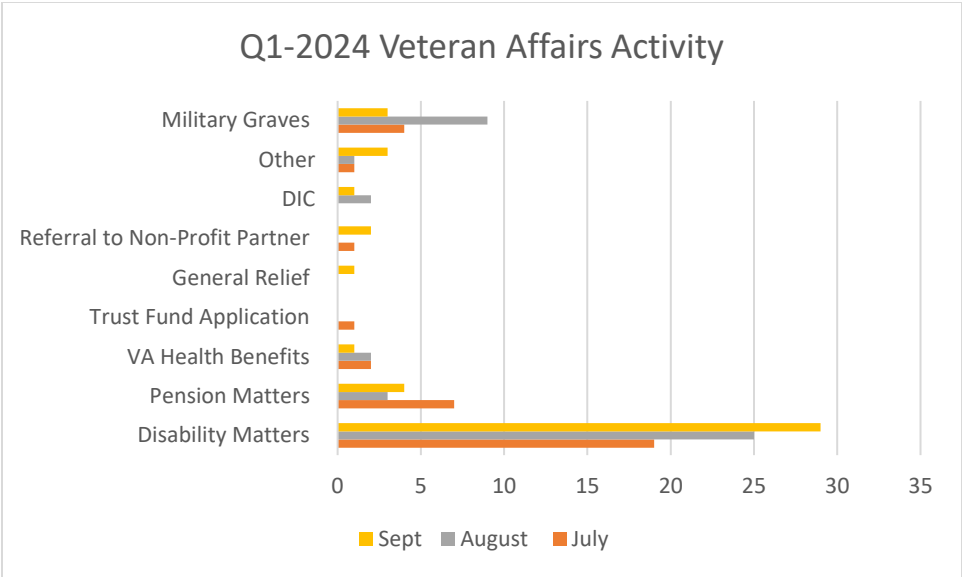
September Report

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

30 total office visits from Veterans.

0 Outreach events





VA & State Updates:

VA Fiscal Year Summary of VA Benefits (Iowa)

VA Des Moines- Regional Office provided a summary that details awards distributed in Iowa. The following is a breakdown for Clayton County:

<u>Benefit Type</u>	<u>Application Count</u>	<u>Award Total</u>
<u>Disability Compensation</u>	<u>283</u>	<u>483,360</u>
<u>Pension</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5,994</u>
<u>Survivor Pension</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4,874</u>
<u>DIC -Death and Indemnity Comp</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>50,625</u>
<u>Totals</u>	<u>334</u>	<u>542,853</u>

Please note the amounts represent a tax-free benefit (income) received by Clayton County Veterans and/or their surviving spouse/dependent. On average, that is a benefit award of \$1625.30.