

CLAYTON COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS MEETING  
600 Gunder Road NE, Elkader, Iowa 52043  
October 9, 2023

Veterans Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. on October 09, 2023 by Commissioner Eilers at the Clayton County Office Building Meeting Room.

- 1) ROLL CALL: Commissioners Eilers and Clark were present along with Director Jordan.
- 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made to approve Sept. 11, 2023 minutes by Commissioner Eilers and seconded by Commissioner Clark. Motion carried.
- 3) PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments today.
- 4) BUDGET REVIEW: Fiscal Budget for FY 23-24 was distributed and reviewed. It was noted that payment was made to VETERASPACE on 8/25. The purchase of Promotional “Daily Calendars” for veterans was discussed. It was felt such calendars could possibly help veterans to keep track of their appointments. Commissioner Eilers motioned that we purchase 100 of these calendars, Commissioner Clark seconded this and the motion carried. Commissioner Clark motioned the current budget be approved and Commissioner Eilers seconded it. Motion was carried.
- 5) OLD BUSINESS: Director Jordan shared that the Internship Program continued to go forward. In speaking with the County Attorney, Director Jordan said there was some concern that our budget for an intern played out to less than minimum wage and so it was determined to decrease the hours – possibly going to a single semester internship.  
Director Jordan shared update on the purchase of a cell phone for Tonya (Van supervisor). The cost is \$230 for the phone and can be divided into monthly payments (as well as payment is shared with Delaware County VSO) – we’ll keep the same monthly plan for services.  
Commissioner Eilers motioned to approve this Cell phone purchase and Commissioner Clark seconded it. Motion carried.  
Director Jordan reported on continuing efforts to find alternative Flag Holder vendors. He plans to discuss this at this week’s annual training in DSM.  
The purchase of “Boarding steps” for the van was discussed. As we know one individual who is significantly disabled and can yet board the van w/o steps, plus the liability concerns that would arise from such a purchase, it was deemed steps would not be purchased.
- 6) NEW BUSINESS: Director Jordan will report at next meeting on his experience with talking with other CVSOs at training about their vendor contacts for purchasing flag holders.
- 7) REVIEW and mAPPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Completed.
- 8) CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING: Next meeting was moved to November 6<sup>th</sup> to accommodate Commissioners’ schedule.
- 9) ADJOURN: Commissioner Clark Motioned to adjourn and Commissioner Eilers seconded it. Meeting adjourned.

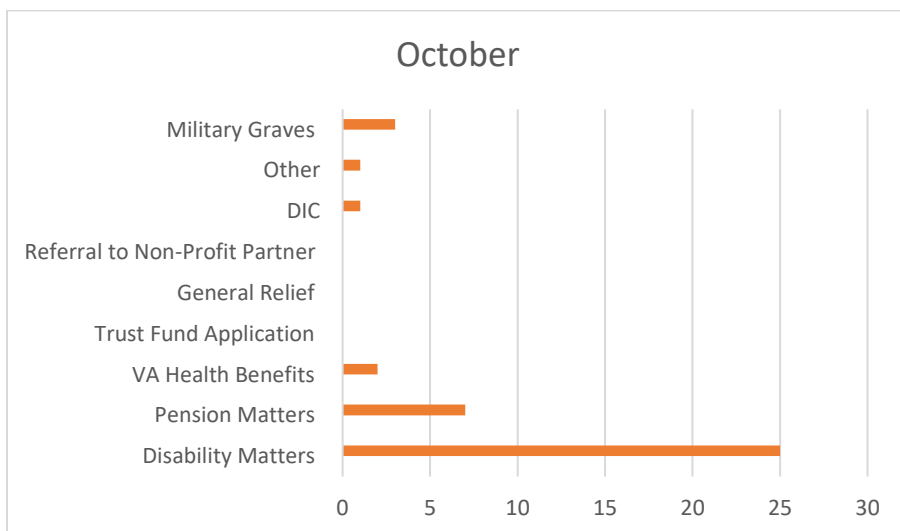
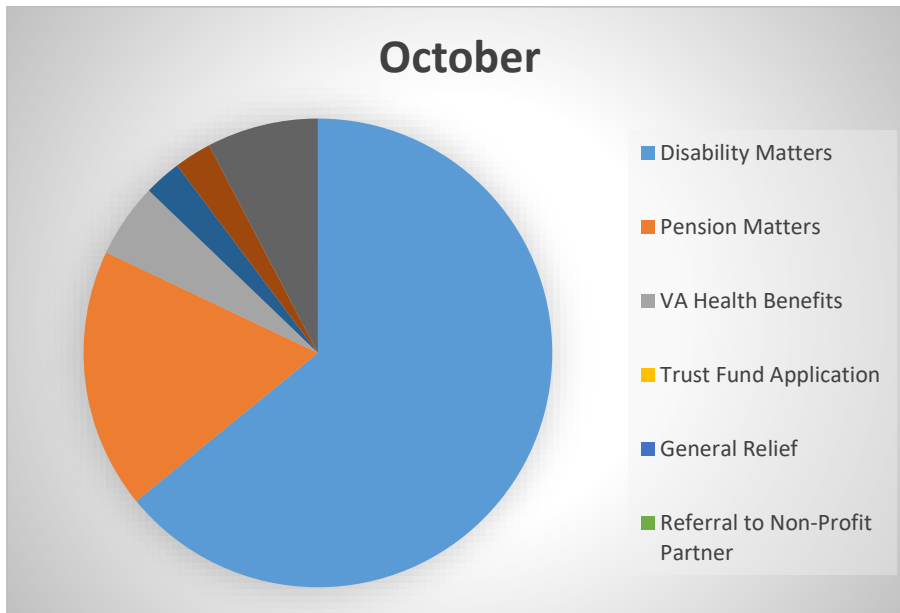
## October Report

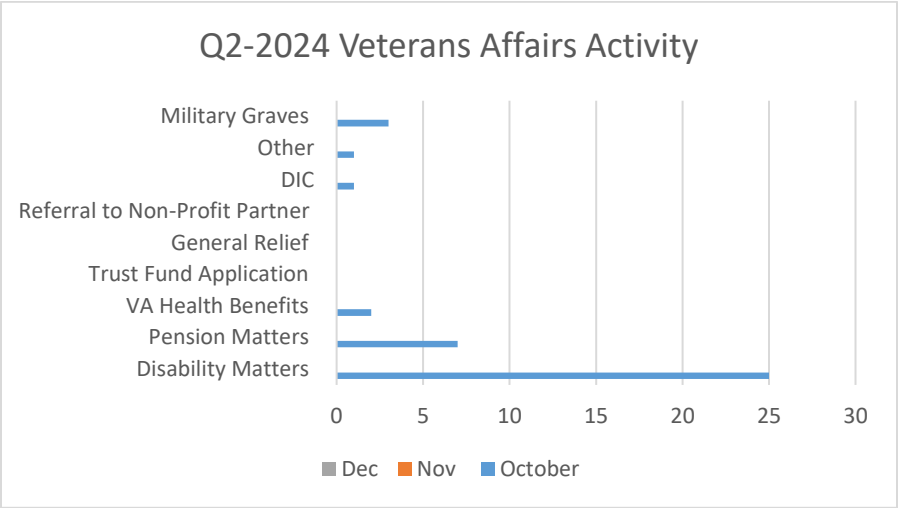
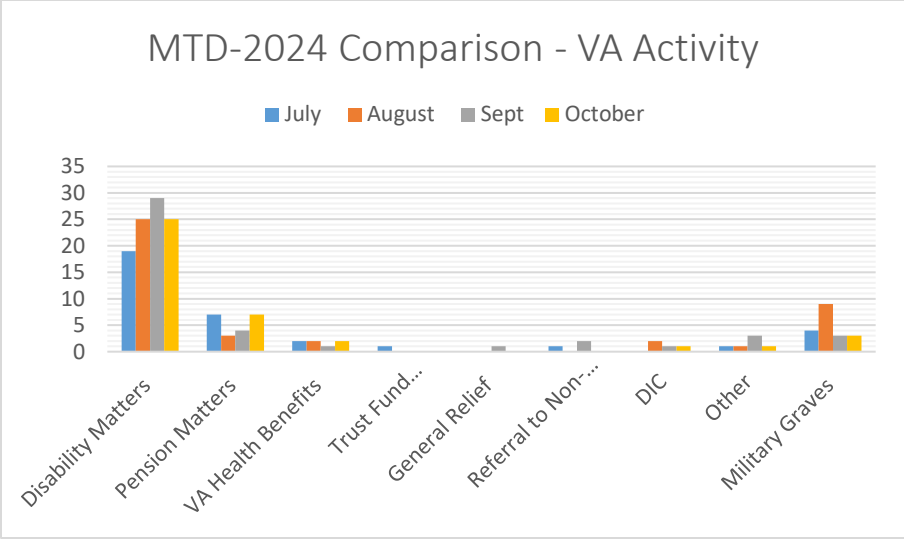
57 total number of calls received this month re: Veteran related concerns.

22 total office visits from Veterans.

2 home visits

1 Outreach events





**VA & State Updates:**

VA Will Provide New Exams to Veterans Impacted by a former neurologist.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> the US Secretary of Veterans Affairs announced that the VA will offer new disability exams to all 649 Veterans whose benefits claims may have been negatively impacted by exams conducted by Dr. Mary Jo Lanska, a former VA neurologist at the Tomah VA Medical Center. Dr. Lanska was accused of misdiagnosing Veterans who suffered from traumatic brain injuries and other neurological disorders which may have resulted in disability claims being denied. The VA will use these new exams to readjudicate the original claims filed by impacted Veterans, meaning that they **will not** have to file a new claim and they could be eligible for years of benefits backdated to their original effective date. The VA will reach out to each of these Veterans to encourage them to schedule a new exam as soon as possible. Additionally, for Veterans who have passed away since the original exam, the VA will contact their survivors to initiate the readjudication process and provide benefits accordingly. The VA also issued an apology to all Veterans and families who have been negatively impacted by Dr. Lanska’s exams.