

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
An advisory board to the Clark County Council

April 08, 2021
Meeting held remotely.

Chair: Kelly Jones

Vice Chair: Michael Harding

Secretary: Bruce Maas

Meeting called to order.

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

POST

40 et 8
American Legion #14
American Legion #44
American Legion #168
American Legion #176
American Veterans #6
DAV Chapter #4
Korean War Assoc. #321
Marine Corps League #826
VFW #4278
VFW #7824
VFW # 12028
Vietnam Vets #512
Members at Large

PRIMARY

Morris Geisler

Darren Wertz

Michael Gibson
John Lovejoy
Bruce Maas

Steve Slegers (*excused*)
Shannon Roberts
Michael Harding (*excused*)

Greg Whitson
Jim Jensen
Kelly Jones
Michael Langsdorf
Kevin Lawson
Bryan McGillis
Tonya Wark

ALTERNATE

Steve Slegers (*excused*)

John Rose

Les Schreiber
Vannis Pratt

John Stofiel
Dana Difford (*excused*)
Bruce Maas

Nick Herber

Clark County Representative: Samantha Whitley

Guests: Judy Russel, Sharon Tyre (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); **Elizabeth Estabrooks** (VA Center for Women Veterans); **Leslie Luo** (Transition Projects, Portland); **Mallory Huerta** (WorkSource); **Gene Couture** (American Legion Post 14)

Call to Order/Invocation/Roll Call

Approval March 11, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve, motion seconded, March 2021, minutes approved as written.

Women Veterans Information

Elizabeth Estabrooks, Acting Executive Director for the US Dept. of Veteran Affairs Center for Women Veterans (CWV), shared a PowerPoint. The CWV was created under Public Law 103-446 by Congress in 1994 to recognize women Veterans and provide equitable services to women Veterans. The CWV provide outreach, information advocacy, research, performance management, and accountability.

A 2016 survey of women Veterans showed 74% stated the public does not recognize their service. In 2018, 9.7% of Veterans were women, by 2030 it is projected to be 13.5% and by 2045, 25% of those serving in the military will be women.

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Currently, women make-up 15% of all active-duty forces with 18% of the National Guard/Reserves being women and 20% of all new recruits being women. In addition, right now, women of color are enlisting at a greater rate than men of color. The CWV holds monthly meetings the first Wednesday of each month for those interested in joining the meeting.

WDVA County Service Officer Update

No discussion; to be addressed next meeting.

Committee Reports

Appeals: No appeals

Policies and Procedures: No report

February 2021 Contractor Reports & Fund Report

The fund assisted 22 Veteran households in March with \$14,727 in assistance provided. The Veterans Assistance Center saw 126 Veteran visits for essentials and food. Volunteers provided 254 hours for a value of \$6,284. The Free Clinic billed \$879. The fund balance at the end of March was \$709,814.

Veterans Assistance Center (VAC) Update

- CCVAC is now open until 3:00 PM during the week.
- CCVAC has new eviction prevention program as part of the federal COVID response funding. The program is for Veteran households at or below 50% AMI who have been directly or indirectly affected by COVID-19. Funds can provide up to 12-months of rental assistance, regardless of Veteran discharge status. This program is **only** for renters; this will not assist with mortgages.
- The partnership between CCVAC and TMG on Operation Home Rescue is now up and running! This program is for Veterans over 55 who own their home and need minor improvements such as landscaping, clean up, or accessibility modifications. Households must also be at or below 80% AMI. The application can be found online or by calling the office.
- The online fundraising auction ends April 10th; check it out.

Old Business

No discussion

New Business

Sam emailed members some information on public disclosure. Each January, this information will be provided to members through email, as a reminder. The topic will be added to the agenda for next month to discuss whether to incorporate it into the Bylaws.

Open Forum

- Reminder that the VA is open to **all** Veterans, regardless of eligibility, including spouses and caregivers, for COVID vaccine appointments.
- There is a large vaccine event coming up at Mark Morris High School in Cowlitz County next weekend. Sam will send the information to the group.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting to be held virtually on May 13, 2021 at 2:00 pm.