

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

May 13, 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  
**Gene Couture**  
**Darren Wertz**  
  
**Michael Gibson**  
**John Lovejoy**  
**Bruce Maas**  
  
**Steve Slegers**  
Shannon Roberts  
**Michael Harding**  
David Daly  
**Greg Whitson**  
**Jim Jensen**  
**Kelly Jones**  
**Michael Langsdorf**  
**Kevin Lawson**  
Bryan McGillis  
**Tonya Wark**

**ALTERNATE**

**Steve Slegers**  
  
John Rose  
  
Les Schreiber  
Vannis Pratt  
  
John Stofiel  
**Dana Difford**  
**Bruce Maas**  
  
Nick Herber

**Clark County Representative: Samantha Whitley**

**Guests: Judy Russel** (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); **Mallory Huerta** (WorkSource); **Leslie Luo** (Transition Projects, Portland)

**Call to Order/Invocation/Roll Call**

**Approval April 8, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

**Motion made to approve by Darren Wertz, motion seconded by Steve Slegers, April 8, 2021, minutes approved as written.**

**Board Member Handbook (State Law)**

Samantha Whitley presented a review of the Board Member Handbook. Each time a new Board member is initiated, Sam will review the handbook with them. In addition, she will provide a brief reminder about the handbook annually. The handbook describes board members' roles and policy-making guidelines. It also discusses staff functions, legal counsel, and laws affecting Board activities. The handbook incorporates the Bylaws, and describes public disclosure, open public meeting requirements, lobbying, use of public resources, and media guidelines.

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**Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** There were two (2) denials in March and no appeals.

**Policies and Procedures:** No report

**March 2021 Contractor Reports & Fund Report**

The fund assisted 29 Veteran households in March with \$32,132.49 in assistance provided. Year-to-date, three Veterans have exited homelessness. The Veterans Assistance Center saw 152 Veteran visits for essentials and food; 132 meals served. Volunteers provided 302 hours for a value of \$7,469. The Free Clinic billed \$710. The first quarter VSO filed 690 claims with 86% approved for a total of \$645,533 in VA payments. The fund balance at the end of March was \$699,420.

**Veterans Assistance Center (VAC) Update**

- CCVAC hired a new CSO, Patrick Martin. He will begin part-time then become full-time.
- CCVAC is looking to hire help for the T-RAP program, please refer people to Judy.
- The T-RAP Program is rental assistance program that allows up to 12-months' of rent: back rent owed and up to 3 months future rent. CCVAC has helped 22 Veteran families with over \$133,000 in rent. All Veterans are eligible, regardless of discharge status.
- A reminder that CCVAC office phone number has a new area code of 564.
- The dates for the Stand Down will be October 1 and 2, at River City Church, 2400 E Fourth Plain Blvd, from 9 am to 1 pm. The format will be like last year, an outdoor walk/drive through.
- May 26 and June 2 from 9 am to 1 pm, a pop-up vaccination clinic will be held at the Center. Johnson & Johnson vaccine for all Veterans, spouses, children and caregivers; first-come first-serve.
- CCVAC made \$3,500 from the online auction. A second one will be held in the fall. If you have any items to donate, please contact the Center.
- VVA VSO Erin Nolan has resigned; her last day was May 14.

**Open Forum**

- Bruce Maas stated that the VA has established a dedicated appointment line for Covid-19. The gym at the Vancouver VA is being used for Covid-19 vaccinations.
- The VVA/MCL carwash fundraiser has been moved to June 5, in Hazel Dell on Highway 99.
- CMAC is planning a Memorial Day event at the Artillery Barracks, however, there will be limited guests this year.
- Leslie Luo is the new Outreach Coordinator for Transitions Projects. They work with various grants for housing and supportive services for Veterans and families. Service areas include Multnomah, Clackamas, Clark, and Washington counties.
- Post #44 will be have their normal Memorial Day service at the Ridgefield cemetery at 10 am.
- Post #176 has meetings the second Thursday of each month. Bingo is now open 5-days a week.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting to be held virtually on June 10, 2021 at 2:00 pm.