

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

January 9, 2025

**Chair: Bob Nichols**

**Vice Chair: Megan Anderson**

**Secretary: Bruce Maas**

**Meeting called to order.**

**Roll Call:** [Bold script indicates presence at meeting; *italics indicates excused*]

**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  
Vietnam Vets #512  
Members at Large

**PRIMARY**

*Bob Brennan*  
**Gene Couture**  
Darren Wertz  
**Bob Nichols**  
**Michael Gibson**  
**John Lovejoy**  
**Bruce Maas**  
**Patrick Block**  
**Steve Slegers**  
**Shannon Roberts**  
**Greg Gilbertson**  
**Greg Whitson**  
**Kelly Jones**  
**Bryan McGillis**  
**Tonya Wark**  
**Tamara Elam**  
Megan Anderson  
Eli Gonzalez  
**Michael Langsdorf**  
**Lloyd Bowman**  
**Buck Marr**  
**Joe Fetteck**

**ALTERNATE**

**Steve Slegers**  
  
Charles Ingalls  
  
Jonathan Frederick  
*Vanise Pratt*  
**Roy Day**  
*Earl Edwards*  
**Ron Brandon**  
**Thomas Brandt**  
**Stewart Bauer**  
*Nick Herber*

**Clark County Representative: Abby Molloy, Nooreen Ebrahim**

**Guests: Judy Russell, Shannon Tyre** (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); **Amy Almond-Schmid** (Returning Veterans Project)

**2025 Member at Large Appointments**

Letters of Intent for Member at Large Appointments that have been received, which includes Kelly Jones, Tamara Elam, Tonya Wark, Michael Langsdorf, Lloyd Bowman, Buck Marr, and Joe Fetteck were approved unanimously during a role vote.

**Approval of December 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were approved following a motion by Steve Slegers that was seconded by Kelly Jones.

**Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** None

**Policies and Procedures:** None

**Nominations:** None

**2025 Committee Appointments**

The chair ruled that the committees will stand as they were.

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### Returning Veterans Presentation- Amy Almond Schmid

- The Returning Veterans Project (RVP) was founded in 2005 in Portland that has grown to assist veterans and families in SW Washington and Oregon. They help to provide services such as massage therapy, acupuncture, and mental health services in a confidential manner.
- Assistance is currently growing to serve all veterans, active-duty service members, guard and reserve service members, and their families.
- Care is provided to overlooked veteran populations such as LGBTQIA+ and women.
- RVP assists with the caseload that the VA has by decreasing the wait times and increasing the access to services in rural areas. In 2023 2,853 hours of health services were donated by volunteers.

### Questions and Comments:

Q: How can the VAB Clark County and surrounding jurisdictions help RVP get more providers?

A: Veterans should spread the word about the project to eligible providers they know, and the project now has a recruiter to assist in growing the number of providers.

Q: What is psilocybin therapy?

A: It is a psychedelic medicinal mushroom therapy that is newly available in Oregon. This guided therapy is used to assist in cases of drug and alcohol addiction and trauma. The Portland VA has been conducting research which has shown promising results.

The board commented on the work they have received from RVP and stressed the need for new providers. The board emphasized the importance of spreading the word of RVP to veterans.

### November 2024 Contractor & Fund Reports

- CCVAC: 44 Veterans served in November, services totaling \$13,528.05. 39 male veterans, 5 female veterans, 0 widows, 0 other veterans. 11 denials, 0 subject to appeals. 664 visits to the center for essentials and food, 945 sack breakfasts/lunches provided and 105 food boxes provided. 4,911 total pounds of food. 911 volunteer hours, totaling \$37,351 in value.
- Free Clinic: 4 Veterans served in August. Services totaled \$2,062 in value; billed \$740.00.
- VAF Fund: October revenue: \$80,136.99; expenditures: \$131,376.61 fund balance: \$682,953.49.

### Clark County Veterans Assistance Center Update

- February 2<sup>nd</sup> is a family friendly bingo at the Elks from 3-5 p.m.
- June 21<sup>st</sup> is the gala. A silent and live auction will be held.
- March 4<sup>th</sup> is a women's veterans listening session from 6-8 p.m.
- CCVAB is hiring a county service officer, and the position is currently posted.
- Requesting that board members spend at least half a day at the center to understand their jobs and how their finding is used.
- As burials are such a high cost, the center will be discussing this when reworking their policies and procedures.

### Old Business

None presented.

### New Business

- WDVA has posted all bills that may impact veterans and/or their families. Staff will send this information to board members. Board members can advocate individually, or as a board if a majority of members agree to do so.

### Open Forum and Public Comment

- Bruce Maas shared that Veterans Committee Council will be touring in SW Washington. Veterans' town hall will be held at the Longview Elks in Kelso, WA on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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- Greg Whitson stated that Vietnam Vets #512 will be sending their letter of intent to staff soon.
- Thomas Brandt shared that Camp Cedar Ridge needs funding and to spread this news to family and friends.
- Bruce Maas shared that a memorial service for Bob Knight, veteran and former Clark College president will be on January 12<sup>th</sup> at the AC Marriot. Requested that staff. Students can gather on
- Ron Brandon let the board know there is a Veterans Refuge Support Organization meeting that all veterans are welcome to attend. Appreciation was shared for VFW #7824 and American Legion of Salmon Creek #176 for their great work. Also encouraged the board to spend time at the CCVAC.

***Meeting adjourned. Next meeting February 13, 2025.***

***Motion to adjourn by Kelly Jones and seconded by Steve Slegers. Motion passed unanimously.***