

# Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Council

February 13, 2025

Chair: Bob Nichols

Vice Chair: Kelly Jones

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 Locke*  
*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 Fetting*

## **ALTERNATE**

*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 Russel** (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); **Lori Pugh** (CCVAC?); **Mike Burton** (Veteran); **Tony Sprague** (Office of Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez)

## **2025 Member at Large Appointments**

A motion to approve the Letters of Intent for Member at Large Appointments of Bryan McGillis was made by Buck Marr and seconded by Tonya Wark. Approved unanimously.

## **Approval of January 9, 2025 meeting minutes**

The minutes were approved following a motion by Greg Gilbertson that was seconded by Tonya Wark. Approved unanimously.

## **Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** None

**Policies and Procedures:** The committee met with members of the Veteran's Assistance Center, and proposed changes were sent to the board by County staff. The board discussed Section 2.2 of the board's Policies and Procedures. A motion to approve changes was made by Shannon Roberts and seconded by Greg Gilbertson. The motion was approved by all active board members.

**Nominations:** None

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### **Marie Gluesenkamp Perez Office's Presentation- Tony Sprague**

- Mr. Sprague introduced himself as a caseworker from Congresswoman Gluesenkamp-Perez's office that deals directly with VA cases.
- Would like to discuss the board's view of the VA claims process as the Congresswoman values the veteran population and is on the Appropriations Committee which gives her an opportunity to fight for VA funding.
- Number of executive orders that are incoming, and the policy team needs to come to terms with the scope of these implications.

#### **Questions and Comments:**

Q: Can the Congresswoman's office dive into the veteran's fund in Clark County due to the RCW? Perhaps she could work on getting funds separated from the county's general fund.

A: Happy to take this concern to the congresswoman and to D.C.

Q: With the updates and changes due to executive orders, there is concern it will affect the claims process.

A: While they have not learned the full rationale behind the current executive orders, Tony will share contact information with colleagues in D.C. to share more information with the board.

Q: There is a freeze on sending new glasses out, and it may be so for 3 months. Why is this the case?

A: The office has heard this complaint, and casework is being completed.

Q: Anything that the congresswoman is working on or needs assistance with?

A: Cannot speak on the policy side.

The board shared comments about the positive experiences they have had with the service providers in Clark County. A suggestion was made to allow more diversity in the types of medications that can be prescribed, as the VA tends to offer the cheapest available options.

### **December 2024 Contractor & Fund Reports**

- CCVAC: 62 Veterans served in December, services totaling \$35,336. 53 male veterans, 6 female veterans, 3 widows, 0 other veterans. 14 denials, 0 subject to appeals. 694 visits to the center for essentials and food, 984 sack breakfasts/lunches provided and 116 food boxes provided. 5,750 total pounds of food. 816.5 volunteer hours, totaling \$33,476.50 in value.
- Free Clinic: 2 Veterans served in December. Services totaled \$3,900 in value; billed \$5,479.48.
- WDVA: Fourth quarter- 665 claims, 85% "batting average", \$779,314 VA payments
- VAF Fund: October revenue: \$4,679.50; expenditures: \$77,770.07 fund balance: \$609,862.92.

### **Clark County Veterans Assistance Center Update**

- Bingo fundraiser had a great turnout
- Gala in June at Ilani. Would like to see a large turnout from the board
- Thank you to the board for approving policy increases
- With food costs increasing, last January's costs were \$2,347 on top of the food bank's contribution, an increase to the budget is anticipated. Average age of those that need food boxes are 65 and older.
- Women's veterans listening session registration is almost closed.

### **Old Business**

None presented.

### **New Business**

- Buck Marr shared that HBI 102 would increase services throughout the state and increase VSOs and their funding.

### **Open Forum and Public Comment**

- Reminder to request parking passes from Abby Molloy.

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- Parking regulations are shifting in downtown Vancouver to make all vehicles provide license plate numbers when paying for parking.

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

***Motion to adjourn by Michael Langsdorf and seconded by John Lovejoy. Motion passed unanimously.***