

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Council

August 14, 2025

Chair: Bob Nichols

Vice Chair: Buck Marr

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
Charles Ingalls
Bob Nichols
Michael Gibson
John Lovejoy
Bruce Maas
Patrick Locke
Steve Slegers
Shannon Roberts
Greg Gilbertson
Greg Whitson
Bryan McGillis
Tonya Wark
Tamara Elam
Michael Langsdorf
Lloyd Bowman
Buck Marr
Joe Fettig

ALTERNATE

Darren Wertz
Jonathan Frederick
Vanise Pratt
Roy Day
Earl Edwards
Thomas Brandt
Stewart Bauer
Nick Herber

Clark County Representative: Abby Molloy, Nooreen Ebrahim

Guests: Judy Russel (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center), Lori Coffin (Fort Vancouver Quilts of Valor)

Approval of June 12, 2025 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion by Michael Langsdorf that was seconded by Lloyd Bowman. Approved unanimously.

Special Elections- Veterans Advisory Board and Policy and Procedure Committee

The nomination of Buck Marr for Vice Chair was made and accepted. The motion to elect Buck Marr as Vice Chair was approved unanimously.

Greg Gilbertson was nominated and appointed as the Chair of the Policy and Procedures board.

Committee Reports

Appeals: None

Policies and Procedures: None

Nominations: Vice Chair elected today.

Fort Vancouver Quilts of Valor Presentation, Lori Coffin

Fort Vancouver's Quilts of Valor is a group of local quilters that are associated with the national Quilts of Valor organization. The quilts are an acknowledgement of a veteran's service, and represent honor, freedom, and comfort. Nominations can be made online or by calling Lori Coffin. Nominees are able to choose the quilt they would like, and it is awarded at a small ceremony. A Cowlitz Tribe event will be held for 10 nominees, so it is likely that those nominated now will be awarded quilts in 2026.

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Questions and Comments:

C: It was clarified that Bob Hitchcock is with the Camas VFW.

Q: What are the qualifications to be nominated?

A: The only qualifications are to have been honorably discharged and to have not received a quilt in the past.

May and June 2025 Contractor & Fund Reports

May

- CCVAC: 53 Veterans served in May services totaling \$44,936.60. 49 male veterans, 4 female veterans, 0 widow, 0 other veterans. 10 denials, 0 subject to appeal. 654 visits to the center for essentials and food, 1,036 sack breakfasts and lunches provided and 54 food boxes provided. 4,043 total pounds of food. 523 volunteer hours, totaling \$21,066 in value.
- Free Clinic: 2 Veterans served in May. Services totaled \$3,036 in value; billed \$3,204.38.
- VAF Fund May: Revenue: \$82,340.38; expenditures: \$125,566.94; fund balance: \$653,633.39, about a \$43,226.46 decrease in the fund from last month.

June

- CCVAC: 51 Veterans served in June services totaling \$48,071.07. 43 male veterans, 8 female veterans, 0 widow, 0 other veterans. 5 denials, 0 subject to appeal. 537 visits to the center for essentials and food, 848 sack breakfasts and lunches provided and 52 food boxes provided. 4,173 total pounds of food. 709.5 volunteer hours, totaling \$28,579 in value.
- Free Clinic: 1 Veterans served in June. Services totaled \$454 in value; billed \$732.51.
- WDVA Second Quarter: 622 claims, 93% "batting average". \$1,354,208 in VA payments.
- VAF Fund June: Revenue: \$10,670.64; expenditures: \$85,121.60; fund balance: \$579,182.43, about a \$74,450.96 decrease in the fund from last month.

Questions and Comments:

C: WDVA can do a spot check of claims which may be helpful for the board to see.

Q: How is the value of volunteer hours calculated?

A: A national report designates the value of volunteer hours which is what staff uses to show the board.

C: It may be worthwhile for the board to consider staff pay when making their recommendation for VAF budget.

Clark County Veterans Assistance Center Updates, Judy Russel

- The Stand Down is September 26, and board members are encouraged to attend.
- The DOL grant has not yet been received, and the Center appreciates the board and different organizations for their donations in lieu of grant funding.
- Next Monday is when the move to the new office is scheduled. The Center will be closed all next week and asks that veterans request food boxes this week. The new office will be open to the public on August 25.
- The new budget contains a 10% increase in funding which will go towards paying increased rent and utilities in the new building, an increased Stand Down budget, and more. Personnel and admin costs will remain the same.
- With increased space, the Center can provide new services including internet job searches, learning opportunities, and hosting community partners like Council for the Homeless.

Questions and Comments:

Q: Has an increase in equipment been considered in the new budget?

A: The operations costs presented in the budget should meet the Center's needs with the assistance of fundraising.

Q: What time is the Stand Down?

A: It is 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Q: Will there be a celebration for the opening of the new CCVAC location?

A: A celebration will occur several weeks after moving into the new space to give staff time to settle in.

C: The Center has had community partners donate equipment and furniture.

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Q: What is the new address for the CCVAC?

A: 907 Harney Street, Suite 200 in Vancouver, WA.

Staff let the board know that, if the CCVAC budget request is approved, the funding committed into contracts will exceed the projected revenue. The current reality is that funding for future contracts will need to be decreased, or revenue will need to be increased.

C: There needs to be more oversight of the amount of money that is going into the fund collected from taxes.

Q: Should board members go before the county councilors?

A: Staff are waiting for information regarding this and will provide direction.

Q: What would cutting contracts look like?

A: If there is not an increase in funding, contracts running at their current rate would need to have decreases to their budgets.

Q: Can the Board be provided a letter by staff showing support to increase the VAF budget?

A: Once staff receive information on the best way to proceed, they will provide materials to the board.

C: There are about 32,000 veterans in Clark County, and census data shows the county gaining about 1,000 veterans per year. The Board needs to ensure there are enough resources to support the growing veteran population.

Old Business

None presented.

New Business

None presented.

Open Forum and Public Comment

None presented.

Motion to adjourn by Michael Langsdorf and seconded by Llyod Bowman. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting September 11, 2025.