

# Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Council

September 11, 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**

**Thomas Brandt**

**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

Stewart Bauer

Nick Herber

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

**Guests:** Judy Russel and Sonja Wood (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center), Mike Burton (unaffiliated), Holly Hill, Peter Van Nortwick, and Michael Fish (Clark County Assessor's Office)

**Approval of August 14, 2025 meeting minutes**

The minutes were approved following a motion by Patrick Locke that was seconded by Llyod Bowman. Approved unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

**Appeals: None**

**Policies and Procedures: A meeting will be scheduled after discussion with Judy Russel.**

**Nominations: Vice Chair elected today.**

**Property Tax Exemption Program Presentation, Holly Hill**

The Property Tax Exemption Program aims to assist seniors and people with disabilities by reducing or removing property tax as a barrier to aging in place. This program is administered by the Clark County Assessor's Office with guidance from the Washington State Department of Revenue. There are 3 tiers of the program, with tiers 1 and 2 being exempt from property tax and voter approved levies, and tier 3 only being exempt from paying excess and voter approved levies.

Information on program qualifications, income documentation, deductions, and required documents was provided to the board. Applications are completed online, and appointments can be made to fill out forms at the Assessors Office.

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### Questions and Comments:

Q: Is assistance provided for the application

A: Yes, staff will assist people in person if they make an appointment.

Q: How does this program deal with real property?

A: Any property, including manufactured and tiny homes, are considered real property for the purpose of taxation.

### **July 2025 Contractor & Fund Reports**

#### **July**

- CCVAC: 45 Veterans served in July services totaling \$33,076.57. 40 male veterans, 5 female veterans, 0 widow, 0 other veterans. 15 denials, 0 subject to appeal. 622 visits to the center for essentials and food, 1,021 sack breakfasts and lunches provided and 53 food boxes provided. 4,889 total pounds of food. 543.5 volunteer hours, totaling \$21,892 in value.
- Free Clinic: 2 Veterans served in July. Services totaled \$956 in value; billed \$717.84.
- VAF Fund July: Revenue: \$3,372.64; expenditures: \$85,801.81; fund balance: \$496,753.26, about a \$82,429.17 decrease in the fund from last month.

### Questions and Comments:

Q: To what degree were services diminished by the CCVAC move?

A: This has not shown up on the report yet as the current report data is from July, but we will see the impact from the move in future reports.

### **Clark County Veterans Assistance Center Updates, Judy Russel**

- The Stand Down is September 26 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Armed Forces Reserve Center. This event is where Veterans are provided grooming services, pet services, winter supplies, and more by over 65 vendors.
- The Department of Labor grant of \$7,000 was awarded to the Center as of yesterday. Any extra funds at the end of the year from this grant and donations will go to next years' Stand Down.
- CCVAC's budget request has been decreased by \$7,000 from the initial ask and will be \$991,000 for 2026. This increase in budget is mainly going toward increased rent and utilities with the new CCVAC location. This increased space will allow for new services such as resume building, education, and more.

### Questions and Comments:

Q: Can an estimate be provided for how many more people will be served by the center with a larger facility? Are Stand Down participants included in this number?

A: The Center provides the number of veterans that are served each month. Currently, the average is about 1,600 per month, which includes in person, phone, and email services. At last year's Stand Down, there were over 500 veterans.

Q: How has the larger CCVAC building increased the number of people served?

A: The Center can offer new programs, as well as provide community partners space to provide their services.

C: The President of the CCVAC did not have a desk at the prior location.

C: Discussing the increase in services with the building owners is what helped to secure the building for the CCVAC.

C: The new space looks great. The Policies and Procedures Committee will be in touch with Judy to identify data that can be collected to support the center's funding request. The Board should tour the new building together.

C: There should not be a question about the amount of money spent to support veterans. We need to make sure to prove that this money is well spent.

### **Old Business**

Staff shared the CCVAC budget request with the Budget Office and County Manager's Office. This request will be discussed in one-on-one meetings with each County Council member on September 29. These meetings are not open to the public and staff will provide an update to the board afterwards.

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Members of the board have created a document that will support the request to increase the amount of money that goes into the Veterans Assistance Fund from county tax. The Board discussed the document and how the fund has not increased proportionally with the value of taxable property in the county. Buck Marr and Michael Langsdorf requested that the document be attached to the meeting minutes and sent to the County Manager and all Clark County Councilors. This document is not meant to be a confrontation; it is meant to serve as the data required to support an increase to the Fund.

#### **New Business**

Tonya Wark shared that Shanley Reed, a veteran in Camas is working on her PHD at Liberty College, is offering to council veterans via telehealth, with the first 3 sessions being free. Shanely can be contacted by phone at (360)-975-0512 or email at [shanley@lacamascounseling.com](mailto:shanley@lacamascounseling.com).

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

Bruce Maas shared that the Veterans Day Parade will be held on November 11. Registration for the parade must be completed by October 28.

September 19 is POW MIA Remembrance Day. An event will be held by the Armed Forces Reserve Center at 6 p.m.

Greg Gilbertson shared that suicide awareness training will be held at the VFW on Andresen September 25 from 4-5:30 p.m.

Michael Langsdorf requested the quote from the July meeting minutes, stating that there are 32,000 veterans in Clark County, with census data showing an increase of about 1,000 veterans per year, be attached to the letter sent to the City Manager and County Council.

Buck Marr requested that the document created by board members to support an increase in revenue for the Veterans Assistance Fund be attached to the September meeting minutes (see Exhibit A) and sent to the County Manager and County Councilors.

***Motion to adjourn by Michael Langsdorf and seconded by Tonya Wark. Approved unanimously.  
Next meeting October 11, 2025.***

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***Exhibit A: Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Request for  
Revenue Increase to the Veterans Assistance Fund***