

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

January 8, 2026

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
Michael Langsdorf
Lloyd Bowman
Buck Marr

ALTERNATE

Darren Wertz
Jonathan Frederick
Vanise Pratt
Roy Day
Earl Edwards
Deborah Proctor
Stewart Bauer
Nick Herber

Clark County Representative: Abby Molloy, Nooreen Ebrahim

Guests: Judy Russel and Sonja Wood (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); Glen Yung (Clark County Council); Larry Stafford and Mitchell Kelly (County Auditor's Office); Jim Bowen (American Legion #44), Steve Hammicker (unaffiliated), Alissa Page, Anonymous

Approval of December 11, 2025 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion by Lloyd Bowman that was seconded by Tonya Wark.

Committee Reports

Appeals: None.

Policies and Procedures: None.

Nominations: None.

Budget Workgroup: A workgroup session was held today. More updates to come at the next VAB meeting.

2026 Committee Appointments

Committee appointments for 2026 will remain the same as 2025.

Member at Large Appointments

The board voted in favor of appointing Tonya Wark as a Member at Large.

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Discussion with the County Auditor

The board engaged in discussion with Larry Stafford and Mitchell Kelly from the County Auditor's Office (CAO).

Questions and Comments:

Q: Why is the Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF) part of the general fund as opposed to its own line item on property tax?

A: This question should be directed to the Treasurer's office.

Q: When was the last time the County was audited?

A: The Audit Oversight Committee helps select the areas in the county which are audited each year. The VAF has been analyzed by the CAO as part of general budget auditing that occurs yearly which is reviewed by the State Auditor's Office.

Q: What is the CAO's role in contracting?

A: Involvement occurs after contracts are executed, providing review of accounting standards. Primary oversight comes from the department under which the contract falls.

C: There are concerns that the Veterans Assistance Center is not being funded at a level which meets its current need.

A: If there is concern about meeting the need of clients, information on service gaps should be compiled by CCVAC and shared with the budget office.

Q: Does the Auditor's Office have any involvement in how levies are allocated?

A: While the County Auditor does provide feedback, the County Manager's Office, with assistance from the Budget Office, propose how levies are allocated.

Q: What recommendation does the CAO have to create a budget proposal?

A: The CAO can assist in a review capacity with the VAF budget. There will be a conversation about the Department of Community Services' (DCS) involvement in the VAF budget later in this meeting.

Q: Who would need to be involved in discussing an increase in the levy?

A: A recommendation to increase the VAF levy will need to come from the County Manager and presented before County Council.

Q: When would a supplemental budget request need to be submitted by?

A: That information would have to be provided by the Budget Office.

C: The contract for VSOs is separate from the CCVAC contract.

November 2025 Contractor & Fund Reports

- CCVAC: 50 Veterans served in November, with services totaling \$43,397.57. 41 male veterans, 9 female veterans, 0 widows, 0 other veterans. 9 denials, 0 subject to appeal. 561 visits to the center for essentials and food, 497 sack breakfasts and lunches and 100 food boxes provided. 7,840 total pounds of food. 543 volunteer hours, totaling \$21,872 in value.
- Free Clinic: 1 Veteran served in November. Services totaled \$3,600 in value; billed \$5,092.30.
- VAF Fund November: Revenue: \$67,513.20; expenditures: \$100,477.61; fund balance: \$465,945.73, about a \$32,964.41 decrease in the fund from the month prior.

Clark County Veterans Assistance Center Updates, Judy Russel

- In 2025, CCVAC overspent by about \$45,000 which was supplemented by the CCVAC non-profit. \$372,000 was spent by the non-profit services ineligible for VAF reimbursement.
- Several County Councilors have toured the new CCVAC building.
- Bingo fundraiser at the Vancouver Elks Lodge will be held on February 1, 2026 at 3-5 p.m.

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

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Questions and Comments

Q: Can CCVAC make a video sharing the services they provide and highlighting clients that have been served?

A: Yes.

Q: Can volunteers review applications to assist the VSOs?

A: While a volunteer could assist, there would need to be training through the DVA to complete claim paperwork.

C: The DVA is working on having a staff member assist with VSO claims.

Community Needs Assessment Survey Presentation

The Community Needs Assessment survey gathers information for the Community Needs Assessment, which the county and agencies in the community use to prioritize areas of service. The survey is aimed toward low-and-moderate income individuals within the county. VAB members can assist by sharing information with their networks, distributing surveys within your community or affiliated community groups, and by attending community forums held in the summer/fall.

For further information, reach out to Abby Molloy via email at abby.molloy@clark.wa.gov or by phone at 564.397.7832.

2026 Budget Review Handout

A budget showing predicted expenditures from the CCVAC in 2026, including the expected revenue, expenditures, and ending VAF balance was presented to the board. Information on the calculation of revenue from property tax, staff salaries and benefits, and CCVAC's budget were provided. Staff clarified that CCVAC proposes their own budget which should cover their anticipated needs throughout the year.

Questions and Comments

Q: Has inflation been taken into consideration with proposed budgets?

A: If CCVAC sends this data to staff, they will include it in future presentations of this data.

C: Policies and Procedures will need to review expenditures for the next year. Service costs are projected to increase.

C: This data does not reflect the amount of money CCVAC spent on direct services.

A: If CCVAC sends direct services data to staff, they will include it in future presentations.

Q: Will CCVAC be requesting an updated budget?

A: While it is uncertain, there is a high likelihood that additional funds will be requested.

Q: Why is the \$20,561 in interest and roughly \$563,42 currently in the fund not accounted for in the expected 2026 budget?

A: Funds accrued through interest are not added in budget projections due to their variability, and expenditures through December 2025 that have not yet been drawn from the fund.

Q: Why is the VAF levy not increasing when we are having shortfalls in the fund.

A: DCS aims to address this by having a work session with County Council and relevant parties.

Q: Why is fund 1019 not shown on property tax forms?

A: While it is not shown as a separate line item, the funds are still going into the VAF

Q: Can Alissa Page provide budget assistance to the Budget Workgroup?

A: While direct assistance cannot be provided due to the capacity in which they work with the VAF, budget templates can be provided.

Old Business

Staff asked if there were any additional speakers that are requested by board members. Greg Gilbertson will send speaker requests to staff on behalf of the board.

Bob Nichols requested that Michael Torres attend meetings in 2026.

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New Business

None presented.

Open Forum and Public Comment

Bruce Maas shared that the Point-In-Time count will be occurring this month. The VFW service officer will be getting a second assistant. He also shared that State legislative session will begin Monday the 12th. A request to staff for an update on the Hero Pass for C-Tran was made as this expires at the end of the month. Finally, the new CMAC chair is Ron Powers.

Glen Yung shared thanks for board members' military service and service on the VAB. He also provided oversight on how the council reviews, sets, and approves budgets through support provided from the departments within the county. Additionally, he shared that the concerns the VAB has with the VAF are shared with County Council for funding across programs. He shared that Southwest Washington Community Services Foundation has information on applying for grants which may help the CCVAC draft their budget proposal.

Steve Hammerlick shared the need for a third VSO officer to serve Clark County.

***Motion to adjourn by Bruce Maas and seconded by Tonya Wark. Approved unanimously.
Next meeting February 12, 2026.***