

**Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors**  
**August 9, 2018**

1300 Franklin Street, Room #680  
Vancouver, Washington

**Chair:** Morris Giesler

**Vice Chair:** Kelly Jones

**Secretary:** Bruce Maas

**Meeting called to order.**

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

**POST**

40 et 8  
American Legion #14  
American Legion #176  
American Veterans #6  
DAV Chapter #4  
Korean War Assoc. #321  
Marine Corps League #826  
VFW #4278  
VFW #7824  
VFW # 12028  
Vietnam Vets #512  
Members at Large

**PRIMARY**

Steve Slegers  
Dixie Hotaling  
**Michael Gibson**  
John Lovejoy  
Morris Giesler  
**Earl Edwards**  
**Ron Brandon**  
**Shannon Roberts**  
**Bruce Maas**  
**Skip Benge**  
Greg Whitson  
Kelly Jones  
Kevin Lawson  
**James Mead**  
**David Daly**  
Michael Harding  
**Bryan McGillis**

**ALTERNATE**

Patrick Locke  
  
Jonathan Frederick  
Michael Langsdorf  
Frank Hyatt  
Jason Atkins  
Steve Slegers  
Sarah Aktepy  
Tonja Wark  
  
Nick Herber

**Clark County Representative: Samantha Whitley**

**Guests: Judy Russel, Denise Bender (Veterans Assistance Center); Tiffany Plous (WorkSource), Tom Mielke (Vietnam veteran); Michael Stacy**

**July 12, 2018, Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were approved on a motion by Michael Gibson that was seconded by David Daly.

**Wenatchee WDVA Conference Update**

The conference offered sessions on long-term VA benefits; transitioning from active duty to VA care; student outreach, recruitment, and benefits; alternate therapies; survivor benefits; training centers; service animals; military sexual trauma; peer mentoring; safer homes and firearms safeguarding; and LGBTQ veteran services. All sessions were recorded and are available online.

Concern was raised that southwest Washington is still not prioritized. The current focus of the WDVA is rural veterans.

**Veterans Assistance Center 2018 Budget Modification Request**

A motion was made by David Daly and seconded by Ron Brandon to add up to \$10,000 for an organizational and financial review, pending receipt of a quote. Motion carried.

**Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors**  
**August 9, 2018**

**Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** No appeals were received last month.

**Policies and Procedures:** No discussion at this time.

**June 2018 Contractor Reports & Fund Report and Veteran Age Range Information**

The fund assisted 54 Veteran households at a cost of \$31,610. The Veterans Assistance Center received 634 Veteran visits, including 299 visits from Veterans who are homeless. The Free Clinic treated three patients. The Veterans Assistance Fund balance was \$658,578 at the end of the month.

The Clark County census of homeless Veterans counts 10 between the ages of 20-29; 23 between 30-39; 11 between 40-49; 48 between 50-59; 43 between 60-69; and 10 who are over 70.

**Veterans Assistance Center Update**

- Denise Bender was hired as the new outreach case manager
- The Warriors and Wheels car show is August 25, on SE 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SE Village Loop
- The Center is sponsoring a booth at the Clark County Fair, August 3-12
- Eight volunteers are now trained to process claims
- The Stand Down is Sept. 15 on the VA Campus

**Old Business**

- WDVA contract is being drafted. The WDVA will include performance measures for their subcontractor, which include an 80% rate of approvals, and reimbursing a maximum of \$400 per claim.
- The owner of the land for building Veterans Village has pulled the lease with plans to build his own Veterans Village. Pure Kraze Veterans Village is looking elsewhere, and is working to provide additional services for Veterans that are not available through the VA.
- Walk-in employment assistance is available in Building 18 on the VA campus. The September meeting will include presentations on employment assistance for veterans.

**New Business**

Shannon Roberts suggested homeless outreach to include signs posted where people who are homeless gather. A resource pocket guide already exists.

**Open Forum**

- Marine Corps League fundraiser to support the Boys and Girls Club is September 8, 8:30-5:30, at the Hazel Dell car wash
- Annual Prayer Breakfast at the Hilton, November 8, for all civic leaders, first responders, Veterans, and Gold Star mothers, is free for those in uniform
- The Hilton Honors program offers 100,000 free points for any veteran looking for work. This equates to about 3-4 free nights
- Friday, August 19, the Disabled American Veterans van will be at the Golden Corral 9:00-4:00
- Bruce Maas was interviewed for a documentary on the USS Nimitz

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting is Thursday, September 13, 2018.