

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Council

September 13, 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
Michael Langsdorf

ALTERNATE

Patrick Locke

Jonathan Frederick
Michael Langsdorf
Frank Hyatt
Jason Atkins
Steve Slegers
Sarah Aktepy
Tonja Wark

Nick Herber

Clark County Representative: Michael Torres

Guests: Judy Russel, Sharon Tyre (Veterans Assistance Center); **Andrew Bellow** (Heroes Northwest); **Randal Brewster, Jeff Talbot** (Kleen Street); **Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Steve Gill** (Washington State Veterans Affairs); **Deborah Lewis, Christian Rilling** (Vancouver VA)

August 9, 2018, Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved on a motion by **Michael Gibson** that was seconded by **Kelly Jones**.

New Member at Large Applications

A motion was made by **Greg Whitson** and seconded by **Ron Brandon** to accept **Michael Langsdorf** as a Member at Large. Motion carried.

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WDVA Veterans Service Officer

The mission of the WDVA is to connect veterans and their families to their earned benefits. WDVA is attempting to improve access for rural veterans. A request for proposal will be generated to contract with an accredited Veterans service organization to fill the full-time VSO position at the Center. WDVA provides the monitoring and oversight.

The VSO Professional Development Summit is Sept. 26 in Fife, WA. The event is free.

VA Veteran Employment Programs

The VA offers therapeutic and supportive employment services. Supported employment serves those with severe mental illness and behavioral health issues. Six staff each have a caseload of 30 veterans, helping them obtain jobs in the community. The jobs are competitive, inclusive, and not time-limited. Case management is individualized to maximize job retention.

Compensated Work Therapy offers six months of transitional work experience for people with barriers to obtaining jobs. It provides a stipend rather than compensation, enabling workers to gain basic work skills. The clients maintain their status as patients, not employees, and are able to retain full benefits.

Committee Reports

Appeals: Two appeals were approved, and one was denied last month.

Policies and Procedures: No discussion at this time. The next meeting is Oct. 11, at 12:30.

July 2018 Contractor Reports & Fund Report

The fund assisted 62 Veteran households at a cost of \$15,792. The Veterans Assistance Center received 570 Veteran visits, including 286 visits from Veterans who are homeless. The Free Clinic treated four patients. The Veterans Assistance Fund balance was \$659,986 at the end of the month.

Veterans Assistance Center Update

- The Stand Down is Sept. 15 on the VA Campus. Sixty organizations will be represented
- Vietnam Veterans of America annually supports the Stand Down with \$1,000 from fundraisers
- Partners in Careers donated \$3,200 for the Stand Down
- Vancouver Funeral Home is conducting a Veterans clothing drive, Sept. 15 –Dec. 15
- The Storm City Roller Girls fundraiser is Nov. 10, at the Clark County Events Center
- The GiveMore24 campaign is Sept. 20. The Corwin family will match the first \$5,000 donated to the Veterans Center

Old Business

No discussion at this time

New Business

No discussion at this time

Open Forum

Kleen Street is holding a fundraiser to help Veterans experiencing homelessness and substance use challenges, and in preventing suicides, on Nov. 3 at Clark College Gaiser Hall.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting is Thursday, October 11, 2018.