

Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
40 et 8 Chateau
7607 NE 26th Avenue
Vancouver, Washington
April 8, 2009

Chair: Peggy Sheehan
Secretary: Robert Nichols

Vice Chair: Michael Gibson
Contract Service Officer: Mike Jajan

Meeting Called to order by Peggy Sheehan @ 14:04

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

James Albertson	VFW #1927	Primary
Bill Allman	DSHS Veteran's Project	Primary
Bill Bailey	American Legion 14	Alternate
Lou Basté	Marine Corps League	Alternate
Don Cannady	American Legion 189	Alternate
John Clapp	40 et 8	Alternate
Gary Dowler	VFW Post 4278	Primary
Frank Gallaher	VFW 12011	Primary
Michael D. Gibson	American Legion 176	Primary
Robert Hitchcok	VFW 4278	Alternate
Jack Jones	American Legion 122	Alternate
Jerry Keen	VVA 512	Alternate
Jerry Keesee	American Legion 208	Alternate
Bruce Maas	DAV Chapter 4	Primary
Robert Nichols	American Legion 168	Primary
Richard Puttkamer	American Legion 122	Primary
Bill Romine	American Legion 168	Alternate
Frank Samaya	DAV Chapter 4	Alternate
Ray Saranto	VFW 12028	Primary
Peggy Sheehan	American Legion 14	Primary
Daniel Tarbell	40 et 8	Primary
Bill Weglage	VFW Post 7824	Primary
Greg Whitson	VVA 512	Primary
Mark Woods	VFW 12028	Alternate
Phillip Yasson	American Legion 176	Alternate
Mike Jajan	American Legion	Service Officer

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Pete Munroe, Samantha Whitley, Rebecca Royce

GUESTS

John Russell – MCL 826, Morris Giesler – AL 14, Richard Langenbach – AM, Carla Jo Whitson – VVA 512, Dixie Hotaling – AL 14, Thomas Dombeck – 5th District, Sally Garcia – WorkSource Vancouver, Rich Axtell – VFW 1927, Scott Lambie – VFW 12011, Matthew Burroughs - VA

Meeting Minutes: There was a motion to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2009 meeting. Motion seconded and passed.

Committee Reports: Ray Saranto discussed the Organizational Work Group committee which is working to improve communications and increase member knowledge, both in governance and on the chain of command. Ray asked for volunteers to work on the committee and review the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Mike Gibson, Bob Nichols and Samantha Whitley volunteered. Peggy will send out an email to the committee to see if any more volunteers are interested.

Peggy Sheehan discussed the Community Work Group which will determine community resources and services the VRC would like to provide for veterans. At this time the VRC provides limited case management, housing services, and emergency relief through Share and a Service Officer. Peggy asked for volunteers to discuss the possible services. Greg Whitson (not present but previously expressed interest), Mike Gibson, Ron Brandon (also not present), Mark Woods and Samantha Whitley volunteered. Peggy will send out an email to the committee to see if any more volunteers are interested.

Community Presentation: Matthew Burroughs with Veterans Affairs discussed the programs they offer. There are several different housing programs including grant and per diem programs, HUD-VASH through the Portland VA, but is for Clark County residents, Transition Lodging Unit (TLU) and Jean's Place for women veterans. Matthew stressed that veterans must be homeless to qualify for many of these programs. Dental assistance is also offered for those homeless veterans that are enrolled in a homeless program such as Grant and Per Diem or CWT. He mentioned that if you are trying to refer a veteran to the center for assistance to have them get started in building D7 and if they are homeless to go to building 18. Matthew Burroughs can be reached for any questions at (360) 696-4061 ext 33766.

Carla Jo Whitson briefly discussed the CHEC Program, a housing first program, made possible from a HGAP grant. The program works by partnering with landlords to get the homeless into housing. After the person is housed, case managers offer them other services as needed.

Post Reports: Jerry Keen provided a report on the Vietnam Vets Post 512. One service they provide is building wheelchair ramps for veterans. He also mentioned that they are involved in the Stand Down.

Mike Gibson gave a report on the American Legion Post 176. Their post runs bingo several times a week, provides a Memorial Day Event, and they also sponsor a couple of baseball teams. They are currently at 77% of their membership goal of 609 members. Mike also talked briefly about the needs of veterans at their post. Greg Whitson is the service officer and helps veterans with a hotel room for the night, gas assistance, etc. The post tries to keep a small fund to reimburse Greg as he pays for the assistance out of his pocket.

Service Officers Report: Mike Jajan discussed the Service Officers report for March including the expenses of \$2,652.89. He mentioned that there were more veterans applying for services for the month, especially for PUD assistance.

Share Caseworker's Report: Pete Munroe reviewed Share's February report. Fifteen veterans received subsidies and two received bus passes during that time period. Several of the veterans will be

graduating by the end of April and as of April 1, nine veterans are remaining in the program.

Pete also handed out a spreadsheet and gave brief discussion of the funds available in the Veteran's Assistance Fund. The amounts do not reflect the billings from the American Legion.

Old Business: John Russell spoke briefly about the Stand Down and why it's an important project. It is proposed to be held at the Pearson Air Museum on September 21st from 9a.m. to 3p.m. More information will be given out at a later date. John requested the VRC to endorse the Stand Down. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

John also requested volunteers for the Stand Down. He will be attending the VRC meetings or you can attend the Stand Down Committee meetings on the second Monday at 6:30p.m. at the Elks Lodge.

Old Business: Mike Gibson previously spoke with Jack Heims, a director at the VA Medical Center, to initiate a SW Washington Reintegration Summit on Post Deployment for June 17th. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mike and he will forward your information on. Jack mentioned to Mike that he currently has about 120 people expected to attend. Mike is looking at having the Summit at Clark College, however the approximate cost will be \$1,000. Mike asked if the County would be able to fund the Summit through the Veterans Fund. Pete said that he is looking into it, but hasn't received a decision yet. Pete recommended the VRC vote on the use of the funds now so that the process can be completed before the next meeting if it is determined by the County attorney to be an eligible use of the fund. A motion was made to spend up to \$1,000 on this Summit to rent space at Clark College, seconded and passed.

Bob Nichols asked for volunteers to attend the Washington State County Veterans Coalition. He will be attending and asked if any other members would like to attend with him. The Coalition discusses the needs of veterans by county in the state of Washington. Meetings are held all over the state (a brochure is attached to the minutes).

Peggy Sheehan requested the committee approve a new contract with Donald Lachman up to \$5,000 to provide his services to put together a strategic plan. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

Good of the Order: Jerry Keesee discussed a monument that will be placed for the Korean POW MIA. The monument was arranged by two brothers that survived the war and will be dedicated on September 15th under the wings of Lady Bell. He asked for a motion for the VRC to endorse the monument. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 15:45.

Next meeting: May 13, 2009 at 14:00.