

Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
40 et 8 Chateau
7607 NE 26th Avenue
Vancouver, Washington
December 9, 2009

Chair: Peggy Sheehan
Secretary: Robert Nichols

Vice Chair: Michael Gibson
Contract Service Officer: Mike Jajan

Meeting Called to order by Peggy Sheehan @ 1402

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

POST

40 et 8
American Legion 5th District
American Legion #14
American Legion #122
American Legion #168
American Legion #176
American Legion #208
DAV Chapter #4
DSHS Veteran's Project
Marine Corps League #826
VFW #4278
VFW #7824
VFW #12028
Vietnam Vets #512
American Legion #189
American Vets #6
VFW #1927
VFW #12011

PRIMARY

Daniel Tarbell
Thomas Dombeck
Peggy Sheehan
Richard Puttkamer
Robert Nichols
Michael Gibson

Bruce Maas
Bill Allman
Lou Baste
Stephen Stetson
William Weglage
Ray Saranto
Greg Whitson
INACTIVE
INACTIVE
INACTIVE
INACTIVE

SECONDARY

John Clapp

Charles Bailey
Jack Jones
William Romine
Philip Yasson
Jerry Keesee
Frank Samaya

Ron Brandon
Robert Hitchcock

Mark Woods
Jerry Keen

American Legion Service Officer **Mike Jajan**

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Pete Munroe, Rebecca Royce

GUESTS

Karla Bean, Morris Giesler – 40 et 8, Sally Garcia – WorkSource, Jerry Vincent – AL 14, Jan Wojciechowski – 40 et 8, Richard Langenbach – AL 168

Meeting Minutes: Greg Whitson motioned to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2009 meeting. Motion seconded by Jerry Keesee and passed.

Committee Reports

Nominations: The following nominations were previously accepted:

- Chair: Morris Giesler – 40 et 8

- Vice Chair: Mike Gibson – AL #176
- Secretary: Bob Nichols – AL #168

Peggy Sheehan asked the committee if there were any new nominations; none were given. Bill Bailey motioned to accept the nominations, seconded by Ray Saranto and passed.

Appeals: Ray Saranto stated there were no appeals to discuss.

Service Officer's Report: Mike Jajan presented the Service Officer's report for November with expenses of \$17,051.23. Mike explained that veterans asking for utility assistance were referred to the LIHEAP program before they were eligible to receive assistance through the Veterans Service Fund. He also mentioned that he is trying to refer clients to more resources. When asked if he starts each month with a budget, Mike explained that he does not have a specific budget.

Share Caseworker's Report: Pete Munroe reviewed Share's October report. There were two veterans remaining in the program. The program will be expiring at the end of December and if any participants have not graduated, Share will provide support with other funds. The final report should be available in February.

Old Business: Peggy gave a brief explanation on the Request for Proposal process the County has been going through. She reminded the committee that a small sub-committee worked with County staff on the types of services to be performed. The County received four applications: American Legion, Community Services Northwest, Columbia River Mental Health Services and Washington State Dept of Veterans Affairs. Two persons from the Veterans Resource Committee, Ray Saranto and Daniel Tarbell, were asked to be on the application review committee along with two community members and a person from the County Auditor/Treasurer's Office. Applicants were asked to give a non-mandatory presentation to the application review committee. The American Legion chose not to attend the meeting. Columbia River Mental Health Services scored the highest and the County is working with them to develop a contract.

Ray and Dan explained that, as review committee members, they received the applications to review before the meeting. During the presentations they were able to ask questions of the applicants. Ray mentioned that the scoring was very close between three of the applicants and that he scored Columbia River the highest among the applications. Ray explained that their application was very specific about the program criteria and Columbia River was able to articulate how they would provide the services in their presentation. Bill Romine made a motion to ratify the decision that Columbia River Mental Health Services perform the Veterans Service Officer contract for 2010. Motion seconded by Mike Gibson and approved. Morris Giesler asked if the County could provide a different location for the Veterans Service Officer. Comments were made that the office is difficult to find. Pete mentioned that he would have to check into it, he believes there might be an agreement with the Dept of Veterans Affairs to provide the service in the Center for Community Health.

Rebecca reminded the committee to get their 2010 Letters of Appointment (LOA) in as soon as possible. Posts that do not submit LOAs will not have voting rights as of January. LOAs were sent out October 1st with return prepaid envelopes. A memo will be going out shortly to those posts that have not turned them in.

Karla Bean gave a brief update on the Stand Down. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 14th at the Elks. They will be appointing a chair person. The committee is also looking for storage space that is secured and accessible for donated items.

Morris Giesler gave an update on the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center project. He explained that there are 15-20 people working on the project and that they are close to securing a location. Morris also mentioned that their Articles of Incorporation will be mailed tomorrow. Morris is hopeful that the center will be fully operational by February. The Clark County Veterans Assistance Center committee will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, January 19th at Partners In Careers located at 111 W 39th St starting at 1715.

Jerry Keesee expressed his thanks to all the volunteers that helped gift wrap presents for the patients at the Vancouver VA Medical Center. They will be handing out the 281 gifts on December 14th and 16th.

New Business: None.

Good of the Order: Daniel Tarbell explained that he is involved in a new committee, Community Military Appreciation Committee (CMAC), to plan and execute events such as the Memorial and Veterans Day services and the POW/MIA recognition ceremony along with helping deployed veterans and their families. Dan mentioned that several organizations have already joined the committee and are supported by the Fort Vancouver National Trust. They are currently working on getting their 501(c)3 nonprofit status. The committee is sending letters to the president of each organization asking for their support and participation in the committee (please see attachments). The first meeting will be held on January 15, 2010 at 0830. The meeting will take place at 40 et 8, 7607 NE 26th Ave. More information will be available in an article by the Columbian on December 16th.

Mike Gibson informed the committee that their will be a Veterans Reintegration held on Friday, December 11th from 0830 to 1200 at Clark College in Geiser Hall. There are several organizations working together to discuss issues veterans in the community are having. There will be presentations by the VA Medical Center and break-out sessions for discussions.

Dan Tarbell let the committee know that there will be a community celebration to honor Mayor Royce Pollard's service to Vancouver. The ceremony will be held on Wednesday, December 16th from 1530 to 1800 at the Water Resource Education Center.

Bruce Maas informed the committee that VFW post #7824 is in the process of moving into a new location on 78th St.

Meeting adjourned at 1451.

Next meeting: January 13, 2010 at 1400.