

Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
40 et 8 Chateau
7607 NE 26th Avenue
Vancouver, Washington
February 11, 2009

Chair: Peggy Sheehan
Secretary: Robert Nichols

Vice Chair: Michael Gibson
Contract Service Officer: Mike Jajan

Meeting Called to order by Peggy Sheehan @ 14:07

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 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

Carla Whitson, GK "Gib" Ridout AL 14, Rich Axtell VFW 1927, Rich Langenbach AL 168, Dave Barton VFW 12028, Donald Lachman Consultant

Strategic Planning: Donald Lachman introduced himself and gave a briefing of the community veterans

demographics and issues. He took recommendations and answered questions from the participants at the meeting to get an understanding of what the VRC is looking to accomplish in the next few years. Donald broke down the questions the VRC is looking to answer into two categories: Internal Organization – what the organization is looking to accomplish internally, and External Organization – what the organization is hoping to use the funds for. There were several questions for each area given by the participants that were later condensed down by Donald Lachman into a few focused areas. Each participant was then given the chance to vote on three subject areas for each of the Internal and External Organizational areas he/she would like to see the VRC focus on. Donald discussed for the group what items received the top three votes for each organizational area. Donald then requested volunteers to meet with him to discuss in more detail how to attain the goals voted on by the committee. Donald Lachman provided a summary, please see attached.

Meeting Minutes: There was a motion to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2009 meeting. Motion seconded and passed.

New Business: Carla Jo informed the committee that January was her last month as the Veterans Service Officer and introduced Mike Jajan as the new service officer. Peggy discussed organizing an RFP or having the Service Officer position be run by a County employee. Pete informed the committee that the American Legion contract will expire at the end of this year. He suggested starting the RFP process in the fall after the committee looked into specific criteria they would like to include. Peggy asked the committee for volunteers for an ad hoc committee to look into it further. She would like to schedule a meeting in March with those volunteers.

Peggy will be scheduling presentations by veterans assistance organizations for each meeting. She will also have one post each month briefly describe the needs their posts observe. VFW Post 12028 will be presenting in March. A schedule of presentations will be handed out at the March meeting.

Rich Axtell is involved in a hiring event in June for veterans and asked for volunteers to help with coordinating the event and getting information out to veterans about the event. He will have more information at the next meeting.

Good of the Order: Bruce Maas mentioned there was a dedication for a home in the Felida area owned by a disabled veteran that was renovated by Extreme R&R, a nonprofit veterans organization. He mentioned that there will be more renovations in the future.

Pete mentioned that there are five county wide levees that collect property taxes. The one for veterans, called Soldiers and Sailors, is the lowest collecting property tax levee at 1 1/8% per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Meeting adjourned at 16:34.

Next meeting: March 11, 2009 at 14:00.

Summary and Follow Up Actions
Clark County Veterans Resource Committee
February 11, 2009 - Strategic Planning Work Session

In attendance:

Peggy Sheehan – Chair, Bill Baily, Lou Baste, Gary Dowler, Michael Gibson – Vice Chair, Jerry Keesee, Bruce Maas, Robert Nichols – Secretary, Richard Puttkamer, Bill Romine, Ray Saranto, Daniel Tarbell, Greg Whitson, Mark Woods, Mike Jajan, Pete Munroe, Samantha Whitley, Carla Whitson, GK Ridout, Rich Axtell, Rich Langenbach, Dave Barton

Clark County Veterans Resource Committee - Current Mission Statement/ Purpose

To develop programs or procedures that is consistent with the welfare of indigent and suffering veterans and eligible family members of those veterans. Serve, as an Advisory Board on Veterans needs in accordance within these guidelines, Clark County Codes, and RCW is relating to Veterans Relief to the Clark County Legislature.

Provide a venue by which each Congressionally Chartered Veterans organization within Clark County may provide representation on the Clark County Veterans Resource Committee. Promote awareness of the CCVRC and its purpose throughout the Clark County Veterans Community, and provide policy guidance and advice to the Clark County Veterans Service Officer. (From Clark County web site)

Review and Discussion - Needs and Issues of Clark County's Veterans

Donald Lachman facilitated a brief review and discussion by the members on Clark County's demographics, needs, services, challenges, opportunities and lessons learned in regards to its increasing population of Veterans who are indigent or at risk of being indigent.

Themes and values that emerged from the discussion included:

1. Importance of maximizing existing resources and funding
2. Ensuring the public's funds are spent wisely and effectively
3. Increasing the committee members as well as the community's knowledge of Veterans issues and needs
4. Promoting actions that are a "hand up not a hand out" that advance a Veterans' recovery, stability, self reliance and dignity
5. Increasing the committee's formal communications, influence and collaborations with community leaders, providers as well as other funders.
6. Improving Veterans' access to services, benefits and providers
7. Increasing employment, training and job opportunities for Veterans

Establishing Strategic Priorities

The committee divided strategic work areas into two action areas

- Organizational focused strategic work areas
- Community focused strategic work areas

Identified of Committee Interest Areas

The committee members identified a list of organizational and community related interest areas for member consideration under strategic planning (attachment A)

Selection of Strategic Priorities for 2009 through 2011/12

Committee members identified, discussed and selected the following internal and or governance related work areas as strategic priorities for the committee:

1. ***Improving*** communication and engagement with the Clark County Commissioners that benefits Veterans and advances the mission of the Veterans Resource Committee
2. ***Reviewing and increasing*** members' knowledge on all governance documents pertinent to the operation, mission and duties of the CCVRC and its members
3. ***Increasing*** committee members knowledge of the organizational chain of command, reporting requirements, and other duties associated with service on this is committee

Committee members identified the following external and or community focused work areas as strategic priorities for 2009 thru 2012:

1. ***Identifying*** potential community partners and promoting collaborations to maximize or secure new resources benefiting Clark County's Veterans
2. ***Increasing*** the CCVRC and community's knowledge of our returning Veterans as well as the supporting services, benefits and programs
3. ***Advancing*** the development and implementation of practices that have been demonstrated to increase a Veteran's access to services, benefits and providers.
4. ***Ensuring the*** CCVRC measures and evaluates the effectiveness of its programs, partnerships and practices for Veterans in the community

Strategic Priorities and Next Steps

To advance planning and implementation of a strategic plan it was recommended that two ad hoc work groups be established to work with the Chairperson, County partners and consultant.

These work groups would develop draft actions steps, benchmarks and timing related to the strategic priorities for presentation and discussion at the March 2009 CCVRC meeting.

Rich and Mike volunteered to serve on *Organizational Work Group*, Mark, Bob and Ray volunteered to work on *Community Work Group*.

**Identified Interests Areas Clark County Veterans Resource Committee
February 11, 2009 Strategic Priorities Work Session**

Organizational Focused – CCVRC Strategic Interest Areas

Committee members identified, discussed and considered the following organizational related interests areas for consideration under strategic work:

1. *Improve* Communication and engagement with Commissioners
2. *Obtain and review*, bylaws, funding from county, charter, mission for recommendations and improvements
3. *Identify* CCVRC organization chain of command, reporting requirements and other duties
4. *Identify* organizations supported by the CCVRC (amounts and outcomes)
5. *Advance* program and services that promote a stability and sustainability
6. *Continue* development of a camp Bonneville as a cemetery
7. *Advocate* for a veterans jobs under a stimulus package
8. *Facilitate* community stand down for homeless Veterans
9. *Increase* community education and outreach by CCVRC

CCVRC members voted and selected the follow areas as priorities for strategic planning.

1. ***Improving*** communication and engagement with the Clark County Commissioners that benefits Veterans and advances the mission of the Veterans Resource Committee
2. ***Reviewing and increasing*** members' knowledge on all governance documents pertinent to the operation, mission and duties of the CCVRC and its members
3. ***Increasing*** committee members knowledge of the organizational chain of command, reporting requirements, and other duties associated with service on this is committee

Community Focused - CCVRC Strategic Interest Areas

Committee members identified, discussed and considered the following community related interests areas for strategic work:

1. *Increase* committee/community knowledge of returning Veterans, services, benefits and programs
2. *Promote* development of centralized location for Veterans services and engagement with community partners
3. *Promote* Welcome/education forum for all new veterans through the CCVRC
4. *Explore and promote* alternative resources and funding for Veterans
5. Identify potential community partners/maximize available resources for Veterans
6. *Identify* who reports to the committee posts and organizations
7. Advance Website development
8. *Ensure* effective measurements and outcomes for all CCVRC funding

CCVRC members voted and selected the follow areas as priorities for strategic planning

1. ***Identifying*** potential community partners and promoting collaborations to maximize or secure new resources benefiting Clark County's Veterans
2. ***Increasing*** the CCVRC and community's knowledge of our returning Veterans as well as the supporting services, benefits and programs
3. ***Advancing*** the development and implementation of practices that have been demonstrated to increase a Veteran's access to services, benefits and providers.
4. ***Ensuring the CCVRC*** measures and evaluates the effectiveness of its programs, partnerships and practices for Veterans in the community