

**Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee**  
**40 et 8 Chateau**  
**7607 NE 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Vancouver, Washington**  
**January 13, 2009**

**Chair: Morris Giesler**  
**Secretary: Robert Nichols**

**Vice Chair: Michael Gibson**  
**Contract Service Officer: CRMHS**

**Meeting Called to order by Morris Giesler @ 1401**

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

**POST**

40 et 8  
American Legion #14  
American Legion #122  
American Legion #168  
American Legion #176  
American Legion #189  
American Legion #208  
DAV Chapter #4  
Marine Corps League #826  
VFW #1927  
VFW #4278  
VFW #12028  
Vietnam Vets #512

American Legion 5<sup>th</sup> District  
DSHS Veteran's Project  
WorkSource Vancouver

**PRIMARY**

**Morris Giesler**  
**Karla Bean**  
**Richard Puttkamer**  
**Robert Nichols**  
**Michael Gibson**  
**Clinton Nelson**  
**Brad Hunt**  
**Bruce Maas**  
**Lou Baste**  
Jim Chisholm  
**Stephen Stetson**  
**Ray Saranto**  
**Greg Whitson**

**Members at Large**

**Thomas Dombeck**  
Bill Allman  
**Sally Garcia**

**SECONDARY**

**Jan Wojciechowski**  
Peggy Sheehan  
Michael Edwards  
**Richard Langenbach**  
**Philip Yasson**  
Charlotte Elznic  
**Robert Blevens**  
Michael Riley  
Ron Brandon  
Eino Suomi  
Robert Hitchcock  
**Mark Woods**  
Jerry Keen

**Jerry Keesee**

Jose Zamora

**CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

**Pete Munroe, Rebecca Royce, Samantha Whitley**

**GUESTS**

**Jerry Vincent – AL 14, Pat Stryker & Mike Jajan – CRMHS, Tim Podhora & Shauna McCloskey – Clark County District Court, James Brewster, Lya Schacht & Mike Shults – VA Voc Rehab, Bill Romine – AL 168, Jay Teems – VFW 12011, Jan Teems – Ladies Auxiliary 12011, Donald Crouch & Virgle Shirley – AL 27**

**Meeting Minutes:** Greg Whitson motioned to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2009 meeting with a correction noted by Bruce Maas on the location of VFW #7824. Motion seconded by Thomas Dombeck and passed.

**Community Presentation:** Mike Shults, a Voc Rehab Specialist, discussed his program at the VA. He

stressed that they would like to work with the VRC to get veterans enrolled into their program and be able to refer clients to the Veterans Relief Fund (VRF). Mike requested more information on the services the VRF provides. He also explained that they have six counselors in his department that help 250-300 clients with a multitude of services for those who have been honorably discharged. Unfortunately they do not offer direct assistance to pay for utilities, work clothes, gas and other services the VRF offers. Mike was asked if there was some form of resource sheet to provide to veterans and/or posts to get veterans-in-need directed to the proper person. Mike explained that it was a great idea, but they do not have anything at this time. He said that he would talk to his superiors about putting a referral list together. It was mentioned that there is a referral program called 211Info that refers all residents to different types of programs that are available in the county.

### **Committee Reports**

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

**Service Officer's Report:** Mike Jajan presented the Service Officer's report for December with expenses of \$15,848.40. Mike explained that requests were down due to the LIHEAP program and the office being closed for the holidays. He also mentioned that he is working on expanding their referral resources to non-veteran specific programs. Samantha informed the committee that the signs have been changed in the Center for Community Health building to say Service Officer instead of American Legion. She also let the committee know that CRMHS will supply follow-up reports on the veterans that receive case management. Pat Stryker, Development and Community Relations Director for CRMHS, explained that they were about to hire a part-time person to work with the case manager and that they would be able to refer veterans to their other programs and support groups.

**Share Caseworker's Report:** Pete Munroe reviewed Share's November and December reports. There were two veterans remaining in the program; one has entered the HUD-VASH program, the other moved to the SRO. The program is complete.

**Finance Report:** Pete explained that there is a balance in the VRF account of approximately \$1,034,527.

**Old Business:** Rebecca reminded the committee to send in their 2010 Letters of Appointment (LOA) in as soon as possible. Posts that have not submitted LOAs do not have voting rights. Rebecca received a few at the beginning of the meeting and has handed out a few blank ones to be returned by mail or at the next meeting. She said she would provide an updated list of active posts and voting members at February's meeting.

Karla Bean gave a brief update on the 2010 Stand Down. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Elks. The committee is still looking for storage space that is secured and accessible for donated items. It was recommended that the Stand Down Committee network with the Oregon Stand Down Committee for resources and ideas. Karla asked that if anyone has contact information to please pass it along to her.

Morris Giesler gave an update on the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center project. He mentioned that he is working with Clark County to look for a space for the project. He explained that he can get

the space for free, but the project will have to pay for utilities. Morris also mentioned that they are waiting for their 501(c)3 nonprofit status paperwork to be approved. They need this before they will be able to secure the free lease with the County. If they do not get the status in time, they will use Point Man Ministries status instead. The Clark County Veterans Assistance Center committee, presided by Sally Garcia, will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at Partners In Careers located at 111 W 39<sup>th</sup> St starting at 1715.

A reminder that the Community Appreciation Committee will be held on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 0800 at 40 et 8 to discuss upcoming events.

Mike Gibson reviewed the Veterans Reintegration Summit that was held at Clark College. The VRF funded the event at a total of \$580. He mentioned that representatives were present from Murray, Cantwell and Bairds' offices. There were several break-out sessions including employment, legal services, women veterans, health care, education and family issues among others. He said that it was a great opportunity for networking.

There was some discussion on the subject of Members at Large. Thomas Dombek would like to be considered a member at large to have voting rights. There was a motion to accept Thomas as a member at large and was approved. At this time there are three members at large.

**New Business:** Morris discussed appointing standing committee chairs. Below is a list of the volunteers for each committee:

Appeals – Ray Saranto

Policies & Procedures – Richard Langenbach

Nominations – Bob Nichols

Budget – Morris Giesler working with Mark Woods, Phil Yasson and Clark County Staff

2010 Strategic Planning – Bob Nichols to chair with help from Ray Saranto and Sally Garcia

**Good of the Order:** VFW #4278 is working with Dorothy Fox Elementary to collect and transport school supplies to Iraq. It was recommended that they work with Moms Of Military Service for help transporting the donations.

Shauna McCloskey with Clark County District Court gave a brief description of her program which oversees three alternative courts for mental health, drug and alcohol, and domestic violence. She is looking to start an alternative court for veterans and is asking the committee for a letter of support to attach to her grant application. The program would keep veterans that qualify for the program from going through the normal court system and get them engaged in other programs such as vet to vet peer support. Shauna is working with Mike Willbur who manages the Veterans Reintegration Program through the DVA. She will be giving a more in-depth presentation at the February meeting.

Bruce Maas wanted to remind the committee that the 2010 Census count is coming up. He wanted to stress how important the information is to get services in our community.

**Meeting adjourned at 1535.**

**Next meeting: February 10, 2010 at 1400.**