

Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
Clark County Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St, 6th Floor, Ste #679
Vancouver, Washington
July 14, 2010

Chair: Morris Giesler
Secretary: Robert Nichols

Vice Chair: Michael Gibson
Contract Service Officer: CRMHS

Meeting Called to order by Morris Giesler @ 1405

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

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
Kevin Lawson
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
Bill Romine
Jerry Keen

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Samantha Whitley, Pete Munroe

GUESTS

Jerry Keesee – 5th District; Pat Stryker and Mike Jajan – CRMHS; John Russell – Veterans Assistance Center; Roxeanne Boose – AL 176; Fran Tobias – SWVBRC

Meeting Minutes: Morris noticed an error in the meeting minutes. The minutes had Michael Gibson as the person calling the meeting to order. Steve Stetson motioned to approve the minutes as corrected from the meeting on June 9, 2010. Motion seconded by Lou Baste and passed.

Community Presentation: Morris reviewed Mike Willbur's transitional veteran's home funding report. Mike is looking for funds to furnish a home that will house veterans coming out of incarceration.

Veterans will be mentored, go to meetings and look for work. They can remain in the program for up to two years. Mike's request stated that the Veterans Incarcerated Project assisted 56 veterans in the second quarter of 2010, filing 26 disability and pension claims for \$365,000. Karla mentioned that Share owns the house and will pay for furnishings. Greg Whitson asked that the request remain open for the possibility of funding the program if a formal proposal is presented to the committee.

Committee Reports

Policies & Procedures: Morris informed the committee that Richard Langenbach can no longer chair this committee and asked for volunteers. No one volunteered so Morris will contact some members and speak to them after the meeting. He also mentioned that the policy changes approved at the May meeting have been approved by the Commissioners and started on June 29th.

Morris discussed the proposal to add Dental Service to the Policies and Procedures. The committee reviewed the proposal. A motion was made by Steve Stetson to accept the proposal, seconded by Sally Garcia. There was some discussion on how the services are scheduled and provided. Sam mentioned that the Free Clinic is always looking for volunteer dentists, if anyone knows of a dentist that would be willing to donate time, please have them contact her. She also mentioned that the Free Clinic has to get this approved through their Board. Sam will let the committee know as soon as that is finalized. Also, Sam informed the board that this would be a formal contract between the County and the Free Clinic. The committee voted and approved the proposal.

Appeals: Ray Saranto stated there were no appeals this month.

Case Management Report: Samantha Whitley distributed the case management report for June. She clarified that the first 12 veterans listed received their food vouchers in May, but have 15 days to spend them. CRMHS waits for Fred Meyer to process the paperwork before they pay for the vouchers. Sam mentioned that \$23,009 was spent in June and 35 veterans were denied assistance for various reasons. Mike mentioned that he is getting more children of older veterans looking for resources for their parents.

Old Business: Karla Bean distributed flyers, business cards and letters requesting donations for the Stand Down to the committee. The next meeting will be on July 19th at the Elks at 1800. She mentioned the need for volunteers and donations. They are down to 70 days before the Stand Down.

John Russell mentioned that he was pleasantly surprised with how well the meeting went with County staff regarding the Veteran's Assistance Center. He also mentioned that he had submitted a letter of resignation to the VAC committee, but there were not enough members present to accept the resignation. Since then, John has rescinded his resignation and will continue as chair. He also stated that the VAC belongs to the community; he will not claim ownership of the center.

New Business: Several items were discussed:

- Pete mentioned that the Stand Down that was scheduled for Delta Park in October has now been moved to November at the Memorial Coliseum.
- Jerry Keesee mentioned that the USS Ranger Museum Foundation announced that they will be moving to Chinook Landing in Troutdale.
- Karla mentioned that Pam Brokaw with PIC is at a conference in Atlanta and was able to get a

new grant for veterans.

- Steve Stetson received an email from a wife of a veteran on his second tour of duty in Iraq. She would like to remodel his garage and is looking for donations and volunteers. Please contact Steve if you are able to assist at [sstetson2@comcast.net](mailto:ssetson2@comcast.net).
- Roxeanne Boose mentioned that there is a new wing at the hospital and they are looking for \$4,000 to supply TV's for the patients.

Open Forum: Several events will be taking place this summer:

- Jerry Keesee circulated photos of the June 25th 60th Anniversary Day of Celebration of the first day of the Korean War.
- Steve Stetson mentioned the Honor Flight organization that provides free transportation to WWII veterans to visit the memorial in Washington, DC. Transportation is offered between April and September. To register, visit HonorFlight.org. More information will be posted on the Clark County website.
- John Russell mentioned that Rolling Thunder will ride from Fairfax, VA to Washington, DC Memorial Day weekend. They had 3-4,000 bikes participate.
- Morris Giesler mentioned a BBQ to serve 100 young marines, ages 8 to 18.
- Morris mentioned the Vancouver Road to Recovery received some funding to save the organization. He also mentioned that all members of their board are veterans. There are currently 100 veterans attending support groups for addiction.
- Sally Garcia mentioned that the Oregon National Guard, Clackamas Community College, WorkSource Oregon and many other organizations held a Yellow Ribbon event on June 26th. 90 businesses and 70 services were available for the 3,000 veterans that attended.
- Morris Giesler mentioned that the Portland VA Medical Center is having a conference on September 10th called "Be a Life Saver" regarding suicide prevention. Cost is \$20. Contact Victoria at 503-220-8262 ext 58382 for more information.

Meeting adjourned at 1505.

Next meeting: August 11, 2010 at 1400.