

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

Chair: Peggy Sheehan
Secretary: Robert Nichols

Vice Chair: Michael Gibson
Contract Service Officer: Mike Jajan

Meeting Called to order by Peggy Sheehan @ 14:02

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
Thomas Dombeck
Bruce Maas
Bill Allman
Nona Mallicoat
Gary Dowler
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

Lou Baste
Robert Hitchcock

Mark Woods
Jerry Keen

American Legion Service Officer **Mike Jajan**

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Pete Munroe, Samantha Whitley, Rebecca Royce

GUESTS

Jerry Vincent – AL 14, Gary Zeln – AL 176, Karla Bean, Jim Hoover – DVA, Pam Brokaw and Jessica – Partners in Careers, Sally Garcia – WorkSource, Richard Langenbach – AL 168, Elizabeth Ford – AL 44

Community Presentation: Jim Hoover with the Department of Veteran Affairs gave a brief presentation on the HUD-VASH program. This is a cooperative agreement to get homeless veterans into permanent housing using housing vouchers. There have been 10,000 new vouchers released nationwide with Portland and the Vancouver Housing Authority (VHA) each receiving 70. Requirements for the program include being homeless, a veteran, and an agreement by the veteran to receive case management. The VHA also requires the participant to be under income and cannot be a lifetime registered sex offender. Jim also explained that veterans can get referrals to resources at a walk-in clinic at the Vancouver VA campus in building 18 any weekday between 9am and 3pm.

Pam Brokaw with Partners In Careers (PIC) spoke to the committee about a new program they are starting for women veterans. PIC has been conducting job training and coaching for approximately 30 years and works with the public and other organizations to see what the needs are for the community. The new program, called The Veteran Women Program, will be hiring a veteran to work in partnership with other programs to help female veterans find new careers.

Sally Garcia gave a quick update on the Stand Down. Pete verified that the Board of County Commissioners and the County Administrator have approved the VRC to fund up to \$15,000.

Committee Reports: Committee members had not gotten any feedback on the Strategic Task Force and Organizational Work Group proposals from their posts at this time and discussions have been moved to the next meeting.

Meeting Minutes: Tom Dombek motioned to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2009 meeting. Motion seconded and passed.

New Business: Peggy asked for volunteers for a small subcommittee to give some input on an upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new contract for the Veterans Service Officer position at the County, the current contract will end December 31, 2009. The group will work with the County to provide the goals the VRC is looking for in a service officer contract. Volunteers include: Ray Saranto, Mike Gibson and Bob Nichols.

Service Officer's Report: Mike Jajan presented the Service Officer's report for June with expenses of \$7,666.28. He explained that this amount includes paying for five months of bus passes from February through June. Mike also mentioned that food assistance requests were up and rent assistance was down. Now that the new policies are being used, July's expenses are much higher, approximately \$8,000 so far this month. He explained that the ability to help pay move-in fees and the increase in paying for utilities have been very helpful for the veterans. Mike mentioned a "cap" on the amount of funds available each month and Pete explained that there is not a "cap", but that the American Legion received a \$30,000 advance at the start of the contract and the County reimburses them each month to keep that amount available to provide assistance to those veterans that qualify.

Share Caseworker's Report: Pete Munroe reviewed Share's May report. There are four veterans remaining in the program. He also gave an overview on the follow up report received from Share on the veterans that have graduated the program. Several remain in stable housing while some cannot be reached for follow up.

Old Business: Peggy requested a brief update and explanation of the funding issue between the County and the American Legion regarding the service officer position. Pete explained that a previous service officer paid for assistance for several veterans without the proper paperwork to verify they qualified for the assistance. The County has asked the American Legion to reimburse the Veterans Relief Fund for approximately \$116,000 for these errors. The County attorney is currently talking with the American Legion regarding their Fidelity Bond.

Mike Gibson discussed the SW Washington Reintegration Summit that was held on June 17th. The VRC previously approved funding up to \$1,000 to help pay for the event and the total came to \$880. They had a good turn out, with 82 people in attendance. The Summit provided time for networking along with discussions on employment, health and family services for veterans. They are planning to do another summit in approximately six months.

Good of the Order: Pete mentioned that a new parking lot is under construction on the south side of the VA complex with plans for a new building next to the Canteen in the fall. The new building is believed to have outpatient care including dental and ophthalmology along with office space.

Mike Jajan found out he and his wife are expecting their first child. Congratulations Mike.

Dan Tarbell mentioned that a Celebrate Freedom Festival is being planned at the Fort for September 19th. This event is being organized by several organizations including the City of Vancouver, Vancouver/Clark County Parks and Recreations, Veterans Affairs and 40 et 8 among others. Program events include a free breakfast, a farewell ceremony honoring the 104th, drill competitions and an F18 flyover.

A reminder that there is a dedication of a monument next to Lady Bell helicopter on the VA campus scheduled for September 18th. This is also POW MIA day.

Meeting adjourned at 15:06.

Next meeting: August 12, 2009 at 14:00.