

Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
40 et 8 Chateau
7607 NE 26th Avenue
Vancouver, Washington
June 10, 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 #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
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

Eric Pavlis

American Legion Service Officer **Mike Jajan**

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Pete Munroe, Samantha Whitley, Rebecca Royce

GUESTS

John Russell – MCL 826, Morris Giesler – AL 14, Rich Axtell – VFW 1927, Jerry Vincent – AL 14, Ron Brandon; Katherine Garrett, Share

Community Presentation: Katherine Garrett with Share gave a brief presentation on the Street Outreach program. She also discussed the amount of veterans that are seen coming into the Share House downtown. So far this year, they have seen 106 homeless veterans. In 2008 they served 212 veterans and in 2007 there were 271 veterans. Katherine gave out the Outreach phone number, 859-3631, for those that know a veteran in need. She went on to mention that they have a benefits specialist at the outreach portables and a mobile van comes by two times each month to help with services.

John Russell gave an update on the Stand Down that is scheduled for Monday, September 21st at Pearson Air Museum. He handed out a sample donation request letter and a timeline for the Stand Down. So far, the Stand Down committee has raised \$2,200 in donations. The Stand Down Committee will be meeting twice a month, on the second and fourth Mondays at the Elks on McGillivray.

Morris Giesler also discussed the Stand Down. He asked for as many volunteers as possible, handed out a proposed Partnership Agreement and informed the VRC that they would need \$5,000 up front for the facility, food and other services for the Stand Down.

Meeting Minutes: Bill Romine motioned to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2009 meeting. Motion seconded by Michael Gibson and passed.

Old Business: Pete mentioned that he has spoken to the County Attorney and the Stand Down may not be an eligible expense under the current County Code. Pete said that he is waiting for a decision from County Administrator Bill Barron.

New Business: Morris Giesler gave a presentation on the Veterans Center. He is working with several agencies to provide volunteer services for veterans. He is currently trying to get permission to use the barracks at Fort Vancouver as the site of the Center. Morris hopes to have a service officer on site, a chapel with chaplain for Sunday services, referral services and drop in services including coffee and soup.

Committee Reports: Peggy Sheehan distributed a handout with recommendations from the Strategic Task Force subcommittee for the board to review. She would like to discuss the options and make recommendations at the July meeting. Peggy suggests prioritizing the options and choosing the top one or two options.

Ray Saranto also distributed a handout from the Strategic Organizational Actions subcommittee for review and recommendations at the July meeting.

Post Reports: Dan Tarbell gave a presentation for post 40 et 8 discussing how involved the post is in the community. He mentioned that there are 45 organizations that the post contributes to, including programs such as nursing scholarships and youth sports. Volunteers coordinate bingo at the VA complex for the hospice patients two times a month. The post also pays for cable and supplies quilts for veterans at the VA campus. The post supports the Veterans Service Officer, donated \$1,000 to the Stand Down, supplies walkers and wheelchairs to veterans in need, and also organizes an annual Memorial Day celebration and Veterans Day Parade.

Service Officer's Report: Mike Jajan presented the Service Officer's report for May with expenses of \$6,114.26. He explained that the fund was able to assist 24 veterans including nine with rent assistance. Mike noted that the veterans are starting to bring in the correct information needed to complete their application.

Share Caseworker's Report: Pete Munroe reviewed Share's April report. There are five veterans remaining in the program. He will discuss the status of graduated veterans the July meeting.

Policies and Procedures: A subcommittee reviewed the current version of the Policies and Procedures and recommendations were made to simplify the process for veterans to receive assistance. Samantha Whitley put together a memo with the recommended changes. Peggy discussed these recommendations that included sections on rent, utilities, food assistance, transportation, prescription assistance, burial assistance and other assistance. It was recommended that the Consumer Price Index, Clark County Roles and Responsibilities and Services Through Contracted Agencies sections be removed. Cooperation between the County and the Veterans Service Officer concerning the application process was added to the Screening section.

There was discussion about the amount for prescription assistance and the committee recommended a limit of \$700 rather than \$650. As noted on the memo, this assistance has never exceeded the original amount of \$679. After some discussion, Mark Woods motioned to accept the changes, as proposed. This was seconded by Mike Gibson. A unanimous vote by post approved the changes. These will need to be approved by the Commissioners before being implemented.

Good of the Order: Jerry Keesee congratulated Dan Tarbell and post 40 et 8 for a job well done on their Memorial Day celebration. The combined efforts with Larry Smith and the City of Vancouver made for an exceptional gathering.

Mike Gibson mentioned that there will be a Veterans Summit on Wednesday, June 17th. It is designed to help veterans in the community especially since many vets will be returning home in July. All veterans are welcome to attend the meeting at Clark College in Gaiser Hall. The meeting will start at 8:30am.

Meeting adjourned at 15:30.

Next meeting: July 8, 2009 at 14:00.