

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

Chair: Peggy Sheehan
Secretary: Robert Nichols

Vice Chair: Michael Gibson
Contract Service Officer: Mike Jajan

Meeting Called to order by Peggy Sheehan @ 14:00

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

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 Hitchcock	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

Don McSpirit AL 14, Lee Phillips AL 14, John Russell Marine Corps 826, Randy Hahn DAV 4, Walt Smit AL 14, Sherril Smit AL 14, Dixie Hotaling AL 14, Mary Huston AL 14, Morris Giesler AL 14, Jerry Vincent AL 14, Sam Grooms AL 14, Carla Whitson, GK "Gib" Ridout AL 14, Rich Axtell VFW 1927, Rich Langenbach AL 168, Sally Garcia, Lynn Morett AL 14, Dale Davis AL, Mike Rhodes AL, Bob Wallace AL, Russ Always AL 14, Bob Connolly AL 122, Mike Willbur WDVA, Donald Lachman

Consultant

Meeting Minutes: There was a motion to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2009 meeting. Motion seconded and passed.

New Business: Randy Hahn is the chairman of the Dept of Washington VFW Homeless Veterans and the Clark County Stand Down Committee. He discussed putting on a Stand Down in Clark County similar to the one done in Cowlitz County. He handed out a sample flyer and the budget used at Cowlitz last year. He would like the VRC to endorse the Stand Down in Clark County with a target date of October. The Stand Down Committee meets at the Elks Club on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30pm. The committee is made up of veterans and auxiliaries and all are welcome to come.

Strategic Planning: Donald Lachman gave an update to last month's meeting. He discussed the priorities voted on and divided them into two categories: Community Work and Organizational Actions. A small group of members have been working together on organizing these goals.

The top four priorities under Community Work include:

- Promote collaborations to maximize or secure new resources benefiting Clark County's Veterans or secure new resources benefiting Clark County's Veterans
- Increase the CCVRC and community's knowledge of our returning veterans as well as the supporting services, benefits and programs
- Advancing the development and implementation of practices that have been demonstrated to increase a veteran's access to services, benefits and providers
- Advance the Veteran's Service Organizations and Share contracts

The top three priorities listed under Organizational Actions are:

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

Post Reports: Ray Saranto of VFW #12028 gave a short discussion on what his post has been working on. All members are service officers working with veterans that need assistance in their area (North County/Amboy).

Bill Romine of American Legion 168 also gave a discussion on his post. Post #168 works closely with the VFW #12028 on their assistance to veterans. Post #168 also puts together food baskets, has a Christmas Tree Lighting, and conducts an annual Memorial Day Celebration.

Service Officers Report: Mike Jajan gave a description of his duties and discussed the Service Officers report for both January and February. \$2,863.66 was spent in January and \$5,858.29 in February. Mike mentioned that he would like the committee to consider revising the policies to pay for utilities to be turned back on when they have been shut off and move-in fees for getting into a new apartment above and beyond rent assistance if being evicted.

Share Caseworker's Report: Pete Munroe reviewed Share's January report. Seventeen veterans received subsidies during that time period. Pete also discussed the graduate follow up assessment for those veterans that have graduated 6 months, 12 months and 18 months ago.

Community Presentation: Mike Willbur gave a short presentation on the Veteran's Incarceration Program (VIP). This program is less than a year old that gives services to veterans and their families if the veteran is incarcerated for more than 60 days. A portion of the program works to keep veterans out of jail by working with the prosecuting and defense attorneys. The VIP program saved Clark County and the jail system \$42,979 last year. The recidivism rate for the VIP Program in Clark County is 6%, which equals one person that went back into the system.

Old Business: Rich Axtell discussed the Hire-A-Vet Event that will be held in June through WorkSource. He is asking the VRC to encourage any veterans they know that need employment to attend. The event will be held on June 13th from 10am to 1pm at WorkSource, 5411 E Mill Plain Blvd. Veterans should bring their resume and be prepared for an interview.

Richard Langenbach discussed the contract that the American Legion has with Clark County for the Service Officer. There has been some confusion about the duties the Service Officer is allowed to do. The contract specifies that the Service Officer can determine if a veteran qualifies for services that the VRC has approved and also can refer them to other agencies that might be able to provide service.

Good of the Order: Bruce Maas mentioned that PGE Park and the Portland Beavers will have their annual Military Appreciation Night on May 23rd at 7pm.

Dixie Hotaling gave a brief presentation on her organization called Healing on the Homefront. They meet at 40 et 8 on the first Saturday of every month from 10am to 12pm. They conduct family workshops for the entire family of a veteran. Families are offered services if needed for separation, loss, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 15:38.

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