

**Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee**  
**40 et 8 Chateau**  
**7607 NE 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Vancouver, Washington**  
**October 14, 2009**

**Chair: Peggy Sheehan**  
**Secretary: Robert Nichols**

**Vice Chair: Michael Gibson**  
**Contract Service Officer: Mike Jajan**

**Meeting Called to order by Peggy Sheehan @ 1403**

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

**POST**

40 et 8  
American Legion 5<sup>th</sup> 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**  
  
Bruce Maas  
Bill Allman  
Lou Baste  
**Stephen Stetson**  
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  
  
**Ron Brandon**  
Robert Hitchcock  
  
Mark Woods  
**Jerry Keen**

American Legion Service Officer **Mike Jajan**

**CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

**Pete Munroe, Rebecca Royce, Bryce Baillie**

**GUESTS**

**Karla Bean, Morris Giesler – 40 et 8, Richard Langenbach, Jan Wojciechowski – 40 et 8, Sally Garcia – WorkSource, Jim Just – DVA, Jim Hoover – DVA, Bob Goodson - DVA**

**Meeting Minutes:** Greg Whitson motioned to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2009 meeting. Motion seconded by Mike Gibson and passed after notation that POW Day, as mentioned in the Good of the Order, is actually known as POW/MIA Day. Septembers minutes have been updated to show this change.

**Community Presentation:** Bob Goodson and Jim Just from the Dept of Veterans Affairs presented information on the Single Room Occupancy (SRO) building on the Vancouver VA Campus. Bob is the manager of the building and gave some background information on the housing. He mentioned that it was originally built as transitional housing, but there is no maximum length of stay mandated. There are approximately 123 units divided between several agencies for use. Veterans have 70 units available. The criteria to be accepted into the housing program includes a veteran in good standing, must accept case management services, must be clean and sober for at least 45 days, cannot have a felony conviction and cannot have a property debt over \$1,000. To see if a veteran is eligible, contact Martin Landsberg at 360-696-4061 ext 33984. Cost to live at the complex is 29% of veterans' income. The dorm like housing costs \$315 to \$335 per month depending on the type of unit. All units are designed for one person occupancy.

Jim Hoover with the Dept of Veterans Affairs discussed the HUD-VASH vouchers. The Vancouver Housing Authority (VHA) has received 70 vouchers designated for Clark County veterans. This supportive housing opportunity is designed to get homeless veterans into housing. The VHA must rule out any veteran that is over-income for the program or who is a convicted sex offender. There have been approximately 30 veterans that have applied for the vouchers and are in the process of getting approved. This process takes about two weeks. To see if a veteran is eligible, have them see Martin Landsberg in Building 18 on the VA Campus on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Morris Giesler gave a report on the Stand Down event that occurred September 21<sup>st</sup>. Over 118 volunteers helped make the event a success with 152 people registered at the event, 98% being veterans. Others were given referrals for services. It is believed that many participants did not fill out the registration form. Of those that registered, 78 currently receive some form of VA benefit and 57 are homeless. Services received by participants included dental, application for VA benefits, housing assistance, homelessness assistance, employment, legal and transportation assistance. There were 25 organizations represented at the event including chaplains, barbers, WorkSource, service officers, Salvation Army, Share, Council for the Homeless and the Dept of Veterans Affairs. Participants in the event also had the opportunity to get donated items in the Stand Down Store such as clothing, blankets and hygiene materials. Rib City Grill provided hot food for the participants and volunteers with leftovers going to the Share House.

Morris also mentioned that there were donated items that were not distributed at the event and he was looking into a storage facility where veterans could access them throughout the year rather than just at special events.

### **Committee Reports**

**Nominations:** The following nominations have been accepted. Nominations will be accepted at the November meeting and voting will take place at the December meeting.

- Chair: Morris Giesler – 40 et 8
- Vice Chair: Mike Gibson – AL #176
- Secretary: Bob Nichols – AL #168

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

**Service Officer's Report:** Mike Jajan presented the Service Officer's report for September with expenses of \$17,259. Mike mentioned having Dale Mogis from the American Legion come into his office to help streamline the process and have his office work more efficiently. He also mentioned that he is working with Winco and the St Johns's IGA stores on gift card and voucher programs for the food program. Mike explained that some veterans have not been able to use the checks from the AL because the participants had been put on a list for writing bad checks.

**Share Caseworker's Report:** Pete Munroe reviewed Share's August report. There were three veterans in the program. Two participants have applied for HUD-VASH vouchers. The third participant will be moving into public senior housing.

**Old Business:** Bryce Baillie with Clark County discussed the options of releasing a Request for Proposal (RFP) or having the County hire the position directly. Bryce distributed a spreadsheet comparing the costs between a nonprofit organization, the County and the costs the American Legion are projected to spend this year. Due to an increase in the services provided, the contract for 2010 will include case management services beyond what is being given at this time. According to Bryce's estimates, the costs to have either a nonprofit or the County perform the services are similar. After some discussion, Greg Whitson motioned to have the RFP released for nonprofit organizations to submit applications. Motion was seconded and an official vote was called and passed. Pete mentioned that the RFP will be released next week with application reviews and selection completed before the end of the year. A copy of the RFP will be distributed to all posts.

**New Business:** Peggy mentioned that the next VRC meeting is set for November 11<sup>th</sup> which is Veterans Day. After some discussion, Steve Stetson motioned to move the November meeting to Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Motion seconded and passed.

**Good of the Order:** Sally Garcia mentioned that WorkSource is having its annual Veterans Hiring Event on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. The event is open to veterans only from 0900 to 1000, then opened to the public for the rest of the event. She mentioned to refer any veterans to the event and requested any businesses that are hiring to participate also.

Mike Gibson mentioned that many veterans that are supposed to receive the new GI Bill funding have not received it yet. There are approximately 277,000 claims being processed. If you know of a veteran that has not received these benefits yet, please send them to the Federal Building in downtown Portland at 1220 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

**Meeting adjourned at 1514.**

**Next meeting: November 4, 2009 at 1400.**