

**Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee**  
**Clark County Public Service Center**  
**1300 Franklin St, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ste #679**  
**Vancouver, Washington**  
**September 28, 2011**

**Chair: Morris Giesler**  
**Secretary: Michael Gibson**

**Vice Chair: Robert Nichols**  
**Contract Service Officer: CRMHS**

**Meeting Called to order by Morris Giesler @ 1403**

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

**POST**

40 et 8  
American Legion #14  
American Legion #27  
American Legion #44  
American Legion #168  
American Legion #176  
American Legion #208  
American Veterans #6  
DAV Chapter #4  
Marine Corps League #826  
VFW #7824  
VFW #12028  
Vietnam Vets #512

**PRIMARY**

**Morris Giesler**  
Jerry Keesee  
Elisa Cotton  
Darren Wertz  
Robert Nichols  
**Michael Gibson**  
**George Hunt**  
**Richard Alvarez**  
**Bruce Maas**  
**Lou Baste**  
**Roy Billings**  
**Ray Saranto**  
Greg Whitson

**SECONDARY**

Jan Wojciechowski  
**Peggy Sheehan**  
Rodney Stallard  
Bo Russell  
Mark Woods  
**Philip Yasson**  
Bob Blevins  
Richard Gabriel  
Michael Riley  
Ron Brandon  
Richard Alvarez  
Skip Bengé  
Jerry Keen

**Members at Large**

**Thomas Dombeck**  
**Kevin Lawson**  
**Emily Stoutsenberger**

**CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

**Samantha Whitley, Rebecca Royce, Pete Munroe**

**GUESTS**

**Roberta Giesler; Leah Nelson; Marlin Brinkley – AARP; Vince Meyers – VFW #12028**

**Meeting Minutes:** Phillip Yasson motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on August 24, 2011. Motion seconded by Thomas Dombeck and passed.

**Community Presentation**

Marlin Brinkley with AARP talked to the committee about hosting Safe Drivers Training Courses at any posts that would be interested. This is a nationwide program that he has been teaching in the Spokane area for the last several years. Any person that attends the training gets a certificate to show their auto insurance company and will get a discount, although the discount varies by insurance carrier. The class is

usually \$12 for AARP members, \$14 for non-members. In the month of November, the AARP would like to host trainings for free for any veteran and their spouse. Class size is limited to 25 people and is eight hours long, split between two days. If your post is interested in hosting a closed training for your members only, please contact Marlin at [marlin.brinkley@gmail.com](mailto:marlin.brinkley@gmail.com). [Editor's note: The County will be hosting trainings for veterans on November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>].

### **Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** Ray Saranto informed the group that there was one appeal and it was denied.

**Nominations:** Bruce Maas reported that there have been no nominations submitted. The By-laws state that elections are to be held in December.

**Contractor Reports:** Samantha Whitley distributed several reports for August. CRMHS served 121 veterans for a total of just over \$29,517. The packet also included a list of denials, outreach and the case management report.

Sam reported that the VAC served 45 veterans in August with 688 hours volunteered to the center. She mentioned that the Stand Down Committee will give a presentation in October.

Sam also handed out the Free Clinic Dental Services report. Seven veterans received services for a total of \$2,800. The total billed to the VAF for August was \$1,100.

Finally, Sam mentioned that the fund balance is \$790,555 through August. The County has not received any bills for the Stand Down at this time. The next allocation of property taxes will be in October.

**Budget:** Morris distributed a proposed funding memo for 2012. The Budget Committee met in August and discussed what programs they could help. The memo includes existing programs and new programs for veterans. The committee first reviewed each of the new programs that are requesting funds. Partners in Careers asked for funding for their Veteran Women Program. Emily Stoutsenberger recused herself from the vote as she works for Partners in Careers. Roy Billings motioned to fund the program for \$24,900 as stated in the memo, seconded by Bruce Maas. There was brief discussion on the program before it was approved by the committee.

The other new program is the Veterans Incarcerated Project. Peggy Sheehan motioned to fund the program for \$24,900, seconded by Ray Saranto. There was discussion on the program and it was approved.

Roy Billings then motioned to accept the three existing programs, CRMHS Veterans Case Management program, VAC and the Free Clinic Dental Program. CRMHS will be funded at \$450,000; this amount will reduce their staff back down to 1.5 FTE. The Veterans Assistance Center will be funded at the same amount as last year, \$24,900. The Dental Program will be funded at \$30,000, a slight reduction from 2011. The motion was seconded by Lou Baste and approved.

**Old Business:** Morris asked the committee for final discussion and vote on moving the VRC meetings to a new location. Samantha informed the committee that the counties prosecuting attorney did not believe there was any actual conflict of interest holding the meetings at PICs offices, however there is the appearance of a conflict of interest. Emily mentioned that she would have to get approval from Pam

Brokaw, the executive director of PIC, since there could potentially be an issue with meeting at their office and receiving funding from the VAF. There was discussion on moving to other locations. Mike Gibson motioned to keep the meetings in the Training Room at the PSC, seconded by Phillip Yasson and approved. The room is not available the second Wednesday in October. The committee agreed to postpone the meeting date change from October to November. The next meeting will be held on the fourth Wednesday of October and then the second Wednesday of November.

**New Business:**

- ◆ Samantha mentioned that the 2012 Letter of Appointments will be mailed to each post next week. The County will also email the form to all committee members. LOAs are due to Rebecca's attention by October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- ◆ Tom Dombeck asked the committee for any resources to help a veteran that is living in a travel trailer in Ridgefield. He has to move his trailer to another location that has electricity and waste disposal. Morris recommended speaking to CMAC for assistance, the VAC or any of the posts.

**Open Forum:**

- ◆ Leah Nelson asked the committee for assistance from the committee. Her husband is an Afghan veteran with PTSD and TBI. He is usually able to work, but has not been able to lately. They went to the VRF, but they do not qualify as they are over income. Emily recommended Leah speak with her after the meeting for some resources. Leah also asked the VRC to review their policies and procedures for eligibility as she found it to be confusing. Morris said that he would take the feedback to the Policies and Procedures Committee.
- ◆ Samantha mentioned that there is a fundraiser tonight for the Veterans Therapeutic Court sponsored by the Friends of the Carpenter. The event costs \$10.

**Meeting adjourned at 1537 hours.**

**Next meeting: October 26, 2011 at 1400 hours.**