

Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
40 et 8 Chateau
7607 NE 26th Avenue
Vancouver, Washington
May 13, 2009

Chair: Peggy Sheehan
Secretary: Robert Nichols

Vice Chair: Michael Gibson
Contract Service Officer: Mike Jajan

Meeting Called to order by Peggy Sheehan @ 14:07

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, Bryce Baillie

GUESTS

John Russell – MCL 826, Morris Giesler – AL 14, Richard Langenbach – AL, Carla Jo Whitson – VVA 512, Sally Garcia – WorkSource Vancouver, Rich Axtell – VFW 1927, Scott Lambie – VFW 12011, Ron Brandon – MCL 826

Community Presentation: Sally Garcia and Rich Axtell explained the program they run for veterans through WorkSource. They provide several services including help with job searches, referrals and also coordinate getting veterans into the vocational rehabilitation program, a federally funded training program. Their main goal is to get veterans employed. They also help veterans get in contact with the appropriate agencies to get other benefits they may qualify for as veterans. Rich and Sally stressed that WorkSource is an employment program, not the unemployment office and there is a section for veterans on their website at www.Go2WorkSource.com. They also reminded the committee that there is a hiring event on Saturday, June 13th.

John Russell gave an update on the Stand Down that is scheduled for Monday, September 21st at Pearson Air Museum. He handed out the projected budget the Stand Down Committee put together. They are projecting approximately 300 veterans to come to the event looking for services. The total budget is \$17,000. The committee is looking to get grants from the US Dept of Labor and the Portland VAMC. The budget also includes a goal of \$2,000 in donations, with \$900 already received, and \$5,000 from the Veterans Service Fund.

John requested the VRC provide the total \$17,000 as an umbrella for the Stand Down with less funding likely to be needed as other donations and grants are received later. Rich Axtell, after putting the budget together, believes the Stand Down will need a donation from the VSF of a minimum of \$5,000. There was much discussion on this request including feasibility and the actual amount needed. The Stand Down Committee was requested to send out a formal request for donations to all the posts in Clark County to reduce the funds needed from the VSF. Peggy Sheehan informed the committee that the VRC's by-laws do not allow a check to be given before a service is performed. The funds are reimbursed and would require a contract with another sponsoring organization that would pay for the services, then submit an invoice to the County for reimbursement for funds that are used for direct services to the veteran.

Greg Whitson made a motion to approve the \$17,000 request for the Stand Down. Mark Woods clarified the motion that the VSF would provide *up to* \$17,000. The motion was seconded and approved.

Meeting Minutes: Bob Nichols motioned to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2009 meeting. Motion seconded and passed.

Committee Reports: Peggy briefly talked about the Committee Reports that the sub-committees have been working on. A full report will be given in June. The Memorandum of Understanding is under review and will be brought to the VRC in the future.

Post Reports: John Russell gave a brief report on the Marine Corps League. They are currently changing officers. Some of the programs they offer include working with veterans who have lost a limb. Ron Brandon helps house marines that are homeless and the post chaplain does outreach. Jerry Keese mentioned a Massing of the Colors Ceremony on May 24th. All posts and veteran organizations are invited. The proceedings will begin at 11:00 at the Vancouver VA Center. Ron Brandon also informed the committee that they go to the Discovery Nursing Home luncheon at the VA center in building D7 on the 3rd Floor each month.

Bruce Maas discussed post DAV #4. They are a small post that is trying to get their membership built back up. They have been in Vancouver for 75 years. They have been doing several services for disabled veterans at the VA center and other locations around the community. The DAV also provides a program specifically for kids to do crafts for veterans.

Service Officer's Report: Bob Nichols attended a meeting yesterday for training for the VSO. He proposes a sub-committee be put together to look at the Policies and Procedures to make things easier for the VSO and get more services to the veterans. Interested members include: Mark Woods, Bill Romine, Mike Gibson, Bob Nichols, Ron Brandon, Greg Whitson, John Russell, Samantha Whitley and Bryce Baillie.

Mike Jajan discussed the Service Officer's report for April including the expenses of \$2,911.56. He explained where the funds were being issued and requested the VRC look into ways to provide more services to the veterans. Many of the veterans that were denied services in April were due to income and residency requirements.

Share Caseworker's Report: Pete Munroe reviewed Share's March report. There are seven veterans remaining in the program.

Old Business: Richard Langenbach discussed the situation with the American Legion and funds that are owed back to the VRF from payments to veterans without backup documentation showing eligibility. The American Legion decided to cancel the contract with the County, but after talking with Commissioner Mielke, they have decided to keep the contract in place with some minor changes until the end of the year. Richard Langenbach requested the VRC write a letter to the Clark County Commissioners to ask that the American Legion be forgiven some or all of the debt, which is approximately \$120,000. Richard Langenbach stressed that the funds in question were not used in fraud, they were given to veterans. Richard Langenbach, a non-member of the VRC, made a motion to have the letter written on behalf of the committee. The motion was seconded, but before approval, there were several questions and discussion ensued. When put to vote, there were several ayes and nays. A hand vote was requested by members only. After the re-vote of 7 to 4, the motion was denied.

New Business: Carla Jo put together a training manual for the VSO position to be added in conjunction with the Policies and Procedures.

Good of the Order: VFW Post 12028 and AL 168 worked together on a community project putting up flag poles in Amboy at Territorial Park. There will be a ceremony dedicating them with key note speakers including Commissioner Mielke on Memorial Day starting at 10:30.

Richard Langenbach informed the committee that there will be a new cemetery dedicated to veterans on Memorial Day to be ready for use in 2010.

Bruce Maas let the committee know that WWII veteran Adare Hiligau passed away in March.

Dan Tarbell invited the committee to attend a Memorial Day service to honor the Shields family at the

Fort Vancouver barracks.

Bob Nichols informed the committee that there will be a ceremony to honor vets on the 4th of July at Territorial Park in Amboy.

Carla Jo gave a brief update on the CHEC Program through HGAP funding. She asked if the members knew of any landlords that would be interested in helping the program with housing or if the members know of any veterans that are looking for housing. Veterans can be referred to a weekly meeting on Wednesdays at the Wellness Project on 39th and Main.

Meeting adjourned at 15:55.

Next meeting: June 10, 2009 at 14:00.