

**Clark County Veterans Advisory Board**  
*An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Commissioners*

**Clark County Public Service Center**  
**1300 Franklin Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room #680**  
**Vancouver, Washington**  
**December 11, 2014**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Chair: Greg Whitson**

**Vice Chair: Bob Nichols**

**Secretary: Mike Gibson**

**Meeting Called to order by Greg Whitson @ 1405 hours**

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

**POST**

40 et 8  
American Legion #14  
American Legion #168  
American Legion #176  
American Veterans #6  
DAV Chapter #4  
Korean War Vet Assoc. #321  
Marine Corps League #826  
VFW #4278  
VFW #7824  
VFW #12028  
Vietnam Vets #512

**PRIMARY**

Sam Grooms  
**Dixie Hotaling**  
**Robert Nichols**  
**Michael Gibson**  
Richard Alvarez  
**Frank Hyatt**  
Thomas Dombek  
**Lou Basté**  
John Raynor  
Roy Billings  
**Skip Benge**  
**Greg Whitson**

**ALTERNATE**

James Resleff  
Richard Langenbach  
**Jonathan Frederick**  
Benjamin Long  
**Thomas Kula**  
Robert Sumrill  
Ron Brandon  
Steve Stetson  
**Bruce Maas**  
  
**Joseph Fettig**

**Members at Large**

Kevin Lawson

**CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

**Rebecca Royce**

**GUESTS**

Judy Russell and Michael Langsdorf – Clark County Veterans Assistance Center; Linda O’Leary – Citizen; Larry Good – SW Surplus; Bill Elliott – WA State Guard

**October 9, 2014, and November 13, 2014, Meeting Minutes**

Bob Nichols moved to approve the October and the November minutes as written; Frank Hyatt seconded. Motion passed.

**Election of 2015 VAB Officers**

Bruce Maas announced the nominations received for each position which included Bob Nichols and Bruce Maas for Chair and Sam Grooms for Vice Chair. There were no nominations for Secretary. Greg Whitson called for nominations for each position. Thomas Kulas was nominated for Vice Chair and Mike Gibson was nominated for Secretary. Bruce Maas, Thomas Kula, and Mike Gibson were elected based on a majority show of hands.

## **Washington State Guard Presentation**

Larry Good and Bill Elliott introduced the reinstatement of an all-volunteer Washington State Guard in Clark County. There has not been an active branch in this area for nearly 70 years. The Guard will work collaboratively with CRESA to serve the County as hometown civil defense in emergencies. The Guard is recruiting prior service veterans, for civilian and executive officer positions. They are also seeking space and resources for training. Larry asked the Board to inform their posts and contact him with any questions.

## **Clark County Five-Year Consolidated Plan Goals**

Rebecca Royce shared Clark County's Draft Five-Year Consolidated Plan. She provided information about affordable housing and homelessness along with the types of services eligible for Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships program funding. Clark County's goals include Affordable Housing Development and Preservation, Community and Neighborhood Sustainability, and the Alleviation of Homelessness. Public input is sought through a survey available at [www.clark.wa.gov/cdbg](http://www.clark.wa.gov/cdbg), or through e-mail to Rebecca.Royce@Clark.WA.Gov.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Appeals**

Mike Gibson informed the Board that there were four appeals in November. Three appeals were for gas vouchers and were approved. One appeal was denied since the appellant has not been a resident of Clark County for at least one year.

### **Policies and Procedures**

Dixie Hotaling indicated research is being conducted to change policies for elected officers to serve two-year terms. [Editor's Note: Changes to terms for elected officers requires a change to the Veterans Advisory Board By-laws.]

## **October Contractor Reports & County Fund Report**

The Veterans Assistance Fund served 102 veterans in October for a total cost of \$30,680.17. Food was the primary request, followed by requests for assistance with transportation, rent, utilities, and work-related items. There were 13 denials for assistance with nine appeals. Four of the appeals were approved and two were withdrawn. Seven of the requests were related to transportation.

The Veterans Assistance Center (VAC) assisted 131 veterans and the Veterans Assistance Fund served 165 veterans. The American Legion Officer served four veterans and the DAV Officer served 19. The VAC provided 402.25 volunteer hours and 39.25 community outreach hours.

The Free Clinic helped five veterans with dental services including six extractions, one filling, and one total restoration. In January, the Clinic will have the ability to provide full upper dentures and upper partials through a partnership with New Day Community Dental.

The Veterans Assistance Fund increased \$137,657.65 due to October tax revenues. The Fund balance is currently \$469,477.

## **Old Business**

Only about half of the 2015 LOIs have been returned. Posts that do not return these will lose voting privileges starting in January. Also, an individual must be their post's primary member to serve as an elected officer on the Veterans Advisory Board.

## **New Business**

Joe Fettig invited the public to a Town Hall Talk on February 18, 2015, at the Reserve Center. This talk will discuss the effects of Agent Orange, Gulf War Syndrome, and Nerve Gasses on future generations.

A Veterans' Appreciation Ball is scheduled for February 7, 2015. This event is sponsored by SW WA Surplus, Shanahan's Pub and the American Legion Post #14. Please register at [www.swwsurplus.com/goto/veterans\\_ball](http://www.swwsurplus.com/goto/veterans_ball).

### **Open Forum**

Rebecca disclosed that an organization in Olympia is selling minutes of nonprofit organizations. Minutes are available for free by request, and do not need to be purchased.

Judy Russell provided an update regarding the VAC. The building to which they had anticipated moving is no longer available. The VAC has been working with the landlord of the current location. It is expected the upstairs tenant will be moving in by the end of March, providing an additional 1600 square feet for the VAC. The landlord is willing to remodel both spaces, and states the VAC should be able to rent within the budget amount previously approved by the Board.

Bruce mentioned that all posts are accepting donations to veterans programs.

Bruce attended a town hall style meeting regarding healthcare at the Portland VA Medical campus. He said it was very informative and recommended the Board review the information on their website.

Bruce informed the Board that the Washington State legislature begins meeting in January. See the WDVA website for agenda items being presented.

Bruce mentioned that CVTV should be able to provide statistics regarding the number of people watching Veterans Board meetings to determine outside interest. He requested County staff inquire for next month's meeting.

Bruce thanked Bob and Greg for their service on the VAB for the last year.

Mike Gibson informed the board that the Oregon Military Support Network has a listserv regarding veterans in need. The group meets every second Thursday at noon at the 40 et 8. This is a great networking event. Pete Wall, founder of Tools for Troops, was the guest speaker in December. His nonprofit collects tools and then allows veterans to borrow them as needed.

### **Adjournment**

**Meeting adjourned at 1532 hours.**

**Next meeting: January 8, 2015, at 1400 hours, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.**