

**Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
*An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors*  
**July 9, 2015**

1300 Franklin Street, Room #680  
Vancouver, Washington

**Chair: Bruce Maas**

**Vice Chair: Thomas Kula**

**Secretary: Mike Gibson**

**Meeting called to order by Bruce Maas**

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

**POST**

40 et 8  
American Legion #14  
American Legion #27  
American Legion #168  
American Legion #176  
American Veterans #6  
DAV Chapter #4  
Korean War Assoc. #321  
Marine Corps League #826  
VFW #4278  
VFW #7824  
VFW # 12028  
Vietnam Vets #512  
Members at Large

**PRIMARY**

Sam Grooms  
**Dixie Hotaling**  
Elisa Cotton  
**Robert Nichols**  
**Michael Gibson**  
Bubba Conway  
**Thomas Kula**  
**George Raynor**  
**Lou Basté**  
**John Raynor**  
**Bruce Maas**  
**Skip Bengé**  
Greg Whitson  
Kevin Lawson  
Candis Oliver

**ALTERNATE**

**Steve Slegers**  
Dean Collins  
Shawn O'Neil  
Richard Langenbach  
Jonathan Frederick  
**John Lovejoy**  
**Frank Hyatt**  
Randy Warneke  
Ron Brandon  
Gary Dowler  
Dale Rex  
Dave Barton  
**Joseph Fettig**

**Clark County Representative: Samantha Whitley**

**Guests:** Judy Russel, (Veterans Assistance Center); Joe Levesque (citizen); Valarie Evert, Tasha Christensen (VA HUD VASH Program), Kelly Jones, (Clark College Vet Center); Michael Langsdorf (citizen)

**June 11, 2015, Meeting Minutes**

**Bob Nichols moved to approve the June minutes. Dixie Hotaling seconded. Motion carried.**

**All American Financial Aid Relief Program (AAFARP)**

Joe Levesque provided a pledge letter and asked board members to request an evaluation of the AAFARP from the Washington State University Board of Regents.

**VA VASH**

The VA currently has 138 VASH vouchers, of which 123 are leased, and 9 are available. There will also be subsidized apartments on the VA campus at the new Freedom's Path complex. Freedom's Path groundbreaking ceremony is Thursday, July 16, 9:00-11:00 a.m. on the VA campus. When complete, this building will house another 50 veterans, of which 40 will be through vouchers. The VA also provides a walk-in clinic to assess homelessness every Monday and Thursday in Building 18 on the VA campus.

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**Committee Reports**

**Appeals**

Two June appeals and one July appeal were approved for gas vouchers.

**Policies and Procedures**

The Policy and Procedures committee received three suggestions to be discussed at the July 11 meeting at Post 14, 11:00 a.m.:

1. Policy 2.6, definition of indigence does not consider applicant's savings.
2. Policy 3.7 requires veteran to live outside C-Tran service area for gas vouchers.
3. Policy 3.5.1 requires a utility disconnect notice, however shut-off notices are not provided for delinquent sewer payments.

**Nominations**

No discussion at this time.

**May Contractor Reports & County Fund Report**

The Veterans Assistance Center had 370 veteran visits, and welcomed 578 volunteer hours. Emergency assistance was provided for 51 veterans at a cost of \$17,026. The Free Dental Clinic treated six veterans, for which the fund was billed \$2,284. The Veterans Assistance Fund balance was \$456,196 at the end of May.

**Veterans Assistance Center Update**

Remodel is progressing, and all space is in use. Visits have increased for assistance with utility bills, rent, and auto repair.

**Old Business**

No discussion at this time.

**New Business**

No discussion at this time.

**Open Forum**

- Community members and veterans are working to improve veteran burial sites and headstones throughout the County with volunteer hours and donations.
- The Women's Veterans Connect will meet Saturday, July 18, 11:00 a.m., at 40 et 8.
- Kelly Jones was introduced as the new Clark College Veterans Resource Center manager.
- The Stand Down will be held August 12, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Armed Forces Reserve Center at 65<sup>th</sup> Street and Ward Road. Transportation will be provided from the Veterans Assistance Center. Veterans must provide proof of service.

**Adjournment**

**Bob Nichols moved to adjourn the meeting. Lou Baste seconded. Meeting adjourned.**

**Next Meeting**

August 13, 2015, at 1400 hours, in the Councilors' Hearing Room.