

**Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee**  
**Clark County Public Service Center**  
**1300 Franklin St, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ste #679**  
**Vancouver, Washington**  
**July 27, 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 #4278  
VFW #7824  
VFW #12028  
Vietnam Vets #512

**PRIMARY**

**Morris Giesler**  
**Jerry Keese**  
**Elisa Cotton**  
**Darren Wertz**  
**Robert Nichols**  
**Michael Gibson**  
**George Hunt**  
**Richard Alvarez**  
**Bruce Maas**  
**Lou Baste**  
Stephen Stetson  
Roy Billings  
**Ray Saranto**  
Greg Whitson  
**Members at Large**  
Thomas Dombeck  
**Kevin Lawson**  
**Emily Stoutsenberger**

**SECONDARY**

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

**CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

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

**GUESTS**

**Pat Stryker, Youri Archer and Misty Pelagalli – CRMHS; Skip Bengel – VFW #12028; Ben Reinhardt – SW Veterans Business Resource Center; John Lund – Tangible Systems**

**Meeting Minutes:** Bob Nichols motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 22, 2011. Motion seconded by Lou Baste and passed.

**Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** Ray Saranto mentioned that there were no appeals for July.

**Policies & Procedures:** Jerry discussed the memo that was handed out regarding an update to the

Policies and Procedures regarding automobile insurance. The committee was asked to approve changing “Veteran must show proof of vehicle ownership, insurance, and a valid operator’s license” to “Veteran must show proof of vehicle ownership, state-required insurance, and a valid operator’s license and/or endorsement.” George Hunt motioned to approve the change, seconded by Mike Gibson and approved.

**Nominations:** Bob informed the committee that nominations for next year’s executive members need to be submitted by September. He also mentioned that Lou Baste was recommended for the Chair position. Elections are scheduled for December.

**Contractor Reports:** Samantha Whitley distributed several reports for June. CRMHS served 113 veterans for a total of \$29,000. The packet also included a list of denials, the case management report, a referral report and a new quarterly report that provides client characteristics of the veterans receiving assistance. Misty Pelagalli mentioned that the veterans program will be integrating with the employment program also offered at CRMHS.

Sam also handed out the Free Clinic report regarding dental services. Three veterans received services with one veteran getting eight extractions. The total billed to the VAF for June was \$872.45. Sam also asked for any suggestions on how to get more veterans scheduled for dental treatments.

Sam reported that the VAC served 86 veterans in June with 818.5 hours volunteered to the center.

Finally, Sam mentioned that the fund balance is over \$877,000 through June.

### **Advisory Board Training**

John Lund, a consultant with Tangible Systems, gave a training on how to be a more effective and efficient advisory board. He explained that he has worked with advisory boards for nonprofit organizations, small businesses and government agencies. For this training, John reviewed the RCW, WAC, County Code and other counties documents along with interviewing a few members of the committee; executive board members, new members and members who have been with the board for several years.

John explained the difference between an advisory board, such as the VRC, and a governing board, such as a board of directors at a nonprofit. As an advisory board, the VRC should: advise the County on community needs and funding priorities; support, endorse and advise staff; and develop community capacity/linkages by working with other committees.

John also recommended the committee create an orientation process for recruiting new members along with a succession plan for those long-standing members that are retiring. Another recommendation he gave was to create a new strategic plan that updates the existing plan content and transforms it into a long-term plan rather than a list of goals. John recommended the following components: a vision statement that indicates what perfection looks like in the future; a mission statement of how to achieve the vision; the values of the committee; critical success factors; priorities of the board; annual targets/goals; and how the committee will measure effectiveness.

John will prepare and submit a written report to the VRC with his recommendations. As part of the training, John explained that committee members can email him to get clarification on any of the concepts he presented. His email address is [john@tangiblesystems.com](mailto:john@tangiblesystems.com).

**Old Business:** No Old Business was discussed.

**New Business:** Bob asked the committee to discuss meeting options due to his absence for several weeks and the conflict between the scheduled meetings and holidays in November and December. Ray asked about moving the meeting date back to the second Wednesday of each month. Sam mentioned that, if the meeting were moved, data for the reports would be two months behind. Rebecca confirmed that the current meeting room is available on the second Wednesday starting in November. Emily mentioned that the PIC offices may be available also. It was decided that the discussion would be tabled until the August meeting.

**Open Forum:**

- ♦ Jerry Keen distributed a flyer for the Hunting with American Heroes project the VAC is coordinating. They have received several donations and sponsorships from different community organizations. They are hoping to take 30 veterans on the next expedition in October and 40 in March. The all-expense paid trip includes hunting and fishing for three days. There is more information on the VAC Facebook page. The VAC is responsible for screening all veterans before they are approved for the trip. They are also looking for a diverse selection of veterans to act as mentors.
- ♦ Emily informed the committee that there will be a job fair on August 11<sup>th</sup> at PIC's offices from 1400-1600 hours. They currently have six employers signed up to attend the event.
- ♦ Emily also mentioned that there is a Stand Down combined with a job fair at the Portland Convention Center on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ♦ Bruce asked for volunteers to help with a fundraiser at the Riverdale Raceway in Toutle on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The event is sponsored by the Cowlitz DAV.
- ♦ Ben Reinhardt informed the committee that there will be a meeting of veteran business owners on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at their office.
- ♦ Jerry Keese mentioned that there will be a Republic of Korea awards ceremony at the Leroy Haagen Park on August 6<sup>th</sup> at 1000 hours. They will be honoring 135 Clark County veterans that served in Korea.
- ♦ The Clark County Stand Down event is scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup>. The VAC is currently seeking volunteers for the event.

**Meeting adjourned at 1535 hours.**

**Next meeting: August 24, 2011 at 1400 hours.**