

Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
Clark County Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St, 6th Floor, Ste #679
Vancouver, Washington
March 23, 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 #44
American Legion #168
American Legion #176
American Legion #189
American Legion #208
DAV Chapter #4
Marine Corps League #826
VFW #4278
VFW #7824
VFW #12028
Vietnam Vets #512

PRIMARY

Morris Giesler
Jerry Keese
Darren Wertz
Robert Nichols
Michael Gibson
Clinton Nelson
Bob Blevins
Bruce Maas
Lou Baste
Stephen Stetson
Roy Billings
Ray Saranto
Greg Whitson
Members at Large
Thomas Dombeck
Kevin Lawson
Bill Allman
Emily Stoutsenberger

SECONDARY

Jan Wojciechowski
Peggy Sheehan
Bo Russell
Mark Woods
Philip Yasson
Charlotte Elznic
George Hunt
Michael Riley
Ron Brandon
Robert Hitchcock
Ronald Frisbie
Jerry Keen

* Highlighted posts have not returned a completed LOA for 2011, but were active members in 2010.

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Samantha Whitley, Rebecca Royce

GUESTS

Pat Stryker and Youri Archer – CRMHS

Meeting Minutes: Steve Stetson motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on February 23, 2011. Motion seconded by Lou Baste and passed.

Committee Proposals

Policies and Procedures, Bylaws: Jerry Keen briefly discussed the changes the subcommittee recommends to the Policies and Procedures and to the Bylaws. All changes are highlighted grey in the documents handed out to the committee. Sam mentioned one additional change to the Bylaws. Under

Article I – Purpose, number five, change the wording from “To provide policy guidance and advice to Clark County regarding the Clark County Veterans Case Manager” to “To provide policy guidance and advice to Clark County regarding all services funded by the Veterans Assistance Fund.” Roy Billings motioned to approve all changes, included the amendment recommended by Sam, to both the Policies and Procedures and the Bylaws. Seconded by Steve Stetson and approved. The Bylaws will be adopted as of today while the Policies and Procedures will be forwarded to the County Commissioners for approval. Sam will let the committee know the date of the hearing with the commissioners.

Strategic Plan: Peggy Sheehan mentioned that the Strategic Plan subcommittee met last week and discussed a few changes to the document. They will distribute the changes at the next meeting for discussion and adoption.

Committee Reports

Appeals: Ray Saranto announced that there were two appeals in March. Both were approved; one for a cleaning deposit, one for rent assistance for unmarried veterans.

Case Management Report: Samantha Whitley distributed the February report. There were 121 veterans served for a total of \$34,165. The case management notes and denials are attached to the report. Sam also informed the committee that a new program assistant began working earlier this month.

Sam also handed out the Free Clinic report regarding dental services. She mentioned that she added the actual invoice amount for the committee to see the amount of the services performed versus the amount the Free Clinic is billing the fund. In February, the Free Clinic assisted nine veterans for a total of \$5,407 worth of services. The Free Clinic also included a narrative report for the committee.

Sam then discussed the Revenue and Expense Report. Per the committee’s request at the February meeting, Sam added the amount of CRMHS invoice, although this is not the adjusted payment amount. Sam has talked with Bryce but there seems to be no possibility of getting CRMHS’ invoices posted to the report earlier.

Old Business:

VAC: Bob Nichols updated the VRC regarding changes to VAC. Jerry Keen was recently elected to the Chair position and Bob is now the President of Operations. Bob mentioned that they are opening the Center on Friday, April 1st with an official Grand Opening on May 1st. The celebration will include a ribbon cutting, flag line and tours of the facility. The committee is working on having some elected officials and dignitaries attend the event as well.

Bob also discussed the need for volunteers at the Center. All volunteers will need to complete a background check and attend the volunteer orientation on Monday, March 28th. He asked if anyone was available to help move furniture to the Center, located at 1305 Columbia. Bob mentioned that the phones will be operational starting Monday the 28th; phone numbers are 360-693-7030 and 360-693-7560. The second line will be used as a fax line. Bob informed the VRC that they should have enough furniture; however they are still in need of a refrigerator for the break room.

Samantha distributed an article regarding the Applebee's fundraiser the VAC held on March 12th. Bob mentioned that it was a big success; the largest fundraiser for Applebee's to date. The event brought in \$2,300 and more donations are filtering in.

Bob also updated the VRC about the Center. They plan to be open from 0800 to 1700 hours, Monday through Friday, along with some evenings for group sessions. Jerry Keen is working with the Veterans Therapeutic Court and the VA on utilizing their space.

Bob thanked Morris Giesler and John Russell for all their hard work over the last few years.

There was a question regarding the Stand Down Committee. It was explained that the Stand Down Committee is a subcommittee of the Veterans Assistance Center and chaired by Karla Bean. They will be receiving additional separate funding from the County for that event.

New Business: Michael Fraties introduced himself to the committee. He is a Navy veteran and retired dental technician who would like to get involved helping veterans in need. Michael explained that he has access to a lab to do dental repairs along with a friend who is a contractor that would like to assist veterans with any home repair/construction needs.

Jerry Keen asked the committee if the VAC could be a member of the committee. Morris explained that an individual member of the VAC could be a Member at Large of the VRC, but the VAC itself could not be a member.

Jerry Keen informed the group that Vancouver Councilmember Larry Smith was elected President of the Veterans Therapeutic Court Committee. This committee will be responsible, in part, for approving the veterans for the program.

Bob clarified with County staff that any member not attending three consecutive meetings will be removed from the committee. County confirmed this assessment. Bob mentioned that Bill Allman, Member at Large, has yet to attend a meeting in 2011. There was some discussion regarding this policy. Rebecca Royce mentioned that she had sent Mr. Allman an email stating this information in February. Sam agreed to put together a termination letter for Morris' signature.

Open Forum:

Ron Brandon informed the committee that he saw an article in the Battle Ground Reflector regarding the Battle Ground VFW post. Their charter has been removed and the post no longer exists.

Roy Billings mentioned that his post, VFW #7824, received \$2,100 in donations after the Columbian article was released. The City of Vancouver has agreed to defer some construction items for three years. Roy expects the post to be open to the public in about three months.

Meeting adjourned at 1506 hours.

Next meeting: April 27, 2011 at 1400 hours.