

Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
Clark County Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St, 6th Floor, Ste #679
Vancouver, Washington
May 25, 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

GUESTS

Pat Stryker and Youri Archer – CRMHS, Skip Benge – VVW #12028; Jeff Davis – Vancouver Barracks Museum Association; Tim Podhora – Clark County District Court; Michael Frakes

Meeting Minutes: Greg Whitson motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 27, 2011. Motion seconded by Ron Brandon and passed.

Community Presentations

Jeff Davis with the Vancouver Barracks Museum Association (VBMA) gave a presentation about the new military interpretation museum that will be opening in September on POW/MIA Day. The museum is

located in a historic building on the VA campus near Liberty Bell and the Vietnam Memorial Garden. Jeff explained that the VA paid for the renovation of the building that was originally used as a communications complex. The museum will provide an interpretation of the history of the VA and Vancouver Barracks. Jeff would like to create an Oral History Program in collaboration with Clark College to have students learn about the history and present the information to visitors. Jeff would also like to have guest speakers at the museum one-to-two times per month.

Mike Willbur was unable to attend the meeting to give a presentation on the Veterans Incarcerated Program. Sam distributed outcomes from the program for 2010 and the first part of 2011. The handout also includes a list of several partnerships Mike has built with community organizations.

Committee Reports

Appeals: Ray Saranto explained that there were three appeals in May. All were denied. Emily Stoutsenberger asked how the decisions on appeals were made. Ray explained that they go strictly by the Policy and Procedures. If there is an issue that arises regularly, the appeals committee meets to discuss recommending a change to the P&P.

Case Management Report: Samantha Whitley distributed several reports for April. CRMHS served 139 veterans for a total of \$36,744. She also distributed the denial and case management reports. Sam explained that the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has ended through Clark Public Utilities which accounts for the rise in utility assistance requests.

Sam also handed out the Free Clinic report regarding dental services. They assisted eight veterans for a total of \$6,705 worth of services, but only charged \$1,522 to the VAF. The Free Clinic also included a narrative report for the committee.

Bob discussed the Veterans Assistance Center report. They accrued 691 volunteer hours and assisted 46 veterans in April.

Sam also discussed the Revenue and Expense Report. The Veterans Assistance Fund received the semi-annual allotment of property tax funds. Sam mentioned that at this time last year, the fund received \$165,972 in revenue, approximately \$5,000 more than 2011. She also explained that expenses have doubled because of the addition of the VAC, the Free Clinic Dental Service and an increase of veterans receiving assistance. (Editor's Note: The VAF currently receives .0082 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value in Clark County. This rate will not change unless the VAF balance falls below \$540,198 on the first Tuesday of September. If the fund falls below \$540,198 on this date, the County will be required to increase the levy to .01125 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, which would generate \$540,198. The additional funds would be collected the following year.)

Old Business: No Old Business was discussed.

New Business: Memorial Day Events:

- Vancouver Barracks is hosting coffee and donuts before the Memorial Day Service starting at 1000 hours. At 1100 hours, the ceremony will begin; they are expecting 800-1,000 people to attend. There will be three or four names added to the memorial wall.

- Post 14 is hosting a lunch after the Vancouver Barracks service. This is open to everyone. Veterans are free; there is a small fee for civilians.
- Post 176 is hosting a free breakfast starting at 0600 hours. There will be ceremonies following the breakfast in Castle Rock, Silver Lake and La Center.
- Post 44 is coordinating a display of flags on Main Street in Ridgefield.
- The VA is hosting a Massing of the Colors in the Columbia Room, upstairs of Building 17 on the VA campus.
- American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at the old Red Cross building at the Fort.

Open Forum:

Bob mentioned that the VAC is still looking for volunteers. He also reminded the committee that there are still tickets available for the Dinner with Elvis fundraising event on Thursday, May 26th. The event is located at Lifepoint Campus, 305 NE 192nd St.

Bruce informed the VRC that the Stand Down Committee is starting to plan for the 2011 Stand Down. Meetings are held at the Elks Lodge on the third Monday of each month starting at 1800 hours. The Stand Down is scheduled for September 26th.

Meeting adjourned at 1519 hours.

Next meeting: June 22, 2011 at 1400 hours.