

Veteran Advisory Board Meeting Minutes, July 12, 2017

1. Roll Call:

Board Members in attendance: Rod Davis, Gary Bracht, Fil Rivera, Eileen Bornheimer, David Ristrom, Rex Davis, Mark Owens, and Eileen Boylston. Absent: Ken Slininger

Commissioner in attendance: Tom Taylor

VSO: Jerry Gingrich

Guests: Daniel Chism

2. Reading and approval of the old minutes.

Old Business:

- Reviewed assistance spreadsheet- Jerry discussed the new layout for this report (the board voted via email between the last meeting and this meeting and approved the purchase of the computer program for managing the county veteran funds).
- Appointment letters: Gary Bracht agreed to continue to serve on the board and his appointment letter is being forwarded to the Commissioners.
- Update on reimbursing the Electric City American Legion for fixing a veterans' roof. The veteran whose roof needed repair did own the house. The board did approve the cost to repair. Jerry will write a voucher to reimburse the American Legion for the \$1400 it cost to fix.
- Storage area. We are currently scheduled to organize the Stand Down items on August 10th.
- Stand Down.
 - Rex & Fil will look into getting the Color Guard to open our event.
 - Coupons for haircuts (25), Tom Taylor will look into getting coupons to give out to veterans for free haircuts.
 - Rod has begun getting donations for our three raffle gifts.
 - Tentatively Job Corps students will help us with set up on Friday, Sept 15. Eileen Boylston will see if SkillSource students would be able to help us with the event on Saturday, Sept 16th, and Eileen Bornheimer will see if the Civic Air Patrol could assist as well.
 - Eileen Boylston emailed Karen Hand to see if they need anything from the board for the lunch.
 - Flu shots, Jerry will check with Walgreens.
 - Ziggy's will provide a forklift on Sept 15 & 16.
 - David will coordinate getting the Sound System for the day of the event.
 - Fil has a 16' trailer we can use to transport stand down items, Gary offered to pull the trailer with his truck.

3. New Business:

- VSO Accreditation Update. Paperwork has been submitted, and Jerry hopes to get started next Tuesday with the training.

- Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF) Policy update. The board discussed and agreed to work on this after the Stand Down is over. However, board members agreed to review the current policy between now and the October Quarterly Meeting; at that time a committee will be formed to work on the update.
- Grant County Fair Sign-up: Jerry has procured a table at the Grant County Fair to advertise veteran services in Grant County (August 15-19). Tom Taylor has offered to assist with manning the table, but more volunteers to man the table are needed. Contact Jerry to volunteer to help man the table.
- Veterans Meeting/Welfare Check. Wednesday, Jul 19th, 4pm, at Cambridge Assisted Living in Quincy, there will be a Veterans Meeting/Welfare Check (Daniel Chism).
- Volunteer drivers needed to drive the Veterans Van. The van starts in Wenatchee. If anyone knows people willing to volunteer have them contact Mark Owens.
- The vouchers were certified and signed by Rod for the 1st and 2nd quarter.
- New Post Commanders: Post 157, American Legion, Electric City: Jim Brakedill. Post 28, American Legion, Ephrata: Anthony Ammann.
- Rod suggested we get our Tri-Fold Flyers and Jerry's card to all Police stations, and that every police car should have Jerry's card in it. David also suggested that we should ensure all churches also have the flyer as well as Jerry's card.
- It was suggested that all board members review the Job Description for the VSO position so that all are aware of the duties for this position.
- David stated that he would like to be able to give out vouchers to veterans in need; Jerry said he would look into this, and let him know at the next meeting for the Stand Down Committee.
- The Republican Party (Peggy Bates) has offered to provide labor if a veteran needs a ramp built. Jerry will ask Lowe's and Home Depot if they would donate supplies.
- Jerry is currently revamping the County Veteran Website.
- Tom Taylor noted that they are looking for a more permanent location for Jerry to work, and is currently looking at a building at the Fairgrounds. He said that he would like to see a veteran center that is a one stop offering all the services for veterans in one building at some point in the future. He also stated that he is looking into the possibility of making Jerry's position a full time position.

4. Next meeting:

- Stand Down Planning Meeting. Wednesday, August 9, 4pm, Grant County Courthouse, Ephrata.
- Quarterly Meeting. Wednesday, Oct 11th, 4pm, Grant County Courthouse, Ephrata.