

Veteran Advisory Board Minutes, July 11, 2018 Meeting

1. Roll Call:

Board Members in Attendance: Ken Slininger, Eileen Boylston (absent), Mark Owens, Fil Rivera, Rex Rogers, Carrie McCormick, Jim Brakebill, Eileen Bornheimer and Gary Bracht, and Jerry Gingrich (Grant County Service Coordinator.)

Guest: Rudy Lopez (WA Veterans Cemetery Medical Lake), Gary Krause, Dave Ristrom, James Hemmel, Jane and Mike Montaney, Vicented Sanchez, Walter Kehr, and Shawn Neider

2. 4/11/2018 minutes were read, amended and approved.
3. Rudy Lopez presented an information overview of the Medical Lake Veterans' Cemetery and background on the facility. Besides the information, he answered many questions from the board and guests present at the meeting.
4. Old Business:
 - a. 2018 Veterans Assistance Fund 2d Qtr report presented by Jerry Gingrich. 45% of budget has been spent as of 50% through the fiscal year.
 - b. Rex Rogers had a question on definition of "resident" for purposes of eligibility of services/funds from the Grant County Veterans Fund. After some discussion, Jerry agreed to get a definition from the Grant County attorney for the board to consider and to discuss further at the next quarterly meeting.
 - c. Storage Area Relocation: Shipping container is located at the Fairgrounds and all clothing items have been relocated from the Wheeler Road storage unit to the Fairgrounds. Jerry expects to close the lease agreement shortly.
 - d. Board Travel, vouchers present in each board members packet for reimbursement for quarterly meetings as well as for upcoming conferences if board members attend.
 - e. Serving Those That Serve Conference 8/1 and 8/2 at Wenatchee Convention Center, must register to attend. Free meetings with numerous breakout sessions.
 - f. Fil Rivera mentioned the Veterans Service Fair with Congressman Dan Newhouse to be held 8/8/18 at Big Bend Community College from 10 AM-2 PM. Handout distributed regarding the event and organizations were encouraged to participate.
 - g. Veterans Court, Gary intends to attend the breakout sessions at he "Serving Those Who Served" conference discussing Veteran Court issues and will provide feedback at the next meeting.
 - h. Stand Down: Stand Down committee will meet 7/18/18 at the Grant County Fairgrounds, time TBA by Jerry. Stand Down scheduled for September 29, 2018. Set up meeting will occur on September 28, 2018, time TBA at the 4H building at the Grant County Fairgrounds. Jerry stated the VA bus will not be present during the Stand Down but Walgreens has agreed to either administer flu vaccine or give out free coupons for the vaccine at their Moses Lake store. Storage unit is almost completely full at this point but may be some room after inventory on 7/18/18. Ken discussed the purchase of two 16 foot room dividers for a cost not to exceed \$2,500. Fil made the motion, seconded by Jim. Motion carried.
5. New Business

- a. Jane Montaney requested the board and all present share information about Fitness for Vets (see attachment.)
 - b. Carrie said that Post 28 is hosting a service officer training course on Aug 17-18 from 9-5 each day, however they need to have minimum of 5 attendees for the trainer to conduct the training. Contact Carrie if interested. Lunch will be provided but is by donation.
6. Next meeting:

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 4pm, at the Grant County Courthouse in the Commissioners Conference Room.
7. Attachments: Serving Those Who Served, Fitness for Vets, Veteran Service Fair and Grant County Residency Requirements

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SECTION 2

2.4. SPOUSES, DOMESTIC PARTNERS AND/OR DEPENDENT CHILDREN: Spouses, domestic partners and/or dependent children may be eligible for assistance, upon the death of the veteran.

2.4.1. Spouses, domestic partners and/or dependent children that apply for assistance upon the death of a veteran must meet all other applicable rules and regulations.

2.5. INCOME REQUIREMENTS: The following income requirements will be utilized for assistance:

2.5.1. HOUSEHOLD INCOME: Shall not exceed 150% of the current Federal Poverty Level.

⊕ 2.6. GRANT COUNTY RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS: To receive assistance from the VAF, applicants must be a Grant County resident for the preceding 60 days.

2.7. UNEMPLOYED VETERANS – WORK SEARCH REQUIREMENT: Veteran may be required to have a work search requirement with the Veteran Coordinator at WorkSource.

SECTION 3

- 3.7.4. First Month's Rent Assistance: Veteran may receive first-last-month's rent and deposit, or a portion there of, funding to move into housing. This will be approved on a case-by-case basis through the Veteran Services Department.
- 3.7.5. Temporary Lodging Assistance: If no shelter beds are available, applicants may receive up to five days temporary lodging. Applicants must be homeless and too ill to stay in the elements; or a new enrollee in a transitional or permanent housing program waiting for placement. Transitional/permanent housing enrollees must be referred by the agency offering the housing placement. *SSVS - no facilitating*
- 3.8. ENERGY / UTILITIES ASSISTANCE: Veteran may receive funding to be used for payments for heating, electricity, telephone, water or sewer. The following criteria shall apply:
- 3.8.1. Utilities Notice: Veteran must demonstrate that he or she is in eminent danger of losing utility or energy source.
- 3.8.2. Shared Dwelling: In the case of veteran sharing a dwelling with other adults (not immediate family as described in Section 2.5), the utilities assistance costs will be prorated by the number of adults living in the house.
- 3.9. FOOD ASSISTANCE: Veteran may receive food assistance. The following criteria shall be applied when providing food assistance:
- 3.9.1. The veteran may receive monthly assistance as a single individual per the VSO Funding guidance.
- 3.9.2. The veteran with dependents may receive additional assistance per the VSO Funding guidance.
- 3.9.3. Toiletries and personal use items may also be purchased under this section.
- 3.9.4. The following is prohibited for purchase under this section:
- 3.9.4.1. Alcohol.
- 3.9.4.2. Drugs (prescription, recreational, over the counter, etc.).
- 3.9.4.3. Tobacco products.
- 3.9.4.4. Pet food.
- 3.10. TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE: Veteran may receive transportation assistance to and from work, for appointments, for medical or treatment services, social services (SSI, SSDI, DSHS) or job interviews.
- 3.10.1. Public Transportation: If the veteran does not own a vehicle or vehicle is inoperable, one monthly bus pass may be issued per month.
- 3.10.2. Fuel Assistance Vouchers: Fuel vouchers may be provided to assist the veteran with local commuting to and from work, medical appointments or other similar needs. Fuel Vouchers shall:
- 3.10.2.1. Be submitted only to approved vendors.
- 3.10.2.2. Shall not exceed the VSO Funding Guidance.
- 3.10.2.3. Shall be utilized only for veteran's primary transportation.

3rd Annual

Serving Those Who Served:

Veterans Resource Providers Conference

-Establish greater collaboration within the Veteran Service Community on both sides of WA state.

INCLUDING BREAKOUTS FOR COUNTY VETERANS PROGRAMS

August 1 and 2 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wenatchee Convention Center

121 N Wenatchee Ave

Wenatchee, Washington 98801

RESERVE A ROOM AT

THE COAST

WENATCHEE CENTER

HOTEL - 509.662.1234

***Register Today: <https://serving.eventbrite.com>**

Breakout Cluster Topics Include:

- VA Healthcare/VA Choice Program
- VA Housing Programs
- Peer Mentoring
- Safer Homes
- Cemetery and Survivor Benefits
- Veterans Court Programs and Dept of Corrections
- PTSD, TBI and Suicide Prevention
- Military Sexual Trauma
- County and Tribal VSO's and County Veteran Programs Best Practices
- Service Animals
- Apprenticeships, Employment, YesVets, Education
- Outreach to Veterans of Color & LGBTQ Veterans
- SOAR, SSI Facilitation, DSHS-CSD Programs
- Veterans Assistance Prop Tax Levy and Prop Taxes
- VA 101, Claims, Life CYCLE of a Claim
- ESGR, Supporting Guard and Reserves
- Veterans Training Support Center - Your Training Needs
- Vets in Agriculture
- Alternative Therapies

**Join Us for a
Networking Event**

AUGUST 1, 2018

**5:30-7:30PM:
NETWORKING
SOCIAL**

**7:30-10PM: LIVE
MUSIC**

**PYBUS MARKET
3 N Worthen St,
Wenatchee, WA 98801**

For More Information: MelissaR@dva.wa.gov



"Serving Those Who Served"

DAN NEWHOUSE
4TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON
www.newhouse.house.gov



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER
DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PROCESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RULES AND
ORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSE

VICE-CHAIR
NUCLEAR CLEANUP CAUCUS

June 6, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am excited to announce that I will be hosting a Veteran Service Fair this August for veterans from all over the 4th Congressional District! I have worked very hard in Washington D.C. to be an advocate for veterans, and I believe it is extremely important to help veterans explore the resources and opportunities available to them in the area. It is the least we can do to thank them for their service to our country.

Date: August 8, 2018

Time: 10 AM – 2 PM

Location: Big Bend Community College

I invite you to join me as a representative for your organization to host a booth at our Veteran Service Fair. We will be providing tables, chairs, and table cloths for participating organizations. Check in and set up can begin starting at 9 AM on the morning of the 8th.

Space is limited and reserved on a first come, first serve basis. Please fill out the attached participation form and RSVP as soon as possible to Vicki Holleman-Perez in our Yakima office at (509) 452-3243 or by e-mail at vicki.holleman-perez@mail.house.gov.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. I look forward to working with you to make this a great event for veterans and their families!

Sincerely,

Congressman Dan Newhouse

Fitness for Vets

Delinda Harmon, a fitness instructor for the City of Ephrata, desires to be of service to veterans in need using Water Aerobics and Fitness Fusion (using dance moves as a cardio work out) which can be beneficial for both physically and mentality.

Delinda is willing to volunteer her time on her day off to conduct classes for veterans (to include those currently serving). Classes, in 6 week sessions, will start on Sunday Sept 16. The Fitness Fusion classes (beginning at Noon) will be held at the Ephrata Recreation Center (ERC); and, the Water Aerobics classes (beginning at 2pm) will be held at Best Western Rama – Ephrata. Both Best Western Rama-Ephrata and the City of Ephrata are donating the use of their facilities for this very worthwhile cause. (After the first 6 weeks, Best Western Rama – Ephrata will need a small fee; but, that could be obtained by everyone pitching in \$1).

What Delinda needs from the veteran community is feedback on whether vets would take advantage of this opportunity. She's posted some info about the benefits of Water Aerobics and Fitness Fusion on her Facebook page Fitness for Vets (https://www.Facebook.com/Fitness_-for-Vets-471394103286442/).

Delinda isn't going to go to continue with any planning if there are not enough people to participate. She's willing to get things started for a minimum of 5 people. **Any veteran wishing to take advantage of this opportunity of healing and willing to commit to either or both classes needs to contact Delinda as soon as possible at (509)237-0753. Don't wait – commit now!**

Huge thank you goes out to Delinda, City of Ephrata, and Best-Western Rama for their caring commitment to our Veterans.

*Yours in service for God and country,
Jane Montaney, American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 28*