

Veteran Advisory Board Meeting Minutes, January 9, 2019

1. Roll Call:

Board Members in attendance: Ken Slininger, John Nordine, Gary Bracht, Fil Rivera, Rex Davis, Jim Brakebill, and Eileen Boylston

Absent: Mark Owens & Carrie McCormick

VSO: Jerry Gingrich

Guests: Gary Krause

2. Reading and approval of the old minutes.

Old Business:

- Reviewed Grant County Veteran Assistance Fund. There was some discussion on how long a veteran should be a resident in order to be eligible, it was discussed that we may want to consider making it 180 days again as it seems we may have veterans just moving from county to county to use it.
- Veterans Court. Gary talked about the Veteran Court in Spokane, is planning to make a trip in the future to see how they run their veteran court; may possibly also look at some other veteran courts in the state. Jerry stated that some veterans incarcerated in the jail may not want to disclose as veterans, but if they were asked if they ever served in the military they might be more willing. Right now we do not know how many veterans are in the system locally.
- Stand Down. We will elect a committee at our April meeting and start working at that time on this event. Eileen has already sent out a save the date to last years' participants, and Jerry is actively starting to requisition surplus for our next event. The buildings at the Fairground are locked in. Eileen will reach out to the Mobile Dental Clinic and see if they are available, they were sent a Save the Date, but did not commit. Jerry will check with the Mobile VA Medical Van to see if they are available.

3. New Business:

- John Nordine from Electric City, was introduced as our new board member.
- Jerry Krause talked about the homeless problem in Grant County, and noted that we need to have a shelter, and suggested what it would take to turn the warming center into a year round shelter. The Board referred Jerry Krause to the City of Moses Lake as this would be something that they would have to be involved in, and is not a function of the Veterans Advisory Board.

4. Closed Session-Board Members only:

- There was a brief discussion about how the vouchers are working now, it was stated that it is working better.

5. Other:

- Fil noted that the Veterans Center on Wheeler will be closed on Friday, January 11 and January 25th.
- Fil noted that they currently have no counselors coming to the Veteran Center to provide counseling (both counselors who had been coming retired). Yakima Veteran Center hopes to have some new ones hired by April, so that we will then be back on line to offer counseling at our Veteran Center again beginning April or May. In the meantime, Fil said that he will be in touch with Grant County Mental Health to see if they can fill the gap.

6. Next meeting:

- Quarterly Meeting. Wednesday, April 17th, 4pm, Grant County Courthouse, Ephrata.