

VAB Agenda – January 9, 2025

- I. **Call to Order, Pledge, Invocation, Roll Call**
- II. **2025 Member at Large Appointments (action)**
- III. **Approval of December 12, 2024 minutes (action)**
- IV. **Committee Reports (info)**
- V. **2025 Committee Appointments**
- VI. **Returning Veterans Presentation (info)**
- VII. **November 2024 Contractor and Fund Reports (info)**
- VIII. **Veterans Assistance Center Updates (info)**
- IX. **Old Business (info)**
- X. **New Business (info)**
- XI. **Open Forum (info)**
- XII. **Adjourn**



Agenda Item I. Call to Order/Pledge/Invocation/Roll Call



2025 Member at Large Appointments

Action

Bob Nichols, Chair



Agenda Item II. Approval of December 12th minutes

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes An advisory board to the Clark County Council December 12, 2024

Chair: Bob Nichols Vice Chair: Megan Anderson Secretary: Bruce Maas

Meeting called to order.

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting; *italics indicates excused*]

POST

40 et 8
American Legion #14
American Legion #44
American Legion #168
American Legion #176
American Veterans #6
DAV Chapter #4
Korean War Assoc. #321
Marine Corps League #826
VFW #4278
VFW #7824
Vietnam Vets #S12
Members at Large

PRIMARY

Bob Brennan
Gene Couture
Darren Wertz
Bob Nichols
Michael Gibson
John Lovejoy
Bruce Maas
Patrick Block
Steve Slegers
Shannon Roberts
Greg Gilbertson
Greg Whitson
Kelly Jones
Bryan McGillis
Tonya Wark
Tamara Elam
Megan Anderson
Eli Gonzalez
Michael Langsdorf
Lloyd Bowman
Buck Marr

ALTERNATE

Steve Slegers

Charles Ingalls

Jonathan Frederick
Vanise Pratt
Tom Cousino

Ron Brandon
Dana Difford
Stewart Bauer
Nick Herber

Clark County Representative: Abby Molloy

Guests: Judy Russell (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center)

Approval of November 14, 2024, meeting minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion by Gene Couture that was seconded by Steve Slegers.

Committee Reports

Appeals: None

Policies and Procedures: None

Nominations: Third round of nominations for 2025 positions of chair, vice chair, and secretary. Prior to this meeting Shannon Roberts was nominated for vice chair by Michael Langsdorf.

2025 Officer Elections

A vote to re-elect the current chair, Bob Nichols and secretary, Bruce Maas of the Veterans Advisory Board was taken and passed unanimously.

A nomination for Kelly Jones for vice chair was made.

A vote for vice chair between nominees Megan Anderson, Shannon Roberts, and Kelly Jones was taken, with Kelly Jones receiving the majority vote.

2025 Member at Large Appointments

Staff informed the Board of which At Large members needed to submit their letters of intent prior to December 31, 2024.

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes An advisory board to the Clark County Council December 12, 2024

2025 Workplan Approval

Staff presented a draft Workplan and explained that this document will change with the Board's needs. No opposition to the Workplan was made. The Workplan was unanimously approved by the Board.

VA Portland Health Care System Presentation, Jay Pense

Postponed due to Jay Pense being sick.

October 2024 Contractor & Fund reports

- CCVAC: 41 Veterans served in August, services totaling \$25,329.90. 37 male veterans, 4 female veterans, 0 widows, 0 other veterans. 9 denials, 0 subject to appeals. 717 visits to the center for essentials and food, 1,175 sack breakfasts/lunches provided and 42 food boxes provided. 3,925 total pounds of food. 818 volunteer hours, totaling \$35,538 in value.
- Free Clinic: 4 Veterans served in August. Services totaled \$2,485 in value; billed \$868.30.
- VAF Fund: October revenue: \$276,214.15; expenditures: \$33,055.97 fund balance: \$734,193.11.

Clark County Veterans Assistance Center Update

- 69 holiday meal cards were handed out by CCVAC prior to Thanksgiving. 39 hot meals were served the day before Thanksgiving. Christmas holiday meals and annual toy drive are upcoming with 75 children signed up to receive toys.
- Bingo fundraiser will be on February 2nd. Gala location is set and will occur on June 21st.
- Bruce Maas spoke about the WDVA providing support to the CCVAC for requesting state lawmakers for more funding for county VSOs.

Old Business

- Bylaws of the Board regarding Members at Large was brought up for discussion. At Large members were to submit their intent by December, and it was to be voted on in this meeting.
 - A motion passed to vote on At-Large membership and extend current At-Large membership to the January 9, 2025 meeting that was made by Bob Brennan.
- Suggestions to staff for 2025 presentations to the Board.
 - Veterans housing at Camp Bonneville
 - A plan will need to be made for the Board to view the presentation.
- Status of County handbook changes proposed in August regarding lobbying.
 - Clarification and policies were sent to all board members by staff via mail and email.
 - Expectations of volunteer board members were outlined by staff. Materials requested by board members.
- Letters of intent need to be submitted for all members for their agencies by December 31st if you would like to remain on the board.

New Business

- Letters of intent were not received for 40 et 8, American Legion #14, American Legion #44, American Legion #176, American Vets #6, Camas Post 27, and VFW #7824.
 - Camas and LaCenter's Posts do not have enough members to participate.

Open Forum and Public Comment

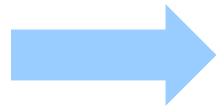
- Post 14 will be selling Christmas trees Saturday and Sunday of this week.
- Roberts Rules of Order in regard to the motion made postponing voting on At-Large membership until the January meeting was discussed.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting January 9th, 2025.

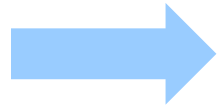
Motion to adjourn by Ron Brandon and seconded by Kelly Jones. Motion passed unanimously.



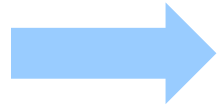
Agenda Item III. Committee Reports



Appeals – Gene Couture



Policies and Procedures – Kelly Jones



Nominations – Bruce Maas



2025 Committee Appointments

Action

Bob Nichols, Chair



Returning Veterans Presentation

Amy Almond-Schmid





RETURNING 
VETERANS
PROJECT

About RVP

- Founded in 2005
- Mission
 - To provide free, confidential mental and physical health services to post-9/11 Veterans, Service Members, and their Families in Oregon and Southwest Washington
- 501(c)3 nonprofit
 - Depend on donations from individuals, foundation grants, business sponsorships, and corporations
 - Receive no government funding



Carol Levine, Founder



What We Offer

- Free, Confidential, Timely, and Accessible Care donated by RVP Volunteer Health Providers
 - Acupuncture
 - Chiropractic Care
 - Massage Therapy
 - Naturopathic Medicine
 - Mental Health Counseling
 - Substance Use Counseling
 - Individual
 - Marriage and Family

Who We Serve

- Veterans
- Active-duty Service Members
 - Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, Space Force
- All Guard and Reserve Component Service Members
- Families: military spouses/partners, children, parents, siblings, grandparents, and other close family members directly impacted by military service

Post-9/11 Veterans

- The median age of post-9/11 Veterans is 37 years old. Almost half are still under age 35.
- In 2017, 57% of service members were white, 15% were Black, and 12% were Latinx/Hispanic
- The U.S. has naturalized more than 30,000 service members since 2017
- More likely to deploy multiple times and to combat zones



Letty, Navy Veteran & RVP Client

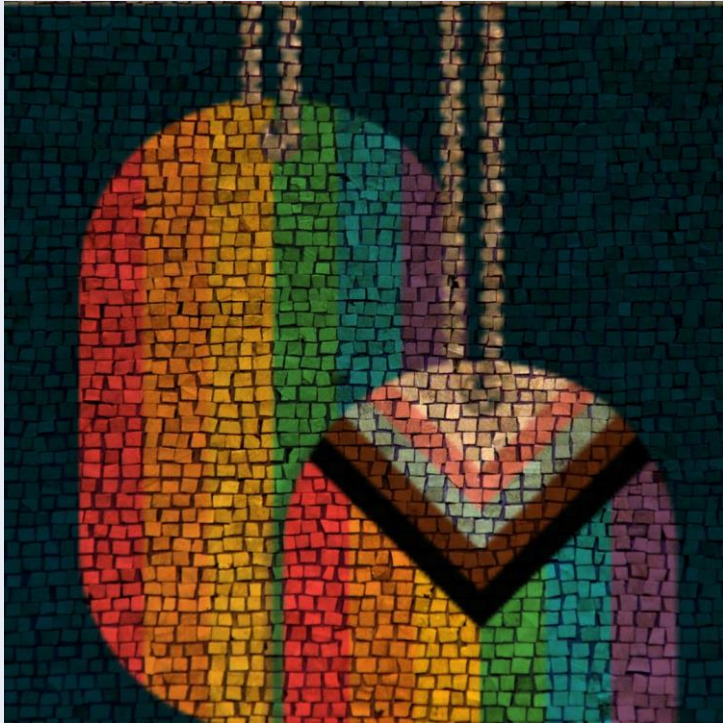
Women Veterans

- Post-9/11 Veterans include more women than other service eras: 20% of active-duty service members and 17% of the total Veteran population
- Women Veterans are 2.5 times more likely to complete suicide than civilian women – rate is higher for those who experienced military sexual trauma (MST)
- 1 in 3 women Veterans experience MST

- Women Veterans report they are “frequently not recognized as veterans”



LGBTQIA+ Veterans



- “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) – discriminatory policy that prevented LGBTQ+ Veterans from openly serving in the US military. Repealed by law in 2011.
- DADT led to the less-than-honorable discharge of an estimated 14,000 service members during the time it was in place.
- In a 2018 survey of active-duty service members: 6.1% of respondents indicated they identified as lesbian, gay, or bisexual.

Upstream Thinking



What Makes RVP Unique

- **Free!** Yes, completely free!
- No verifications, referrals, or paper trail
- We support Military Families
- Confidential services
 - Keep the interaction between the provider and them; autonomy can make a difference when choosing to reach out for support
 - Unless required by law, no personal client information will be released to any outside party regarding an RVP Client
- Services provided by a network of individuals, community-based volunteer health providers

Why We're Here

- Over half of post-9/11 Veterans are not enrolled in VA healthcare
- Over half of military families don't have enough savings to cover unexpected health expenses
 - More likely to have no income and live in a household receiving food assistance, as compared to all other service-era veterans

Barriers to Care

- Wait time
- Oregon and Southwest Washington are not supported by a military base, and fewer programs exist in our area
- Access to services in rural areas
- Travel/Cost to reach certain health services is expensive

Fear and Stigma



- Over one-third of military personnel say seeking mental health treatment would damage their military career
- For those who did seek mental health treatment, 21% reported a negative effect on their career
- RVP services provide completely confidential care which helps reduce fear of stigma or reprisal

RVP Volunteer Model

- Our licensed, insured volunteer provider network makes free, confidential care possible for RVP Clients
- Providers typically volunteer to support at least one client within their scope of practice at a time
- MOU Clinics - no cap
- Appointments are always free for RVP Clients



Free Continuing Education

- RVP connects all our volunteers to opportunities to further their education
- Educational opportunities specific to the unique issues associated with supporting military clients
 - Strategies to treat and support trauma-related disorders
 - TBI, PTSD, MST, and more
 - Suicide prevention trainings
 - Women and LGBTQ+ Veteran issues
 - Professional ethics
 - Grief and Moral Injury

Volunteer Provider Impact

- Since our founding in 2005, we've served 4,087 post-9/11 veterans, service members, and families
- In 2023:
 - 2,854 hours of health services were donated by volunteers
 - Veterans Served: 343
 - Active-Duty Service Members Served: 10
 - Family Members Served: 46 (7 children)
- In order to deliver more care to those we serve, we remain focused on expanding our volunteer provider network throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington

Be a Community Integrator

- Tell your friends – help raise awareness and recruit
- Tell Veterans and their Families
- Check out our page <https://returningveterans.org/>
- Follow RVP on FB, IG and LI

Amy Almond-Schmid, Executive Director

amy@returningveterans.org

QUESTIONS?



Agenda Item V. November 2024 Contractor Reports

• **CCVAC**

- 44 Veterans served in November, services totaling \$13,528.05
- 39 male Veterans, 5 female Veterans, 0 widow, and 0 others served
- 11 denials, 0 subject to appeal
- 664 visits to the center for essentials and food. 945 sack breakfasts and lunches and 105 food boxes provided. 4,911 total pounds of food provided.
- 911 volunteer hours, totaling \$37,351 in value

• **Free Clinic**

- 4 veterans served in November. Services totaled \$2,062 in value. Billed \$740

• **Fund**

- November revenue: \$80,136.99; expenditures: \$131,376.61; fund balance: \$682,953.49



Agenda Item VI. CCVAC updates

**Honorably
serving those
who served
honorably**



Agenda Items VII. – X.

- **Old Business**
- **New Business**
 - WDVA Legislative updates
 - Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee
 - Memorial for Bob Knight
- **Open Forum**
- **Adjourn**

Next meeting: February 13, 2025

