

VAB Agenda – February 13, 2025

- I. Call to Order, Pledge, Invocation, Roll Call**
- II. 2025 Member at Large Appointments (action)**
- III. Approval of January 9, 2025 minutes (action)**
- IV. Committee Reports (info)**
- V. Discussion with Tony Sprague (info)**
- VI. December 2024 Contractor and Fund Reports (info)**
- VII. Veterans Assistance Center Updates (info)**
- VIII. Old Business (info)**
- IX. New Business (info)**
- X. Open Forum (info)**
- XI. Adjourn**



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



2025 Member at Large Appointments

Action

Bob Nichols, Chair



Agenda Item III. Approval of January 9th minutes

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes An advisory board to the Clark County Council January 9, 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	PRIMARY	ALTERNATE
40 et 8	<i>Bob Brennan</i>	Steve Slegers
American Legion #14	Gene Couture	Charles Ingalls
American Legion #44	Darren Wertz	
American Legion #168	Bob Nichols	Jonathan Frederick
American Legion #176	Michael Gibson	<i>Vanise Pratt</i>
American Veterans #6	John Lovejoy	Roy Day
DAV Chapter #4	Bruce Maas	<i>Earl Edwards</i>
Korean War Assoc. #321	Patrick Locke	Ron Brandon
Marine Corps League #826	Steve Slegers	Thomas Brandt
VFW #4278	Shannon Roberts	Stewart Bauer
VFW #7824	Greg Gilbertson	<i>Nick Herber</i>
Vietnam Vets #512	Greg Whitson	
Members at Large	Kelly Jones	
	Bryan McGillis	
	Tonya Wark	
	Tamara Elam	
	Megan Anderson	
	Eli Gonzalez	
	Michael Langsdorf	
	Lloyd Bowman	
	Buck Marr	
	Joe Fettig	

Clark County Representative: Abby Molloy, Nooreen Ebrahim

Guests: Judy Russell, Shannon Tyre (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); Amy Almond-Schmid (Returning Veterans Project)

2025 Member at Large Appointments

Letters of Intent for Member at Large Appointments that have been received, which includes Kelly Jones, Tamara Elam, Tonya Wark, Michael Langsdorf, Lloyd Bowman, Buck Marr, and Joe Fettig were approved unanimously during a role vote.

Approval of December 12, 2024 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion by Steve Slegers that was seconded by Kelly Jones.

Committee Reports

Appeals: None
Policies and Procedures: None
Nominations: None

2025 Committee Appointments

The chair ruled that the committees will stand as they were.

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes An advisory board to the Clark County Council January 9, 2024

Returning Veterans Presentation- Amy Almond Schmid

- The Returning Veterans Project (RVP) was founded in 2005 in Portland that has grown to assist veterans and families in SW Washington and Oregon. They help to provide services such as massage therapy, acupuncture, and mental health services in a confidential manner.
- Assistance is currently growing to serve all veterans, active-duty service members, guard and reserve service members, and their families.
- Care is provided to overlooked veteran populations such as LGBTQIA+ and women.
- RVP assists with the caseload that the VA has by decreasing the wait times and increasing the access to services in rural areas. In 2023 2,853 hours of health services were donated by volunteers.

Questions and Comments:

Q: How can the VAB Clark County and surrounding jurisdictions help RVP get more providers?

A: Veterans should spread the word about the project to eligible providers they know, and the project now has a recruiter to assist in growing the number of providers.

Q: What is psilocybin therapy?

A: It is a psychedelic medicinal mushroom therapy that is newly available in Oregon. This guided therapy is used to assist in cases of drug and alcohol addiction and trauma. The Portland VA has been conducting research which has shown promising results.

The board commented on the work they have received from RVP and stressed the need for new providers. The board emphasized the importance of spreading the word of RVP to veterans.

November 2024 Contractor & Fund Reports

- CCVAC: 44 Veterans served in November, services totaling \$13,528.05. 39 male veterans, 5 female veterans, 0 widows, 0 other veterans. 11 denials, 0 subject to appeals. 664 visits to the center for essentials and food, 945 sack breakfasts/lunches provided and 105 food boxes provided. 4,911 total pounds of food. 911 volunteer hours, totaling \$37,351 in value.
- Free Clinic: 4 Veterans served in August. Services totaled \$2,062 in value; billed \$740.00.
- VAF Fund: October revenue: \$80,136.99; expenditures: \$131,376.61 fund balance: \$682,953.49.

Clark County Veterans Assistance Center Update

- February 2nd is a family friendly bingo at the Elks from 3-5 p.m.
- June 21st is the gala. A silent and live auction will be held.
- March 4th is a women's veterans listening session from 6-8 p.m.
- CCVAB is hiring a county service officer, and the position is currently posted.
- Requesting that board members spend at least half a day at the center to understand their jobs and how their finding is used.
- As burials are such a high cost, the center will be discussing this when reworking their policies and procedures.

Old Business

None presented.

New Business

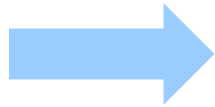
- WDVA has posted all bills that may impact veterans and/or their families. Staff will send this information to board members. Board members can advocate individually, or as a board if a majority of members agree to do so.

Open Forum and Public Comment

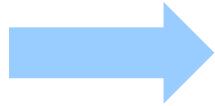
- Bruce Maas shared that Veterans Committee Council will be touring in SW Washington. Veterans' town hall will be held at the Longview Elks in Kelso, WA on February 3rd.



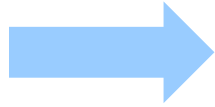
Agenda Item IV. Committee Reports



Appeals – Gene Couture



Policies and Procedures – Kelly Jones



Nominations – Bruce Maas



Discussion with Tony Sprague – Caseworker with Marie Gluesenkamp Perez's office



Agenda Item VI. December 2024 Contractor Reports

• **CCVAC**

- 62 Veterans served in December, services totaling \$35,336
- 53 male Veterans, 6 female Veterans, 3 widow, and 0 others served
- 14 denials, 0 subject to appeal
- 694 visits to the center for essentials and food. 984 sack breakfasts and lunches and 116 food boxes provided. 5,750 total pounds of food provided.
- 816.5 volunteer hours, totaling \$33,476.50 in value

• **Free Clinic**

- 2 veterans served in December. Services totaled \$3,900 in value. Billed \$5,479.48

• **WDVA**

- Fourth quarter: 665 claims, 85% “batting average”, \$779,314 VA payments.

• **Fund**

- December revenue: \$4,679.50; expenditures: \$77,770.07; fund balance: \$609,862.92



Agenda Item VII. CCVAC updates

**Honorably
serving those
who served
honorably**



Agenda Items VIII. – XI.

- **Old Business**
- **New Business**
- **Open Forum**
- **Adjourn**

Next meeting: March 13, 2025

