

**Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
*An advisory board to the Clark County Council*

March 13, 2025

**Chair: Bob Nichols**

**Vice Chair: Kelly Jones**

**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 #512  
Members at Large

**PRIMARY**

Bob Brennan  
**Gene Couture**  
*Charles Ingalls*  
**Bob Nichols**  
**Michael Gibson**  
**John Lovejoy**  
**Bruce Maas**  
**Patrick Locke**  
**Steve Slegers**  
**Shannon Roberts**  
**Greg Gilbertson**  
**Greg Whitson**  
**Kelly Jones**  
**Bryan McGillis**  
**Tonya Wark**  
**Tamara Elam**  
**Michael Langsdorf**  
**Lloyd Bowman**  
**Buck Marr**  
**Joe Fetting**

**ALTERNATE**

**Jonathan Frederick**  
*Vanise Pratt*  
*Roy Day*  
Earl Edwards  
  
*Thomas Brandt*  
**Stewart Bauer**  
*Nick Herber*

**Clark County Representative: Abby Molloy, Nooreen Ebrahim, Alissa Page**

**Guests:** Judy Russel, Sharon Tyre, and Sonja Woods (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center), Veronica Roberts (Washington Department of Veteran Affairs, Women's Veterans Committee), Ron Brandon (Veterans Refugee Support Organization), Tony Sprague (Office of Marie Glusenkamp-Perez), Ron Powers (Retired Clark College Professor)

**Invocation**

Remembrance of Bill Turley and Royce Pollard.

**Executive Session**

Start Time 2:06 p.m. without the presence of legal counsel. Potential to reinstate Ron Brandon. End time was 2:23 p.m. with after-action.

**Vote on Ron Brandon Reinstatement**

Ron Brandon discussed his military and service within the veteran community. He apologized for the email that was sent to the board and other parties. His opposition to the RCW change presented at the last Veterans Advisory Board meeting was shared.

The board discussed the need for a letter of intent prior to reinstatement, with staff clarifying that a letter can be turned in after the vote is taken if necessary.

Roll vote was taken to reinstate Ron Brandon, with 3 members in favor and 12 opposed. The request to reinstate Ron Brandon was denied. Three members abstained from voting.

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### Approval of February 13, 2025 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion by Kelly Jones that was seconded by Tamara Elam. Approved unanimously.

### Committee Reports

**Appeals:** None

**Policies and Procedures:** 3.4.3 will be updated to state that two consecutive months of rent and utilities can be subsidized instead of having the two months of support occur nonconsecutively.

A motion was made to adopt the proposed change to 3.4.3 by Buck Marr and seconded by Gene Couture. Approved unanimously.

**Nominations:** None

### Member Roles and Responsibilities and OMPA training

- Staff presented on the expectations that VAB members are expected to uphold. The board represents the community rather than individual views.
- Guidance to be an effective member of the board was given, including attending meetings, reviewing meeting materials, communicate respectfully with other members, and be willing to compromise when necessary.
- Governing laws were discussed, and members were encouraged to review the board bylaws for in depth review of laws.
- Board members must disclose any conflict of interest and uphold state ethics law.
- It is recommended and best practice for board members to contact Clark County communication staff when speaking with media outlets and the public so a coordinated message can be shared.
- The board watched a video that reviewed Robert's Rules of Order when making a motion.
- Board members can be penalized up to \$500 for the first offense of the Open Public Meetings Act, with increasing financial repercussions with repeated offenses.
- A self-guided training was shared with board members that discusses the rules and regulations to uphold when serving on a governmental board.
- Currently, there is not a Code of Conduct for the Veterans Advisory Board. It has been recommended by legal council that one is created. Board members were encouraged to join the Policy and Procedures Task Force if they would like to participate in drafting the code.

Questions and Comments:

Q: Is there a sample document for the Code of Conduct?

A: Yes, the Community Action Advisory Board's Code of Conduct will act as a starting point.

Q: Can staff send the sample document to the board?

A: Staff will do so after the meeting.

### January 2025 Contractor & Fund Reports and 2024 Year-End Fund Reports

- CCVAC: 45 Veterans served in January, services totaling \$17,919.91. 38 male veterans, 6 female veterans, 1 widow, 0 other veterans. 18 denials, 0 subject to appeal. 630 visits to the center for essentials and food, 1,035 sack breakfasts/lunches provided and 54 food boxes provided. 4,503 total pounds of food. 716.5 volunteer hours, totaling \$29,376.50 in value.
- Free Clinic: 1 Veterans served in January. Services totaled \$655 in value; billed \$727.54.
- WDVA: Fourth quarter- 665 claims, 85% "batting average", \$779,314 VA payments
- VAF Fund: January revenue: \$5,119.34; expenditures: \$39,662.66 fund balance: \$488,552.39.
- In 2024, the Veteran's Fund revenue was \$946,546.16 and spent \$992,466.99. The net decrease for the year was \$45,920.83 and the fund balance starting January 2025 was \$523,508.16.

### Clark County Veterans Assistance Center Updates

- Gala is on June 21<sup>st</sup>. If board members have auction items, the center is accepting donations.

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- Deposits have been made for the first of the gala rental items.
- Women veterans listening session was successful, with 37 veterans attending. Hoping to expand this event next year.
- A new CSO will be starting with the CCVAC next week.
- Budget modification for 2025 is a \$21,600, for a total of \$904,600 for 2025. This is the cost to lease a new building that will provide double the space that is currently available. Staff confirmed that this request could be met with current funding.

### Questions and Comments

Q: Where is the new building and is it accessible by the bus?

A: The spot is off Harney in Downtown Vancouver which is accessible by the bus and one story.

Q: Is there parking?

A: Yes, there are 40 spaces.

Q: What is the rent cost?

A: Currently \$1 per square foot, with the building being 8,000-10,000 square feet.

Q: Does this cost include potential renovations, or will the building owner take care of the costs?

A: Terms and conditions have not yet been agreed upon, but donations will fund renovations if needed.

Q: When will the budget be presented? What is the approximate budget that will be asked for 2025?

A: The budget will be presented to County Council in August and are anticipating asking for a \$43,000 increase to the budget from 2024.

Q: Can the center make a conceptual budget for

A: As the office layout has not been confirmed, this is likely not possible to provide.

Q: Is there a flier for the gala?

A: A save the date that will be sent to staff for distribution to the board.

C: The board should have a table at the gala.

Q: Who is the landlord for the new building?

A: This cannot be disclosed, but there is a benefactor assisting the CCVAC secure this building.

C: CCVAC works tirelessly to provide for the veteran community.

A motion to approve the proposed budget modification was made by Michael Langsdorf and seconded by Lloyd Bowman. Approved unanimously.

### Old Business

None presented.

### New Business

- Bruce Maas shared that the VFW's service office has an unfilled position. The Disabled American Veterans service center is referring clients to Cowlitz County as there is not a center in Clark County currently.
- Shannon Roberts noted that Legion 4278 has placed half of the 800 wreaths in the Camas cemetery.
- Post 7824 is having a Vietnam Veterans luncheon on June 29<sup>th</sup>

### Open Forum and Public Comment

- Ron Powers shared that March 29<sup>th</sup> is Vietnam Veterans Day, and March 30<sup>th</sup> is Washington State Vietnam Veterans Day. An event will be held at 1 p.m. at the Vancouver Mall on March 29<sup>th</sup>. All veterans are welcome, and Vietnam veterans will receive a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary pin and a letter from the president.

**Meeting adjourned. Next meeting April 10, 2025.**

**Motion to adjourn by Michael Langsdorf and seconded by Kelly Jones. Motion passed unanimously.**