

THURSTON COUNTY VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

October 20, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mimi Fields, Thom Stoddert, Robert Thompson, Gary Walker, Casey Wegner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Nakamura, Sean Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Demme, Lou McElroy and Joseph Worsley

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Veterans Day Ceremony will be November 11th at the Capitol Rotunda. The Director of WDVA, Lourdes E. Alvarado Ramos will be the keynote speaker. This event is organized by the Thurston County Veterans Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of August 19, 2014 were unanimously approved by the VAB.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- The Vet Center is currently serving veterans on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at space provided by the City of Lacey.
- The service provider conference will not be held January 2015.
- On November 18th the South Sound Military and Communities Partnership will sponsor an event for local jurisdictions and service providers. In addition, Mary Huff with the SSMCP is considering holding a forum for veteran service organizations after the first of the year.

DEFINITION OF VETERAN

At the County Veteran Program Conference in Yakima last August a revised definition of veteran was presented. The intent is to obtain approval for the change in definition during the 2015 legislative session. Following a review of the proposed definition the advisory board made the following motion:

Move to recommend clarification of honorable conditions in the proposed definition of veteran and consider including 'under honorable conditions' in all of the sections. In addition, delete 'D' in the definition.

The above listed motion was then tabled. The VAB asked that Linda get clarification from WDVA regarding 'honorable conditions' so as to determine whether this wording should be used throughout the definition. The following was then approved:

Moved and unanimously approved that any reference under 5, Definition of Veteran language be someone released under honorable conditions.

Linda will present this recommendation to WDVA as well as provide feedback that the VAB is not sure of the implications of expanding the definition of veteran and if it is in the right place. The advisory board agreed expanding the definition language by local authorities should be some place but perhaps under administration of funds, not in the definition.

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The next planning meeting will be October 27th at 6pm here at PHSS.

NON-PROFIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Clyde Drury, Director of the Pierce County Veterans Bureau attended the last non-profit planning committee meeting. He explained that in Pierce County the Veterans Advisory Board members serve both as an advisory board and as a non-profit advisory board. The non-profit board raises money that goes directly to veterans. In Pierce County the applicants come to the bureau and then are sent to a VSO to receive assistance.

Pierce County also said that they have a database that Thurston County could utilize. There are a lot of decisions to make on how to set-up a 501C3.

OTHER BUSINESS

The January VAB meeting will be Monday, Jan. 26th instead of Jan. 19th due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. In January, Gary will report on the outreach plan. The Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis and Rotary all are being considered for presentations regarding the VAB and VAF.

It can cost \$800 for the application to set-up a 501C3. It was suggested that donations be used to cover those costs. It was also suggested to talk to the Community Foundation and the Lacey Chamber of Commerce, Military Group for ideas regarding the non-profit.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by,
Linda Loyle, Community Program Manager