

Lewis County Veterans' Advisory Board

Attendance		
✓	Board Members:	Term Expires:
	Kenneth Norwood	
✓	Bill Marshall, Vice-Chair	
✓	George Dodd	6/30/2023
✓	Janice Marshall	
✓	Rico Barrientes	6/30/2023
	Roger Morningstar	

✓	Alternates:	Term Expires:

✓	VRF Staff:	
✓	Heidi Palmer	

✓	Guests:	
	Meja Handlen	
	Comm. Brummer	

Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 1030am

Location: Zoom/Veterans Memorial Museum

Welcome/Lunch

Call to Order, Flag Salute, Attendance Quorum present

Agenda (Approval/Changes) Motion – September/2nd – Bill – Passed

April 2022 Minutes (Approval/Changes) Motion - George/2nd - Jan - Passed

Finance Report

Board Discussion Items:

1 – Communications-Message

Nothing to discuss

2 – By-Laws/Policy & Procedures

Nothing to discuss

3 – Jail – Heidi

Heidi saw 0 clients at the jail.

4 – Increase of benefits- Heidi

Heidi talked about a previous conversation the board had in the past about increasing benefit allotments for qualifying Veterans and their families. Rent costs have gone up tremendously along with the cost of food. Currently qualifying Veterans can receive up to \$750 for rent, \$450 for utilities/Food/Gas/Propane, \$1,000 funeral per year. After some discussion there was a motion put in by George Dodd, we increase the rental assistance up to 75% of the rent or up to the max of \$1,000, whichever is the lowest. Rico second the motion. Motion passed. Roger Morningstar made a motion to increase the gas voucher and utility assistance amount to \$500 for the year. Rico second the motion. Motion passed.

5 – Expand Benefit Eligibility - Heidi

Heidi talked to the board about expanding the eligibility of the VRF from just Honorable to those who have a General or General Under Honorable Conditions. There are some reasons individuals may have received a General or General Under Honorable discharge who would not now. After some discussion; Rico made a motion to expand Veteran eligibility to include General Under Honorable Conditions as long as the applicant also falls under the definition of a Veteran. George second the motion. Motion passed.

6 – Veterans Journey Forward – Heidi

We spoke about the update received from Jesse at the last meeting. Heidi let the board know about the grants Jesse had applied for in November. Heidi let the board know she will pass on the information once she receives the hard copy. After some discussion, it was decided that we would need to have a meeting ASAP with Jesse so the VAB could make their final recommendation to be provided to the BOCC by the following Tuesday's BOCC meeting. It was agreed upon to have the emergency meeting scheduled for Friday 12/9 at 1500hrs. Heidi will send out a calendar/Zoom invite to all participants. Heidi will also be sending out a fiscal breakdown of the first budget allotment for VJF.

7 – New Members – Heidi

Heidi talked about needing more board members. Barbara from the Prosecuting Attorney's office who is also a Veteran attending the board meeting since she is a Veteran. She would like to participate on the board. Heidi will send her an application. We need to get more applicants. Roger said he has a couple of Veteran officers that are interested to be on the board. We will need to get a press release done to get the word out.

Date & Time of Next Meetings:

- Business Meeting (Zoom) - Wednesday, November 2, 2022, 1030am
- Workshop (Zoom) – Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 1030am

Adjourn

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✓	Alternates:	Term Expires:

✓	VRF Staff:	
✓	Heidi Palmer	

✓	Guests:	
	Meja Handlen	

Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 4, 2023, 1030am

Location: Zoom/Veterans Memorial Museum

Welcome/Lunch

Call to Order, Flag Salute, Attendance Quorum present

Agenda (Approval/Changes) Motion – September/2nd – George – Passed

April 2022 Minutes (Approval/Changes) Motion - George/2nd - Jan - Passed

Finance Report

Board Discussion Items:

1 – Communications-Message

Rico got some information about advertisement so we can get the word out about VAB and VRF. We want to look at using the billboards on Kresky. Roger suggested using the theater for advertisement. You can get it shown before every movie and it would reach a large number of people. Rico is going to look into it. There was a suggestion to get on the radio as well and to speak with Isabell at the Chronicle.

2 – By-Laws/Policy & Procedures

Heidi typed up the memo requesting the changes to increasing the benefit dollar amounts. The board would like the change to happen as soon as possible.

There was a request presented asking if we can change our board requirements since we are having a hard time getting board members. George made the motion going from 7 to 5 board members, quorum from 4 to 3. Having a total of 7 board members and 2 alternates. Heidi will check with Robert Bradley for legal advice. Roger second the motion. Motion passed.

3 – Jail – Heidi

Heidi saw 0 clients at the jail.

4 – VAB Application- Heidi

Barbara Russell submitted her application to the VAB. Barbara has experience in the Reserves and Active Duty with Honorable Discharge. The board feels Barbara will be a great asset to the VAB. George made the motion to accept Barbara's application. Rico second the motion. Motion passed.

5 – Veterans Journey Forward- Jesse/Chip/Kylie

Heidi reminded the board about the BOH meeting happening on the 9th where we will update the Commissioners on VJF and the VAB's recommendation.

Jesse provided everyone with a packet. In the packet is the financial breakdown for the VMM and VJF, ads for two classes, Jesse's calendar, and December excel benchmarks. Jesse told the board there will be a CPC training happening in April. He is getting rosters and sign ups ready for the training. Those who are interested will be directed to take the pre-qualifying application and training/certificate.

LCVAB went into executive session to discuss VJF update.

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