

Lewis County Veterans' Advisory Board

Attendance		
✓	Board Members:	Term Expires:
	Ken Norwood, Chair	
	George Dodd, Vice-Chair	
	Rico Barrientes	
	Barb Russell	
	Greg Lassila	

✓	Alternates:	Term Expires:

✓	VRF Staff:	
	Heidi Palmer	
	Meja Handlen	

✓	Guests:	
	Edward Smith	

Workshop Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 16, 2023, 1030am

Location: Public Health 2nd Floor Conference Room & Zoom

Welcome

Call to Order, Flag Salute, Attendance Quorum present

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

July 19, 2023 Minutes (Approval/Changes)

Workshop Discussion Items:

1 – Roger Morningstar

Heidi had informed the board members Roger Morningstar is no longer on the board due to having three unexcused absences from meetings. This is following the VAB SOP and By-Laws.

2 – Stand Down

Heidi provided an update on the Stand Down. The items ordered from Amazon have arrived and are in storage. VRF continues to receive donations from local community members that can be used to for the event as well; clothing items, hygiene, blankets, etc. Heidi has already received RSVP's from providers who would like to host a table. DOH will be providing vaccines to Veterans and their families. Railworks reached out to Heidi asking what donation items are needed for event and would like to assist. Red Cross will be at the event handing out Comfort Kits.

3 – VA Digital Navigator

Heidi invited them to the Stand Down event. George asked if we could reach out and ask if we could have some on hand to provide to Veterans who need them. We could partner with the VA and provide tracking for each "box" provided with an understanding each individual can only receive one box.

4 – Veterans Town Hall

Board members discussed the meeting and how it went. George, Gunny, and Rico were in attendance. There were lots of comments and discussion around Community Care, inconsistency of the VA across the state and country, lack of services in our area and most of other rural areas, and lack of communication across services within the VA.

Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez will be in in Toledo for a Town Hall meeting. A few of the board members will be in attendance. Board members suggested having our own town hall meeting with her in September before they go into session.

5 – New VAB Members

Heidi received two applications to join the VAB, William Cavinder from Chehalis and Edward Smith from Randle. Board members had received application prior to the meeting to review. Applications were discussed and voted on during the meeting. George made a motion to accept Edward Smith's application to join the VAB. Greg second the motion. Motion passed. Greg made a motion to accept William Cavinder's application. George amended the motion to accept William Cavinder's application with the understanding he can attend the meetings. Greg accepted the motion. Motion passed.

Heidi will call Mr. Cavinder to confirm he is able to attend meetings.

6 – Suicide Prevention Training

Heidi let the board know about a Suicide Prevention training that will be held at Centralia College August 24th 6-730 in the Trans Alta building that is open to the public.

Adjourn