



MEMO

December 20, 2023

From: Lewis County Veterans Advisory Board (VAB)

To: Lewis County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

RE: Recommendation

The Veterans Advisory Board members have agreed to submit the following recommendations to be considered by the Board of County Commissioners:

1. We would like to recommend Jeremy Almond be accepted into the Veterans Advisory Board as a new voting member. Jeremy's beginning service will be 1 January 2024.

Public Health & Social Services staff will process the appropriate resolution to make the above changes should you approve them to move forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Lewis County Veterans' Advisory Board
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 11am
Location: Zoom/Lower Level BOCC Room

Welcome

Call to Order, Flag Salute, Attendance Quorum present

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

August 2023 Minutes (Approval/Changes) Motion - George/2nd - Ed- Passed

Attend	Board Members
Y	Ken Norwood, Chair
Y	George Dodd, Vice-Chair
Y	Rico Barrientes
Y	Barb Russell
Y	Ed Smith

Guests
Scott Brummer
Meja Handlen
Jesse Lloyd
Chip Duncan
Aaron Simon

Business Discussion Items:

1 – Honor Greg Lassila

The group discussed his contributions to our nation and the community. His family was moved by the challenge coin and asked we be thanked for that gesture.

2 – Veterans Journey Forward Update

Jesse & Chip provided an update on the services being provided. For 2024, they are working on classes and information to help veterans further. Of note, legal services is something they are working on securing. They have a new admin for the museum, Sam. She previously worked for them.

3 – Aaron Simon with Mason Cares

Aaron is the organization's Deputy Director, whose mission is to serve those in need. They have specific services for Veterans (do not have to be a member of the Masons) around basic needs. A presentation about the services offered through Mason Cares was given. Contact info is outreach@masonscare.org. Aaron's direct contact info is aaron@masonscare.org (253) 267-8625

4 – Work Group Updates

The outreach workgroup created flyers for Veteran Relief Fund services and board recruitment. The flyers will be emailed to the group for approval. Dates for collaborative resource fairs are March 24th and April 21st. The events will have resources and set aside items for Veterans experiencing homelessness.

The Bylaws group recommends a code of ethics section, continuation of appointments if there are no applicants, and open recruitment versus a specific closing date to increase the applicant pool if vacancies occur.

5 – Vacancies

The board reviewed and unanimously approved Jermei Almond's application. Meja gave an update regarding Gunny, George, and Rico's appointments. Due to a timeline issue, their reappointments were not moved to the commissioners for a resolution. The two members in good standing made the motion and approved their appointments being moved forward. County staff will prepare the recommendation documents and notify the advisory board of the outcome.

LEWIS COUNTY VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD

October 16, 2023

Dear Whom it May Concern:

The Lewis County Veterans Advisory Board has openings on the board as members and/or alternates. Applicants should be aware that only Lewis County residents may be considered for this position. The current openings requires membership in a nationally recognized veteran's service organization such as the VFW or American Legion, although veterans not affiliated with a service organization may apply and be considered for future vacancies. You will find the application for the Lewis County Veterans Advisory Board on the reverse side of this letter.

Each applicant must have an Honorable Discharge and attach a copy of their DD214 to the application to be considered. Applicants will also be subject to a background check and an interview prior to recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to sit on the advisory board.

Applications must be post marked or delivered to Heidi Palmer at the Public Health Department 3rd floor, 360 NW North St., Chehalis, WA 98532. Office hours are Monday – Friday 8 AM – 4:30 PM.

If you have any questions regarding the nomination process please contact:

Heidi Palmer
Lewis County Public Health & Social Services
360-740-1417
360 NW North Street
Chehalis, WA 98532

LEWIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
360 NW North Street
Chehalis, WA 98532

I am seeking appointment to the Veterans Advisory Board for Lewis County.

Name: Jeremy A. Almond

Address: 1507 Jensen Avenue, Centralia, WA 98531

Phone: 360-880-1347 Service Organization: Not a member of the VFW or AL, however a 10 year member of the Wounded Warrior Project.

Why do you want to serve on the Veterans Advisory Board?

Any opportunity I have to make a difference in another veteran's life is enough for me to want to serve in this capacity.

What skills, service background, or volunteer experience will you bring the Board?

Washington State Army National Guard (6 years) with a training deployment to Thailand and combat deployment to Iraq. Lewis County Sheriff's Deputy from 2006-2018. Prior volunteer firefighter with LCFD #1. Small business owner.

X I have attached a copy of my DD214 Honorable Discharge and I understand that a background check is required before submission to the Lewis County board of County Commissions.

Jeremy Almond 11/06/2023
Signature Date

☐ I am endorsed by or member of the following Service Organization:

Name of Service Organization

Recommendations

Signature of Organization Quartermaster/Adjutant Date

Send Application with DD214 to: LCHD/Heidi Palmer 360 NW North St, Chehalis, WA 98532

Kendra Garrison

From: Heidi Palmer
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 1:50 PM
To: Kendra Garrison; Meja Handlen
Subject: RE: Board appointments

Kendra,

Due to Greg's passing in November, that left his regular position vacant starting in December. Jeremy will be taking over Greg's term, ending 30 June 2025.

Heidi Palmer
She/Her Pronouns
Veterans Benefit Specialist/Community Outreach
Veterans Service Officer

Lewis County Public Health & Social Services
360 NW North Street
Chehalis, WA 98532
360-740-1417 Desk
360-520-7429 Cell
[A Safe, Healthy, and Thriving Lewis County](#)

From: Kendra Garrison <Kendra.Garrison@lewiscountywa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 1:44 PM
To: Heidi Palmer <Heidi.Palmer@lewiscountywa.gov>; Meja Handlen <Meja.Handlen@lewiscountywa.gov>
Subject: RE: Board appointments

Also, what is his term expiration date?

Kendra Garrison

Administrative Assistant Senior
Lewis County Public Health and Social Services
(360) 740-1439

From: Kendra Garrison
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 1:42 PM
To: Heidi Palmer <Heidi.Palmer@lewiscountywa.gov>; Meja Handlen <Meja.Handlen@lewiscountywa.gov>
Subject: RE: Board appointments

Hi Heidi,

Is Jeremy filling one of the two alternate vacant positions?

Kendra Garrison

Administrative Assistant Senior