

Lewis County Veterans' Advisory Board

Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 11 am

Location: Lower Level BOCC Room/Zoom

Board Members

X	Ken Norwood, Chair
	Vacant – Vice Chair
X	Ed Smith
X	Jermy Almond
X	AJ Rogers
X	Candace Johnson
X	Patrick Swanson
	Tina Koehn - Alt
	Tabitha Hopp - Alt

VRF/County

x	George Dodd
x	Meja Handlen
x	Scott Brummer

Guest

Jerry Villareal

Welcome

Call to Order, Flag Salute, Attendance

December 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes - Approved

Business Meeting November (Approval/Changes) Pat motioned to Accept, Second by Ed - Approved

Business Discussion Items:

1. Executive Session (Membership)

Candance made a motion to remove the Tina Koehn and Tabitha Hopp as alternate members of the board. Neither member has attended any meetings and would be unable to fill the positions if a member of the board was not present. Ed seconded the motion. Motion passed.

2. Staff Update – George has been hired to replace Patrick at the VRF Coordinator for the county.

3. Advisory Board Membership

Since George has been hired as the Veteran Relief Fund Coordinator the Vice Chair position needs to be filled. Candance nominated Pat to fill the remain time as Vice Chair. No other nomination was made. Candance made a motion for Pat to fill the position, AJ seconded the motion, motion passed.

Jerry Villareal applied to be a member of the board. After discussing with other board members, AJ made a motion to accept Jerry as a new board member. Jermy seconded, motioned passed.

4. Veterans Journey Forward Update

- Elevance Health Foundation grant under review
- SSG Fox Grant – Under Review (Pending Notice)
- Licensed Counselor – 5 Scholarships remaining
- American Legion VSO certification (April)

- VetCenter – VA medical support (twice a month) MOU
- Certified Peer Counseling Training – 16 Participants
- Vets Night Out – Good Buzz Brewing – 1st Thursday of the month
- Tobacco Training – Licensing Exam due before March
- 2 SAP Grant
- Veterans 5k (43 participants)
- Valley View Medical – Veterans medical assistance
- Staff Member Services
 - VSO 380
 - VSO-A 196
 - PSS 86

Future Plans

- NAMI Collaboration
- Atlas Sites – VA Telehealth sites (Pending Funding)
- \$300,00 match funding grant.
- Employment opportunity (PACMNT)

- 5. Veterans Stand Down/Location** – It was recommended to the board to be part of the Homeless Connect standdown on January 30, 2025. It would still accomplish what the intent of the standdown is and would allow board members to connect to other in the community that assist with homeless individuals.
- 6. Good Order** – There was discussion about changing the by-laws concerning the requirements of alternative board member. Since Pat is working on updating the by-laws, it was recommended that he include language concerning alternate boards members meeting requirements.

It was recommended by Commission Brummer to work on our legislative priorities for the coming year. One recommendation was to investigate how to aid to those veterans that are above the federal poverty level, but still be able to provide some financial assistance in special circumstances.

Adjourn at 12:15 pm.

Date & Time of Next Meetings:

- Business Meeting – Wednesday, January 8th, 2025, at 11 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84979738290?pwd=Adx0brzVTFW64ZbhzRmjzQVWt9rTtq.1>

Meeting ID: 849 7973 8290

Passcode: 146733