



MEMO

Date: June 25, 2025

From: Lewis County Veterans Advisory Board (VAB)

To: Lewis County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

RE: Recommendations for Membership Changes

The Veterans Advisory Board respectfully submits the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. Appointment of New Regular Member

We recommend the appointment of Grant Kistler as a new regular voting member of the Veterans Advisory Board. If approved, Mr. Kistler's term of service will begin May 1, 2025, and end April 30, 2027.

2. Appointment of New Alternate Members

We recommend Jeff Elder and Scott Salkovics be appointed as alternate voting members of the Board. Their terms will begin May 1, 2025, and end April 30, 2027.

3. Reappointment of Current Member

We recommend the reappointment of Kenneth Norwood for another term as a regular voting member. His new term will begin July 1, 2025, and end June 30, 2027.

4. Removal of Current Members

The Board recommends the removal of Jeremy Almond (regular voting member) and Ricardo Barrientos (regular voting member) from their current positions on the Veterans Advisory Board.

Additional documents, including applications and meeting minutes from the Veterans Advisory Board meetings, are included for your review.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lewis County Veterans' Advisory Board

Board Meeting Minutes – April 2, 2025

Location: Lower Level BOCC Room

Board Members

X	Ken Norwood, Chair
X	Patrick Swanson VC
X	Ed Smith
X	AJ Rogers
X	Candace Johnson
X	Patrick Swanson
X	Jerry Villarrealwat
	Vacant

VRF/County

x	George Dodd
x	Meja Handlen
X	Scott Brummer

Guest

Chip Duncan
Jesse Lloyd
Greg Kistler
Garrett Hopp
Jeff Elder
Terry Culliane – Senior Moments Insurance
Becky Carver
Scott Salkovics

Welcome

Call to Order, Flag Salute, Attendance

March 5th, 2025 Meeting Minutes - (Approval/Changes) Pat motioned to Accept, Second by Ed – All Approved

Business Discussion Items:

1. Presentation – Becky Carver – Strophy Foundation – Becky described the foundation as a therapeutic court program that supports Veterans by addressing gaps in services, such as job training, financial education, treatments not covered by court grants, and job training expenses. She highlighted that the Oxford housing model could significantly benefit homeless veterans striving to reintegrate into the community. George asked the board to move forward in collaborating with Becky to find solutions for the homeless veteran population.

2. Veterans Journey Forward Update

- Licensed Counselor – 10 Scholarships remaining
- American Legion VSO affiliation pending
- VetCenter – Mental health counseling (Dr. Philadelphia)
- Vet Night Out – Food Funding - Good Buzz Brewing 1st Thursday of the month
- Female Veteran Peer Group
- Memorial Day 5K
- Agriculture program

- Program collaboration – Hevin, Camano Island

Staff Member Services

- VSO 272
- VSO-A - 69
- PSS 152
- Indigent Clients 57
- **Future Plans**
 - Discovery Therapeutic Services and Seedpod Farm
 - Oregon Equine Therapy
 - Veterans Day events
 - Gala Fundraiser

3. Veterans Benefit Specialist Report

- Financials – There has been a slowdown in request to emergency assistance for food/gas/utilities. George is ensuring individuals meet the requirements and provide the necessary documentation for assistance
 - VSO Status/Housing Access/Files Updated –an increase is assisting veterans with applying for VA benefits.
 - Medical Transportation - The number of veterans seeking transportation assistance has decreased compared to previous months. He attributes this decline to the need for maintaining and clearly explaining the requirements to veterans, specifically that the assistance is limited to VA medical appointments or VA-referred medical appointments.
4. 2025 National Association of State Workforce Agencies Veterans Conference 9th through 11th of July. George and AJ will be attending the conference this year.
5. **By-Law Changes** – Nothing to report.

6. **Executive Session** – To review the application for board membership of Scott Salkovics.

After the discussion the board came out of executive session. Ed made a motion to have Grant Kistler permanent board member. Jeff Elder and Scott Salkovics be alternate members. Candace second the motion. All approved.

7. **Good Of the Order** – George informed the board that Gunny will be termed limited from the board In June of 2025. AJ would like to pursue a way to maintain Gunny on the board if possible.

George informed the board that he will be attending the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs National Veterans Legal Service Program 2025 Training in Olympia from April 29 thru May 1st.

Adjourn at 12:40 pm.

Date & Time of Next Meetings:

- Business Meeting – Wednesday, May 7th, 2025, at 11 am

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 849 7973 8290

Passcode: 146733

January 1, 2025

Hello,

Please accept my application for a position on the Veterans Advisory Board.

I served in the Air Force from 1964 – 68 and was honorably discharged on 16 Feb 1968. I was a Crew Chief on KC 135 tankers and attained the rank of E4 Sargent. After my discharge I attended the University of Washington graduating in 1974 with a degree in forestry.

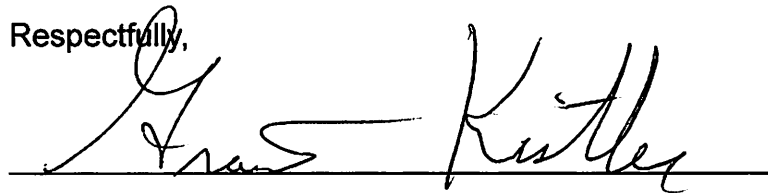
I worked for Weyerhaeuser for 35 years retiring in 2009. I held various management positions during my career, my last position as Plant Operations Manager where I was responsible for a Timberstrand facility employing 210 people.

I am currently Chaplain and editor of our post newsletter at American Legion Post 101 in Winlock and a fire commissioner for Fire District 15,

I have excellent communication skills both written and oral as well as solid computer skills.

References upon request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Kistler", written over a horizontal line.

Grant Kistler

LEWIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
360 NW North Street
Chehalis, WA 98532

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

Name: Grant I. Kistler

Address: 136 Fisher Rd Winlock, WA 98596

Phone: 360/827-1238 Service Organization: American Legion Post 101

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

To be part of an organization that supports
vets and their families.

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

Please See Attachment.

☒ 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.

Signature Grant Kistler Date 1-3-2025

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

American Legion & VFW
Name of Service Organization

Recommendations

Signature of Organization Quartermaster/Adjutant Phil Carol Date 10 Jan 25

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

Jeffrey Elder
324 SW 13th St.
Chehalis, WA 98532

02/04/2025

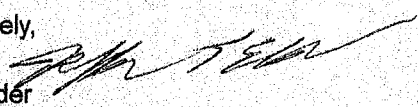
Dear Lewis County Commissioners:

I would like to apply for the opening in the Veterans Advisory Board for Lewis County. I am a veteran of the Air Force from 1989-1993 serving in the first Gulf War and Panama. I later joined the Air Force Reserve and was activated back to active duty after 9-11 and served from 2001-2002 and received an honorable discharge. I am also a son of a veteran that served 31 years in the Navy and Army Reserve with 3.5 tours in Vietnam, nephew is also currently serving in the Air Force. My family has served this country since before the civil war and moved to Lewis County after that war. I am a 100% disabled veteran and am passionate about taking care of my fellow veterans. I have experience and understanding on matters relating to veterans that will be a benefit to the Veterans Advisory Board.

Since 2022 I have dedicated myself to helping veterans and first responders dealing with PTSD and PTSD symptoms. I work with several non-profits that help veterans and first responders with PTSD. The first organization I work with is the Whiteheart Foundation/Guardian Project. I am a VALOR team leader where I take veterans and first responders on week long trips to Wyoming and Colorado where I lead discussions on PTSD and how to turn their pain into a purpose. The second group is called QRFup. This is a new group for veterans and first responders having a mental health crisis and when they call we respond and get them help. This program does not go active until May 2025. I am currently getting my certifications to be a responder for the Lewis County area for QRFup. I am also certified by Washington state as a certified peer counselor. I do all this as a volunteer and receive no payment for it. I do all this to give back to my fellow warriors.

Thank you for considering my application. If you need additional information or would like to talk to me, I can be reached at H-360-748-8730 or C-360-269-0867.

Sincerely,


Jeff Elder
324 SW 13th St.
Chehalis, WA 98532



Lewis County Citizen Advisory Boards/Commissions/Committees Application

Appointment will require regular meeting attendance that is usually held monthly and in the evening. You may attach a resume or other relevant information if desired. If you are not chosen at this time, would you like us to keep your application on file for future appointments? Yes ☒ No ☐

Return completed form to:

Committees@lewiscountywa.gov
Lewis County Commissioners' Office
351 NW North St.
Chehalis, WA 98532

RECEIVED
Board of County Commissioners
Lewis County Washington
FEB 05 2025

Name: Jeffrey Elder

Address: 324 SW 13th St Chehalis WA 98532
Street address/PO Box City State Zip Code

Phone: Home: 3607488730 Cell: 360-269-0867

E-Mail Address: arelder@comcast.net

Occupation: Retired/disabled

Commissioner District #: 1 How many hours are you willing to commit? 12

Which Advisory Board/Commission/Committee interests you? Veterans Advisory Board

Briefly describe why you would like to serve.

I am a veteran of the Air Force from 1989-1993 and the Air Force Reserves and actived back to active duty from 2001-2002. I am 100% disabled veteran and am active with helping veterans get mental health help.

What community organization do you currently volunteer with or have you volunteered with in the past?

I am a team leader with the White Heart Foundation/Gaurdian Project and am getting my certification with QRFup as a responder for PTSD.

Describe your qualifications and skills that would be of benefit.

I am a certified peer counselor from the state of Washington and have dedicated myself to helping my fellow veterans to have a better life.

List your educational background and area of study.

High school, multiple training classes and certifications on peer suport for veterans and first responders

Jeffrey Elder
Signature

02/05/2025

Date

Scott Salkovics
139 Skyhawk Dr
Toledo, WA 98591

March 8, 2025

Lewis County Commissioners
351 N.W. North St.
Chehalis, WA 98532

Dear Lewis County Commissioners:

I understand that the Lewis County Commissioners are seeking residents interested in serving on the Veterans Advisory Board, I am interested in participating in the process. As a retired veteran I have observed and experienced many of the issues that veterans deal with in transitioning into civilian life.

I served 40 years in the Marine Corp and the Army, as both enlisted and officer. I watched many of my soldiers struggle with finding employment and sometimes substance abuse. As a disabled vet with 3 combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, I understand what the stress of deployment is like on both the individual and their families. I was lucky to have strong family support to help me through my own challenges.

I hope that I can help provide insights and support to military families in Lewis County by participating on the Veterans Advisory Board.

Thank you for considering my application. If you need additional information or would like to talk to me, I can be reached at 360-562-7068.

Sincerely,


Scott Salkovics
139 Skyhawk Dr
Toledo, WA 98591



Lewis County Citizen Advisory Boards/Commissions/Committees Application

Appointment will require regular meeting attendance that is usually held monthly and in the evening. You may attach a resume or other relevant information if desired. If you are not chosen at this time, would you like us to keep your application on file for future appointments? Yes ☒ No ☐

Return completed form to:

Committees@lewiscountywa.gov
Lewis County Commissioners' Office
351 NW North St.
Chehalis, WA 98532

Name: Scott Salkovics

Address: 139 Skyhawk Dr Toledo WA 98591
Street address/PO Box City State Zip Code

Phone: Home: _____ Cell: 360-562-7068

E-Mail Address: Helowarrior47@aol.com

Occupation: Retired military/DOO

Commissioner District #: 3 How many hours are you willing to commit? 10/month

Which Advisory Board/Commission/Committee interests you? Veterans Advisory Board

Briefly describe why you would like to serve.

I have spent my entire adult life (40+ years) in the military.
I retired 7 years ago and I have watched many fellow Soldiers
struggle with civilian life.

What community organization do you currently volunteer with or have you volunteered with in the past?

None

Describe your qualifications and skills that would be of benefit.

My experience with all of the branches over the span of 4 decades
has given me time to observe many service member and watched
them join and transition successfully into the civilian world.

List your educational background and area of study.

Embry Riddle University - BS in Aeronautics/minor in Management
Airline Transport Pilot Certificate - FAA Certified Flight Instructor -
FAA Substitute Teaching Certificate - K-12 Washington

Signature Scott Salkovics

3/3/2025
Date

Lewis County Veterans' Advisory Board

Board Meeting Minutes – May 7th, 2025

Location: Lower Level BOCC Room/Zoom

Welcome

Call to Order, Flag Salute, Attendance

April 2nd, 2025, Meeting Minutes (Approval/Changes) – Pat motioned to Accept, Second by Jerry – All Approved

Public Comment - None

Business Discussion Items:

1. Veterans Journey Forward Update

- Licensed Counselor – 10 Scholarships
- American Legion VSAO affiliation pending
- Vets Night Out – Average 30 people
- Female Veteran Peer group – She served
- Memorial Day – 5k – Registration online
- Agriculture program
- Program collaboration – Hevin, Camano Island

Staff Members Services

- VSO – 336
- VSO-A – 41
- PSS – 312

Indignant appointments – 67

Future

- Discovery Therapeutic Services and Seedpod Farm – June/July
- Oregon Equine Therapy
- Legislation reform
- Certified Peer Counseling Training rework – National Certification
- Gala Fundraiser

2. Veterans Benefit Specialist Report

- Financials – provide board members current funding level and monthly totals
- VSO Status/Housing Access – Provide board number of veterans assisted and family. George gave a report of his training the past week with the Washington State DVA.

Board Members

X	Ken Norwood, Chair
X	Pat Swanson - VChair
X	Ed Smith
Excused	AJ Rogers
X	Candace Johnson
x	Jerry Villarreal

VRF/County

x	George Dodd
x	Meja Handlen
x	Scott Brummer

Guest

Chip Duncan
Jesse Lloyd
Greg Kistler
Jeff Elder
Scott Salkovics

- Medical Transportation – While attending the VSO training last week, George found out that there will be transportation provided by the VA. The contract was not renewed and probably would not be renewed. George and Meja is working on a plan working with Catholic Community Service. Once a plan is created, we will report back to the board of the process to provide transportation to those veterans that need it.

3. By-Law/Policy and Procedures Change Update

George passed out the current process and procedures approved by the BOCC on April 2, 2018. This changed the wording from rental assistance to housing assistance. This would allow the funds to be used to pay the mortgage payment of a veteran that is closed to be foreclosed on.

George passed out a memorandum date April 1, 2022. The memo made four recommendations:

- 1) To add a line item on the Veterans Relief Fund budget for media - \$10,000
- 2) To add a line item on the Veterans Relief Fund budget for Professional Training Stipend - \$5000
- 3) Create a Mission Statement and Vision Statement to the By-Laws
- 4) To make a change to the By-Laws for term limits of board members

The board recommended not adding line items in the budget for media or Professional Training Stipend

Mission Statement:

“The board recommended revising the mission statement from the memo to read: To provide guidance Lewis County legislative authority regarding the needs of all veterans and their families, the resources available to all veterans, and programs that could support and improve their well-being.”

Vision statement:

To establish a functional infrastructure of all Veterans resources for Lewis County Veterans and their families.

Term Limits Change:

- a. Current: The term of appointment for the Lewis County Veterans Advisory Board members shall be two years, however; for up to three consecutive terms.
- b. Proposed: “The board recommends the following wording: Members of the Lewis County Veterans Advisory Board shall serve a three-year term, with the option of up to two consecutive terms. To maintain a quorum at future meetings, the board may request that the BOCC extend a member’s term by up to one additional term or until a qualified applicant is approved.”

4. Board Membership – Ed made a motion to reappoint Ken Norwood for his final term on the board. Jerry Second – All Approved.

5. Good of the Order

Adjourn at 12:25 PM

Date & Time of Next Meetings:

- Business Meeting – Wednesday, June 4th, 2025, at 11 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84979738290?pwd=Adx0brzVTFW64ZbhzRmizQVWt9rTtq.1>

Meeting ID: 849 7973 8290 Passcode: 146733

Approved

LEWIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
360 NW North Street
Chehalis, WA 98532

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

Name: Kenneth E (Ken) Norwood

Address: PO Box 466 Ethel, WA 98542

Phone: (541) 954-6197

Service Organization: Marine Corps League, Military Order of the Devil Dog.

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

I have always felt the need to serve from the beginning of my career in the Marine Corps. I see there is a need to give our Veteran community a voice. Many of our Veterans do not feel they have a voice in their treatment both in the community and at higher governmental levels. I hope to give our local veterans that voice.

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

I served in the US Marine Corps on activity duty for over 20 years and retired as a Gunnery Sergeant. While in the Corps I served as an Artillery Electronics Technician, I repaired and operated Communications Equipment, I drove military vehicles and hauled hazardous materials. I was an Instructor at the Marine Corps formal school teaching Artillery Electronics Repair and eventually was assigned as the Chief Instructor at the same school. I was the Operations Chief for the 12th Marine Regiment. I was billeted as the Maintenance Chief for several different units during my career.

While living in Eugene, Oregon I worked as an Adult Volunteer with the Emerald Empire Young Marines. I was asked to be the Training Officer and subsequently was asked to become the Unit executive Officer. Within about 1 year I was elected the organizations Unit Commander. I served in this capacity for approximately 6 years. I was a member of the local Marine Corps League Detachment and served as the committee chairman for the Young Marines. I served as a volunteer for the local Toys for Tots campaign eventually becoming a board member.

Upon moving to Washington, I became a member of the local Marine Corps League Detachment, while here I have served as the Detachment Junior Vice Commandant, Senior Vice

c:\users\dagun\downloads\levab applications.docx

Commandant and am currently serving as the Detachment Judge Advocate and committee chairman for the Young Marines. I serve on the committee for our local Toys for Tots Campaign. I developed a Young Marine Unit here and was elected Unit Commander for the Lewis County Young Marines. I continue to serve as the organization's Unit Commander. I believe I have the ability to communicate with people from a variety of backgrounds and can be a positive member of the Lewis County Veterans Advisory Board.

☒ 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.

James E. Miller 17 May 2014
Signature Date

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

Joseph P. Biers Detachment Marine Corps League
Name of Service Organization

Recommendations

Signature of Organization Commandant

Date

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