



MEMO

Date: April 9, 2026

From: Lewis County Veterans Advisory Board (VAB)

To: Lewis County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

RE: Recommendations for Membership Changes

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

1. Appointment of New Regular Member

We would like to recommend Joshua Pickett to be accepted into the Veteran Advisory Board as a new regular member.

2. Removal of Current Member

The Board recommends the removal of Grant Kistler from his current position on the Veterans Advisory Board.

3. Appointment of New Alternate Member

We would like to recommend Jeremy Schlake to be accepted into the Veterans Advisory Board as a new alternate member. Jeremy's beginning service will be May 1, 2026, and end April 30, 2028.

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 Minutes from April 2026

Board Members

X	Ken Norwood, Chair - Excused
X	Candance Johnson - VChair
X	AJ Rogers
X	Jerry Villarreal
X	Jeff Elder
X	Scott Salkovics
X	Josh Pickett

VRF/County

	Scott Brummer
X	Meja Handlen
X	Caroline Garibay
X	George Dodd

Guest

Chip Duncan
Terry Cullinane
Haden Guffey
Ed Smith
Jeremy Schlake

Board Agenda

Wednesday, April 1st, 2026, 11 am

Location: Lower Level BOCC Room/Zoom

Welcome

Call to Order, Flag Salute, Attendance

March 4th, 2026, Meeting Minutes – Scott made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from March 4th, 2026. Jeff seconded, all agreed.

Public Comment

Public Comment - None

Business Discussion Items:

1. Veterans Museum – Legacies of Valor saw 7 Veteran clients being seen on a regular basis. They receive VA referrals as well as walk-in referrals.

The Choice grant was denied; however, they look forward to the next round. They have still have a handful of grants still pending and others they are applying for.

Client service: 74 (48 Residents, 3 of them were indigent)

Outside Clients: 26 surrounding counties

New/Increase Claims – 38 meetings

Appeals/Previously Denied: 26 meetings

Veterans Intake and Consult – 5 meetings

Veterans Benefit Specialist Report

Financials - Were provided to the board

VBS Numbers – 7 for Veterans Relief and 28 veterans for VSO services.

Housing Committee – Scott I discussed working on the approval rubric and requested input on the grading metrics. Meija reported that she was running the housing SOP by other County departments to ensure we have a product that will pass the BOCC.

1. **Outreach** –Jeff informed the board the next Veterans Resource is scheduled for April 4th, 2026, has be changed to the 15th of April from 2 pm to 6 pm.
2. **Policy and Procedures** – There was a misunderstanding from the previous meeting of what changes Needed to be made to the By-Laws that Caroline and George provided to the board last meeting. Caroline Will reach out to AJ and schedule a time to go over what was presented to the board and what Changes need to be made.
3. **Executive Session** – the board went into executive session to discuss the application to fill a position as an Alternate on the VAB.

The board came out of executive session Scott made a motion to a have Jeremy Schlake to fill one of the empty slots as an alternate member of the board. AJ second the motion. Motion carried.

4. **Good of the Order** – None
5. Jeff made motion to adjourn the meeting, Scott seconded. Motion carried.

LEWIS COUNTY VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD

To 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 the front desk 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:

Caroline Garibay
Lewis County Public Health & Social Services
360-740-1167
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 Schlake_____

Address: 261 Bremgartner Rd, Winlock, WA 98596_____

Phone: (318) 401-3557_____ Service Organization: American Legion, Disabled American Veterans,
Veterans of Foreign Wars

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

I have been volunteering and assisting veterans for over 27 years. Since I retired over 3 years ago from the Air Force, I have been looking for ways to continue serving my community. While I have had many things occurring since retiring, I am a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans and American Legion. Although the town of Winlock does not have a VFW post, I have also joined as a lifetime member of the VFW. I do not feel like I am having a strong enough impact for my brothers and sisters in arms. I believe serving on the Veterans Advisory Board would allow me to have a positive impact for my fellow veterans in the community and allow me to utilize all the skills that I have developed over the past 27 years.

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

I am a retired Senior Non-commissioned Officer from the United States Air Force. I was a computer and network technician by trade during my career. I also served as a configuration manager, project manager, security manager, security assessor, and led dozens of personnel. During my 24-year career in the Air Force, I completed a dozen leadership courses. I served for 5 years as a temporary First Sergeant for three separate squadrons. I have also accomplished Federal Acquisitions Training and multiple ethics training. I have served for a year in Korea and have served on 5 separate deployments. I have been active with Scouting America for 40 years from all aspects from Tiger Cub, Eagle Scout, Unit Commissioner, Certified Trainer, and Assistant Scoutmaster. I have volunteered with Helping Hands in San Angelo, TX for 4 years as a team member and team lead helping with home renovations and repairs for low-income elderly families. I have volunteered for over 15 years for Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, and Wreaths Across America celebrations and memorials. During these events, I have led scouts and fellow service members in placing flags on graves, serving as color guard, and giving speeches. I also have experience in electrical work, carpentry, basic construction, and plumbing.

☒ 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 Schlake_____ 12/2/2025_____
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:
Health Department C/O Veterans Advisory Board
360 NW North St
Chehalis, WA 98532