



Voting Board Members

<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Debra Baker , Vet At-Large
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Baker , AmVets, VFW 992
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Richard Best , VRW 992, DAV
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Larry Cunnington , AmVets 1111
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert "Joe" Dixson , Vet At-Large
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Douglas Simler , Vet At-Large
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Ensor , Vet At-Large
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trina Parrish , VFW 992
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jack Preston , Amer. Leg. Post #32, AmVets 1111
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don Schack , VFW/AmVet, American Legion
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ken Silver , AmVets 1111, <i>resigned</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joseph Waiblinger , Combat Vet. International
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ron Weber , VFW 992, DAV

Non-Voting Standing Invitees

- Meghan DeBolt - DCH, Director
- Wendy Cheng– Helpline, Client Services/Veterans Program
- Justin Jording-Helpline Bookkeeper/Veterans Program
- Liz McDevitt – Helpline, Director

Guests:

- Sierra Knutson, Homeless & Housing Coordinator | Walla Walla County Department of Community Health
- Brian Fox, SSVF Assistant Program Director

Welcome: Debra Baker called the meeting to order at approximately 09:30 am.

Approval of Minutes: Don Schack moved to accept minutes with the following correction: Assurance Wireless representatives are at Work Source and Helpline *once a week*. Larry Cunnington seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Report – Helpline – Review of Veterans’ Relief Services, Wendy Cheng Presented on behalf of Helpline

See Helpline “Veteran’s Assistance Monthly Report” distributed for details.

- Helpline shared details of the report for June 2019 service dollars provided to veterans.
- Waivers – there were two waivers relating to barriers to employment approved by DCH staff. The requests were for car insurance and car registration, title & license fees. There was another work-related ticket for car registration, title & license fees which did not require a waiver because it was issued after the guidelines changes.
- Wendy brought up an incident reported by the City Center Motel. It was committed by the same veteran who was banned from using the Veterans’ Relief Fund for a year in 2018. The female veteran was specifically told by subcontractor that her partner, who is also a veteran, is not allowed on the premises of the City Center Motel. Her partner refused to leave the motel room on the last day of stay and police was called in to escort him out. The owner of the City Center Motel reported damages to the television and microwave, holes on the wall and a coffee-maker missing from the room. Richard motioned to ban both veterans for life except for medical needs. The guidelines do not mention anything about paying for damages. Trina suggested banning only motel stay. Don thought the VRAB should do right with taxpayers’ money and suggested a 3-year ban with an option to appeal at the end of the period. Richard amended the original motion to ban the male veteran for 1 year except medical services and ban the female veteran for 2 years except medical services. Both Ron and Joe D. felt that if the veterans seek treatment and/or have a plan for counseling that they should have the option to

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appeal within the banned period based on changed circumstances, and Joe suggested banning them for 2 years. The Advisory Board discussed this at length and finally moved to ban both veterans for two years with no exception. According to the guidelines, the veterans in question can appeal to DCH and the VRAB. Subcontractor will "help with preparing the written appeal application and/or other procedural steps as needed" and "[w]ritten appeal shall be filed in writing to the Advisory Board within ten (10) working days of receipt of the initial decision of DCH". Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- Don motioned to reimburse attendees of the upcoming Serving Those Who Served Conference in the Tri Cities on July 17 and 18th for hotel stay and mileage. Larry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Richard reported on the Council on Housing Community Summit which took place on June 14th at Son Bridge. There were break-out groups on different subject areas such as land trust, communications, homelessness/permanent supported housing, etc. Richard joined the group on homelessness and supported housing led by John Adams. The conclusion of the group was there is not enough housing to put every homeless person in housing and there appears to be sufficient outreach and transitional housing (CORD) for homeless veterans. Richard suggested putting an effort into identifying homeless veterans at the Stand Down and connecting them to Coordinated Entry so they can gain access to available local resources. Joe D. questioned the need for another committee meeting and was given the organizational chart and bylaws of the Council on Housing Veterans Sub-committee, which is a standing subcommittee of the VRAB. Sierra gave an explanation of the overall structure of the Council on Housing. Debbie said SSVF's goal is to achieve "functional zero," which means putting homeless veterans in housing within 90 days. Brian is monitoring the "by-name list" in 17 counties that SSVF serves.

New Business:

- Don made a motion to continue to use the Veterans' Relief Fund (approximately \$200) to fund donuts and coffee provided at the veterans meeting which takes place at 9 am the second Tuesday of each month at the Vet Center. Joe felt the fund should only be used for indigent veterans. Don said the monthly meeting is a good place for veterans to get together and discuss who needs help. Larry seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor except Joe D.
- Wendy read an email from John Adams to Michael Ensor about Stand Down funding. John has requested the VA to fund the following expenses for the Stand Down: safety vests, safety cones, podium rental, table rental, office supplies, pavilion, rotunda, kitchen and flyers totaling \$1,560.98. Don thought the numbers for renting the pavilion, rotunda and kitchen sound a bit low and that Meghan should look into the actual cost of the rental.
- Richard brought up the fact that the additional \$1,000 for Stand Down advertising that was approved unanimously by the VRAB back on May 10th, 2018 has not been touched. All members decided to table the discussion on whether that money could be used for this year's publicity for the Stand Down until the next VRAB meeting in August when Jason from SSVF will present the cost of advertising.

Program Updates:

- Stand Down meeting today at noon at the VFW.

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- Veteran Sub-committee meeting today immediately after the VRAB meeting. Debbie, Richard, Joe D., Sierra, Brian and Wendy attended the meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 am.

NEXT MEETING:

August 8th, 2019 | Vet's Center, Walla Walla | 9:30-10:30 A.M.