



2004 CVC BUSINESS MEETING NOTES

Meeting Notes

Facilitated strategic planning session for 2005 and beyond.

Date: December 1, 2004

Location: Tacoma, Pierce County

Attending:

Ken Walden, Colville WorkSource
Beth Augustine, ESD Vets
Joel Estey, King County
Dick Stumbaugh, Clallam County
Kimberlee Tully, Yakima County
Ric Price, WDVA
Steven Gill, WDVA
Linda Loyle, Thurston/Legislative
David Foster, WorkSource Lakewood
Carol Williams, Snohomish County HSD
Tim Podhora, Clark County
Sharon Maier, Web Liason King County
Suzane Sinclair, Island County
Mark Mascho, Pierce County
David Mallory, ESD
Tom Leedo, ESD

9:00 - Welcome

9:15 - Mission and Goals

9:30 - Values "What are the values we hold as we do our work?"

9:45 - Stakeholder Analysis "Who cares about the work that we do?" "What are their expectations for us?"

10:15 - Vision "In light of our mission and goals, given our best performance, what would this organization look like? What would we be doing?"

10:30 - Environmental Trends and Forces "What is happening in our world that impacts our work?" SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles & Threats)

11:30 - Critical Directions "What should we be working on in the next 2-3 years?"

12:00 noon - Working Lunch Develop Work Plan 2005

2:00 - Examine the Plan as a whole

2:30 - Next Steps and Closing

3:00 - Adjourn Large Group

3:05 - Legislative Planning Session, Determine meeting location for 2005

4:05 - Adjourn Focus Group

Date: November 22, 2004

Location: Tacoma, Pierce County

Attending:

Tim Podhora, Clark County CVC
Joel Estey, King County Vet Program Admin
Sharon Maier, King County/CVC Web Developer
Mark Mascho, Pierce County Vet Program Admin
Ric Price, WDVA

2004 Conference Debrief

Plan for the Dec. 1 facilitated strategic planning session.

Meet with facilitator, assign duties.

Laws and Legislation:

Joel, Tim and Mark met following regular meeting to plan next legislative steps.

Annual Conference

Date: October 28 & 29, 2004

Location: The Skagit Conference Center, Skagit County, Bow WA

Date: September 15, 2004

Location: Mt Vernon, Skagit County

Attending:

Bill Schrier, American Legion
Bob Garrison, VVAZIZ, Skagit County
Jeff Murphy, Skagit Veterans Assistance Fund, Marine Corp League

Dave Mitchell, NWHVCC
Tom Noel, ESD-Washington
Tim Podhora, Clark County CVC
David L. Mallory, LVER
Joel Estey, King County Vet Program Admin
Sharon Maier, King County/CVC Web Developer
Mark Mascho, Pierce County Vet Program Admin
Gerald Pfanenstiel, WDVA
Sarah Hinman, Skagit County VAF

Laws and Legislation:

Joel and Tim lead a discussion on recent developments regarding the proposed Veterans Relief Bill. Informational meetings with interested groups are taking place. In particular, Representative Moeller from Clark County's 49th Legislative District has been hosting routine meetings in Olympia.

Conference Planning:

Conference Planning sessions are scheduled for 10am, at The Skagit on September 29th and also during the CVC regular business meeting on October 13th.

Tim will print CVC logo on sport gray t-shirts for those who pre-order with CVC registration. Extras will be printed to sell and give away as prizes at the event. The CVC logo will also be printed on cloth bags to distribute to all Conference attendees. The cost for these is approx. \$2 and will come out of registration fee. Sharon will add T-shirt option and cost to on-line registration form and set up a registration option for additional guests for meals. Attendees will need to pay an additional \$15 for lunch guests and \$22 for dinner guests. T-shirts will cost attendees an additional \$7 or \$8 depending on size.

Conference to do list:

- Mail out conference announcement, registration, adopt-a-soldier information and brochure using CVC contact database (Ric/Joel/Sharon)
- E-mail out conference invitation using CVC contact database (Ric/Sharon)
- Get bios and program handouts from conference presenters to Mark
- Provide text for Conference handout to Mark
- Prepare critiques for each presentation and overall conference (Ric)
- Print out name tents for panel presenters (Mark)
- Obtain print items from local Chamber of Commerce to include in CVC packet. (Sarah Hinman)
- Arrange for public announcement of event to be distributed through the press (Joel with Sherry Hamilton helping with this. Gerald to provide list of local media contacts.
- Arrange for Public TV to cover event.
- Obtain gifts for door prizes. (Kim, Beth and Sharon with Dave & Sarah soliciting gifts from local businesses.)
- Print name tags (Sharon to get electronic list to Mark who will print before event.)
- Get box for Adopt a Soldier collection. (Sharon)

NEW IDEA to implement: Prior to panel discussion distribute note cards for audience to write down questions to be addressed by panel.

Brochure Critique

Issue of regional contacts discussed with suggestion the list needs to be broader. Eventually CVC hopes to list a contact for each county. Gerald Pfanenstiel. offered to be listed as the contact for 5 county region. Bill Schrier suggested including one toll-free number for vets to use. Also problems with printing identified, specifically the color being off and wrong text color for one bulleted item. One spelling correction has been identified for the next run.

Date: August 18, 2004

Location: Mt Vernon, Skagit County

Attending:

Beth Augustine, ESD Liaison
Bill Schrier, American Legion
Jim Angell, American Legion
Bob Garrison, VVAZIZ, Skagit County
Jeff Murphy, Skagit Veterans Assistance Fund, Marine Corp League
Dave Mitchell, NWHVCC
Tom Noel, ESD-Washington
Tom Flanik, Fleet Reserve Association
Carol Williams, Snohomish County HSD
Henry Kirner, VFW
Mary Kirner, Ladies Aux, VFW
Tim Podhora, Clark County CVC
Norma Brummett, Skagit County Auditor
Patrick M. Martinez, WorkSource Everett
George G. Lindvig, WorkSource Everett
Ken Richardson, Whatcom County VAC
Kim Tulley, Yakima County
William E. Adamek, Skagit County DVOP
David L. Mallory, LVER
Joel Estey, King County Vet Program Admin
Sharon Maier, King County/CVC Web Developer
Mark Mascho, Pierce County Vet Program Admin
Gerald Pfanenstiel, WDVA
Sarah Hinman, Skagit County VAF
Robert Mulligan, American Legion Veterans Advisory Council

Welcome/CVC Background/Pilot Project:

The meeting opened with a welcome to CVC from Dave Mallory. Joel Estey provided a background on CVC covering the web site, the new CVC brochure, and eventual plans to use the CVC pilot project to solicit grants. Grant experts Kim Tully and Tim Podohora offered ideas on how counties might join together on grant proposals and still receive dollars to use in support of veterans in their particular counties.

Laws and Legislation:

The Legislative PowerPoint was shown. A Q-&-A session followed with the majority of the discussion centering on Advisory Boards. Ken Richardson suggested that CVC needs get more information to VSO membership.

Conference Planning:

Sarah Hinman and Dave Mallory offered to provide logistical support for CVC conference in October. The majority of those present at the meeting indicated by a show of their hands that they planned to attend the conference. Suggestions for getting local media coverage were provided. A press release on the event is to go out mid-September. [On-line conference registration is now available.](#) Tom Noel offered to work with Ric Price on opening blessing and color guard for the conference. Additional Conference Planning sessions are scheduled for 10am, at The Skagit on September 15 and 29th, and October 13th.

Date: July 21, 2004

Location: Vancouver, Clark County

Attending:

Beth Augustine, ESD Liaison
Keith Fitch, Marine Corp League
John Stofiel, Marine Corp League
Tim Podhora, Clark County
Mark Mascho, Pierce County
Joel Estey, King County
Sharon Maier, Web Liaison - King County

Special thanks to Tim Podhora for arranging meeting place. Meeting opened with overview of Clark County Veterans Board by Keith Fitch and John Stofiel. Reported Fitch, "The first step in change was participating in CVC."

Legislative Committee: A meeting with Representative Moeller, in Olympia, is planned for July 26th. Katie Blin, State Government Legal Council to the JSC, will present her suggested version of bill at the meeting. Plans to meet with VAAC, VLC and Veteran Groups throughout the state. A follow-up meeting with Rep. Moeller is tentatively scheduled for August 16th in Olympia.

Communicaiton/Recruitment Committee: Joel Estey was pleased to announce that the Cowlitz County Veterans Association plans to participate in CVC. This organization represents a number of Veteran groups in the Cowlitz county.

CVC strength lies in the particpaiton of many different agencies and groups that serve veterans, especially other state agencies such as ESD and WDVA, veteran service organizations. The collaboration between these organizations, and others, is vital to CVC's mission of assessing and addressing the evolving needs of veterans and their families living in Washington State. CVC is exploring options for increasing participation from these groups.

Brochure: Addition of several more photos suggested and listing ESD regional contacts. Plans to print brochure were finalized. It will be ready for distribuuiton with the mailing to announce the Conference mid August.

Conference Committee: Conference planning is ongoing. New this year: CVC T-Shirts thanks to Tim.

Community Meeting: Following the CVC business meeting the Legislative Committee reconvene to meet with Clark County Veterans Resource Counsel and the interested public to discuss HB 2670 from 2004 session. Represtative Moller's Aid and several candidates running for local office also attended.

Date: June 16, 2004

Location: Grant County, Moses Lake

Attending:

Ronald M. Laney, VFW Post 2900, Quartermaster
Mark E. Owens, VFW Post 2900, Commander
Allyn Newkirk, VFW Post 3157, Commander
Richard Rooney, VFW Post 3157, Commander
J.R. Crossland, Okanogan County, DVOP
Ruben Rudas, WorkSource Wenatchee, LVER
Ken Walden, Ferry and Pend Orielle County, LVER
Micki Smith, Stevens County Auditors Office
Mike Sallis, Grant County Veterans' Association
Gordon Huit, American Legion, M.L.
Tom Leedy, Moses Lake, LVER
Mike Hester, WorkSource Lewis County, DVOP

CVC is a coalition of county veteran program administrators and other veteran advocates in Washington State providing a collective forum for addressing veteran issues. Content is solely the responsibility of contributing CVC participants.

Kenneth Koplihn, American Legion Post 28, Ephrata
Eilee Boylston, Moses Lake, DVOP
Randy Holloway, Coordinator, Grant County Vets Assistance
Greg Mercer, Assistant State Director, VETS, USDOL Olympia
Dennis Primoli, Veteran, VAAC & VLC
James Curdy, VFW Post 9371
Tim Podhora, Clark County
Mark Mascho, Pierce County
Joel Estey, King County
Sharon Maier, Web Liaison - King County
Ric Price, WDVA (Liaison)

A special thanks to Randy Holloway, Eilee Boylston, and Tom Leedy. As a result of their efforts this CVC meeting was attended by veteran representatives from Okanogan, Stevens, Wenatchee, Grant, Lewis, Ferry and Pend Orielle counties. Since participants were attending a CVC business meeting for the first time the meeting began with an explanation about the purpose/mission of CVC followed by an introduction to the proposed VAF legislation. The side-by-side educational piece was distributed. Joel Estey presented the legislative PowerPoint. An open discussion followed.

All participants were invited to the CVC annual conference to be held this October in Bow, Washington at the Skagit resort. A show of hands indicated many planned to attend. Contact information was collected to ensure all receive an invitation from CVC to attend. Requests for specific presentations at the conference were offered. These included: CARES and Discharge Upgrades. On-line registration for the conference will be available in July.

Ric Price distributed a draft version of the CVC brochure for comment. CVC was asked to consider including a photo of a family to represent services to family. This suggestion will be referred to the communications committee.

The general meeting concluded at 12:30 p.m. A CVC business meeting followed focusing on Conference planning and preparation for legislative meeting in Olympia with Representative Moeller on June 21. There will be several more business meetings scheduled over the next few months as Conference Planning and the Legislative agenda ramp up.

Date: May 19, 2004

Location: Pacific County, South Bend

Attending:

John Ancock, Thurston County
Linda Loyle, Thurston County
Jim Law, Work Source - Grays Harbor
Mark Mascho, Pierce County
Tim Podhora, Clark County
Joel Estey, King County
Sharon Maier, Web Liason - King County

Legislative Update

- Report on meeting with American Legion Legislative Subcommittee earlier this day. Joel, Tim, Mark and Sharon attended this meeting. Recommendations of subcommittee discussed.
- Discussion of Thurston County Veteran Groups and County Council thoughts on proposed Veterans Relief Bill. CVC Legislative Committee plans to meet with these groups in near future.
- Power Point shown and critiqued. Joel, Mark and Sharon Wylie (Government Relations Clark County) will show at VLC meeting on Friday and discuss proposal with VLC.

- Discussion about variety of County Codes regarding veteran relief fund and veteran advisory boards throughout state. Tim and Sharon to work on this project for web presentation.

Communication Committee Update

- CVC business cards distributed
- Mock up of variety of CVC brochures available for comment. Mark will continue to narrow down options and present best ideas to the brochure work group
- Decision made to drop veteran events from CVC calendar and instead point folks to the WA DVA site for this information. CVC Business Calendar to remain.

Conference Planning

- Joel's been in contact with Senator Murray staff regarding her availability as a guest speaker. At this point still undetermined.

Other News

- Jim Law received a Washington State Award for Veteran transportation program in Grays Harbor known as the "Veterans Gas Card Program."

Date: April 21, 2004

Location: Yakima, Washington

Attending:

Ben Butkovich, Kittitas County
 Joel Estey, Yakima County
 Steve Hill, Yakima County
 Lonnie James, WDVA
 Sharon Maier, King County (Web Site Liaison)
 Mark Mascho, Pierce County
 Tim Podhora, Clark County
 Ric Price, WDVA (Liaison)
 Billy Robins, Kittitas County
 Kim Tulley, Yakima County

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Business cards: Mark distributed new cards. Need to correct Island county phone number and replace RJ with Ben as the Kittitas County contact. Mark will make these revision and print more cards.

After a year of preparation Ric and Sharon used the CVC contact database for the first time to send out an announcement of the meeting in Yakima to 802 recipients. Only three came back as undeliverable. Sharon reported that a link to the CVC website was included in the meeting announcement leading to a dramatic increase in the number of hits for the next couple of days. Ric reported that work on the database is on-going. Need to add state officers of the VSO's and resolve a problem with password protection. A motion was made that the contact-database will not be shared with other organizations pending review. The motion was passed unanimously.

Attendees agreed they'd like to create a CVC brochure. Communication Committee will take action on this item. Steve and Ben will also help with the brochure development if it can be done electronically. May be able to get a lot of information for the brochure from the web site.

Need more examples of "best practices" for the web site. "Best practices" was defined as the various successful ways that the counties serve veterans locally.

Tim Podhora recommended that the CVC web site provides links to County Codes that relate to the VAF. He will research what is available on line and provide to group to consider if this would be worthwhile to post on the web site.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The PowerPoint and the handout for the legislative piece were reviewed. Improvements for sake of clarity and correctness were recommended. Joel will send revised copies of PowerPoint to members of the committee for review. The Legislative Changes Handout will likewise be updated and distributed by Ric

CONFERENCE PLANNING:

2004 Dates: 28 & 29 October

Location: Skagit Conference Center, Bow, WA.

- Steve Hill agreed to be the Master of Ceremonies for the conference.
- Slogan for Conference is: Services for veterans in changing times - Unity through diversity
- Ric Price has started arrangements for a representative from the local tribe to give a tribal blessing as a part of the opening ceremonies.
- Steve & Kimberlee to provide Shari with names of Yakima County staff who have used the Skagit as Shari is coordinating hotel logistics.
- Others to be specially invited to conference include members of the Joint Select Committee on Veterans Affairs and legislative members who may be key to the passage of the legislation next session.

Workshops & Presentation Ideas

- Whatcom county workshop about developing a board as a breakout session
- Susan Smith, a veteran has done a lot for women veterans (Joel will contact)
- Greg Mercer - workshop for returning veterans as a breakout session
- Dale Davis and/or Bob Wallace as possible members of a panel
- Service Officer Training (Ric will contact Richard Steward)
- Impact of referendum of 25% reduction of local funding on the VAF
- PTSD workshop
- Key note speakers were discussed. Due to the lack of certainty about availability of Beau Bergeron he will not be it. Steve Hill suggested an incumbent would be a good draw for the conference and recommended Senator Patty Murray. This is an opportunity for a politician to talk about involvement with the veterans' community. Steve and will meet with representatives from Sen Murray's office to determine her availability. Other suggestions: Senator Cantwell or Gov. Locke. Gubernatorial candidate Rossi, who is a veteran, was suggested as a 2nd day main speaker.

Mark will be in contact with the members of the Conference Committee to get a proposed agenda for the conference done as soon as possible.

Other Business. In July CVC will meet in Clark County.

Date: March 17, 2004

Location: Bow, Washington, Skagit County

Attending:

Beth Augustine, LVER - Auburn, Renton
Kimberlee Tully, Yakima County
Tim Podhora, Clark County
Carol Williams, Snohomish County Human Services
David Mallory, LVER - Whatcom, Skagit, Island, San Juan
Mark Mascho, Pierce County
William Adams, DVOP - Skagit, Island, San Juan
Ric Price, WDVA
Bob Garrison, VVA 212, Skagit Veterans Assistance Fund
Gerald Pfannenstiel, WDVA
Bill Schrier, Skagit - VAAC
George Edmundson, Skagit VAAC
Shari Cooper, Island County
Sharon Maier, King County

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Joel Estey presented the newly developed Educational PowerPoint for critique. The Power Point covers history of Veterans Relief Bill, reasons for updating, what happened during 2004 Legislative Session and next steps for 2005. Feedback from those attending will be incorporated into next version of PowerPoint before distribution and posting on web site.

Recommendations:

Attend Joint Select Committee (JSC) Meetings to find out status of Study Bill Meet with staff members of JSC Attend Veterans Legislative Coalition meetings for support and direction Post PowerPoint on web site Present PowerPoint to Veteran Organizations throughout the state

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ric Price and Sharon Maier presented the CVC Contact Database. Instructions for getting into the Contact Database were provided. Next step: Group assignment and populating the web site with individual county contact information.

Mark Mascho is working on designing new business cards to include names and contact numbers of core CVC group and CVC motto.

Action items:

- Include a slide to market of Conference in the PowerPoint
- Build more "Best Practice" County Examples/Models into Web site
- Prepare CVC business card for review by regular participants

CONFERENCE PLANNING:

Dates: 28 & 29 October

Location: Skagit Resort, Bow, WA.

Shari Mattison presented information about contract negotiations with The Skagit for 2004 Annual CVC Conference. The contract is still under negotiation. Joel will sign off once it's in order. The Skagit will provide conference meeting rooms, a continental breakfast on Thursday and Friday, and a lunch and dinner on Friday only. CVC is reserving a bank of hotel rooms for conference attendee to stay in. Reservations for these rooms must be made 3 weeks in advance or rooms won't be held.

Further Brainstorming about Conference Agenda & Planning

- Highlight work of CVC since last Conference
- Invite and honor legislators who signed bill & Sharon Wylie

Accreditation workshops:

- PTSD
- How to find resources in your community
- 211
- How can VAF be a part of solution to those returning from war

Speakers to consider:

- Dale Davis-Commander of American Legion
- Greg Mercer on Returning Vets and Reemployment
- Suzanne Smith and/or Camameyer on Women Vets in combat zone
- Representative Moeller
- Beau Bergeron as dinner speaker (Beth to contact)
- Opening by Local Native American Veteran(s)

Legislative Panel

- Sharon Wylie
- Tim Podhora
- Representative Jim Moeller
- Commissioner Craig Pridemore
- Legislators who signed Bill · Chair of JSC

Date: February 18, 2004

Location: Chehalis, Lewis County

Attending:

Jim Ancock, Thurston County
Joel Estey, King County
Sandi Kana, Lewis County
Sharon Maier, King County
Mark Mascho, Pierce County
Tim Podhora, Clark County
Ric Price, WDVA
Carol Williams, Snohomish County

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Status of Veterans Relief Bill: The bill was introduced concurrently in the House and Senate. A substitute bill passed in the House 96 to 0. The substitute bill would allow the Joint Select Committee (JSC) to gather information from individual counties regarding practices they have in place as well as unmet needs of veterans. The JSC would then develop recommendations for Legislature. First the Bill needs to be assigned a hearing in the Senate's Government Committee chaired by Senator Pam Roach. The CVC contact for this bill is Sharon Wylie. Sharon is the Legislative Liaison from Clark County. (Sharon.wylie@clark.wa.gov, Cell phone: 360-607-7960) Heidi Audette noted that we may be able to help the JSC to come up with survey questions if the Study Bill moves forward.

If bill does not move forward CVC will continue with the educational process for 2005 legislative session. CVC will develop a PowerPoint presentation that can be duplicated for a variety of folks to use for presentations to TVRs, local Veteran Boards, State Commanders, American Legion, VFW, and other VSOs.

Items to be addressed in presentation to local veterans groups:

1. Direct & indirect costs
2. Counties must change the way they do business
3. Concerns about coalitions and non-profits
4. Mandated Advisory Board and 51%
5. Identify numerous local issues, i.e., war era veterans, changing issues, progressive needs, etc.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Action Items:

Finalize CVC Contact Database
Print more business cards

PILOT PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Data project on hold until HUD requirements for HMIS are finalized.

CONFERENCE PLANNING:

Dates: 28 & 29 October

Location: Skagit Resort, Bow, WA.

Conference To Do List

- 1) Reserve site
- 2) plan agenda & format
- 3) Find nationally recognized speaker
- 4) TAP is a possible workshop or speaker topic
- 5) Publicity & Registration
- 6) Topics: Returning veterans (active duty and reserve/national guard)
- 7) Speakers? (Chair of Joint Select Committee, National Guard??)

Date: January 21, 2004

Location: Olympia, Thurston County

Attending:

Jim Law, WorkSource Grays Harbor
Beth Augustine, WorkSource, Auburn/Renton
Tom Leedy, Worksource, Moses Lake
Linda Loyal, Thurston County
Heidi Audette, WDVA
Ric Price, WDVA
Sam Mack, WorkSource Lakewood
John Ancock, Thurston County
Sharon Maier, King County
Joel Estey, King County
Mark Mascho, Pierce County
Carol Williams, Snohomish County
Tim Podhora, Clark County
John Lee, WDVA

Guests:

Sharon Wylie, Government Relations Clark County
Representative Jim Moeller, Washington State House of Representatives
Craig Pridemore, Clark County Commissioner

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Craig Pridemore, Clark County Commissioner reported: Clark County Veterans Program receives \$260,000 in revenue each year but spend only \$60,000 because the VSO managing the fund has been heavily restricting its use. There is \$1.7 sitting in the account. A faith based organization brought this to the Commissioners attention in 2003 when they expressed concerns about unmet needs of county veterans. All the Clark County Commissioners are actively backing the new legislation.

Tim Podhora, Clark County reported: The goal in Clark County is for broader use of the fund, including mental health and dental coverage for vets. Current law states that the VSO must hold an open public meeting however there has not been open public disclosure.

Representative Jim Moeller, Washington State House of Representative reported: He is honored to be the sponsor of this bill. Representative Moeller suggested that we work towards getting our respective county governments to back the bill.

Carol Williams, Snohomish County reported: Snohomish has drafted a letter of support of Bill to send to all County Representatives and is asking County Council to support.

Sharon Wylie, Government Relations Clark County Reported:

- It's important that objections to the bill from individuals are responded to broadly.
- We need to watch out for an amendment that could "hijack " the bill. Sharon will instead see that our bill is turned into a "study bill" which will provide counties immunity from an audit.
- A hearing date has not yet been set for the bill.
- The hearing will take 15-30 minutes.
- It's important for CVC to come out in force at the hearing.
- Need to line up veterans who can provide testimony in favor. Speakers to provide antidotal testimony. Find veterans who have been helped by the program in non-traditional ways. Best way to testify is if all the members of a large group sign in. The group should have one spokesperson. Sharon will meet with the designated spokesperson from each group ahead of time to be sure each speaker stresses a different point. She will wrap up the hearing to present any points that have not already been made.
- It's important to provide a non-partisan message. "The bill was designed to help veterans more, rather than divert needs." The reason behind updating the bill's language is to match today's veterans needs. Many county programs have evolved beyond current law in an effort to help veterans who have earned it.
- Need to line up some rural speakers for Senate hearing.
- Need to organize veterans and veteran organizations to contact legislators in support of bill

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

- Ric and Sharon reported that work to finalize contact database is nearly complete.
- Sharon reported on additions that have been made to the site since last meeting.
- Mark has been asked to print more CVC business cards. He will remove www. from the url as it is unnecessary.
- Sharon will create a link from front page to CVC 2004 goals.
- All CVC business meeting minutes will be posted on the CVC web site.

CONFERENCE PLANNING:

Proposed Dates: October 28 and 29.

Proposed Site: The Skagit Valley Casino Resort North of Mt. Vernon

Other Sites to Consider if Skagit fall through: Yakima and Ocean

Need to stay ahead of the curve on conference planning and promoting:

- Line up speakers early - consider a national speaker
- Finalize program earlier
- Make registration available earlier
- Determine if the Vietnam Veterans group near Marble Mount will help CVC put on Conference in Skagit
- Put together notebooks and print name tags ahead of time, not at site location

Logistics

- Charge \$50 to attend? Yes conference needs to become more self-supporting. Offer scholarships.
- Cost matters to VSOs attending... See if Service Officers will support constituents attending.
- Bette Lebins, Island County, OK'd Shari working on Conference Planning.
- Joel, Sharon, Shari, Beth and Kim have all checked out the Skagit and give it thumbs up. Sharon and Joel met with Skagit staff and took a complete tour. Skagit Staff are putting together a proposal for CVC, which will be turned over to Shari for negotiations with Sakgit.

Suggested Conference Format and Discussion Topics

- Invite Native American VSO to open the conference since we'll be meeting on tribal land
- Line up a topnotch speaker. Perhaps one nationally known.
- New idea to consider: Provide accreditation to Service Providers attending
- See that Service Officers come away with a new skill form attending.
- Emphasis on Services and Programs or on information that will effect veterans lives
- Provide information pertaining to VAF.
- Workshop: How to find resources in your community.
- Workshop: Benefits and entitlements.
- Workshop: Native American and special veteran populations.
- Workshop: How will we serve the new wave of returning veterans.
- Workshop: Transitional Housing. How to get in. How can VAF be a part of that.

For more information contact: Mark Mascho, Pierce County Veterans Bureau, 253-798-7449