



2005 CVC BUSINESS MEETING NOTES

Meeting Notes

Dec. 5, 2005 at V.I.E.W. in Pierce County

Attending:

Mike Berkshire, ESD Pierce County
David Michael, Island County DAV
David Foster, ESD Pierce County/Fort Lewis
Lindy Loyal, Thurston County VAF
John Hart, ESD American Lake
Dick Whipple, Governor's VAAC/VFW
Timothy Sewell, Snohomish County VAF
John Stofiel, Clark County Veterans Board
Sharon Maier, CVC web site developer
Yvonne Bailey, Pierce County VAC
Ric Price, WDVA
Sal Cantu, LVER, ESD Pierce County
Joel Estey, King County Veterans Program
Mark Mascho, Pierce County Veterans Relief Fund

Meeting began with self-introductions.

Conference Debrief:

- Conference highlights included the presentation by Lt. Col. Debbie Allen from the National Guard.
- Reports on the status of Regional Groups were given. Kimberlee, Ric, and Mark, who were facilitators during the conference, have scheduled regional follow-ups with the SW, NW, SE, and regions in January and February of 2006.
- The meeting rooms and event staff at Yakima Conference site were great, however there was numerous problems with the hotel guest accommodations.

Counties present reported on impact of passages of 1189

- Clark County had by-laws changes prepared based on proposed 1189 so they only needed to retrofit "at-large board makeup." Services to veterans were increased by contracting with SHARE for beds. They are requesting an increase in millage.
- Pierce County is rewriting their agreement between County and Board, next they will be updating by-laws. In 2006, they are looking at starting a Veterans Incarcerated Program.
- Thurston County did not have a veterans' advisory board previously. County representatives

find the process of starting one to be slow going.

- Island County plans to have board in place by February. Veteran Groups are working hard to get an audience with the County Representatives.
- Snohomish County board development is on track.
- King County Board was already in place. King county voters recently passed a Veterans & Human Services Levy that will provide for additional services to King County Veterans and members of the National Guard. Several King County Board members are on the steering committee to determine the best use of this additional revenue – six million each year for the next five years.

Strategic Planning for 2006

Reports on status of 2005 projects were given. 2006 day-long Strategic Planning will take place in Pierce County on January 30. Invitations will be sent out. The [2005 Strategic Plan](#) (pdf) is available on the CVC website.

HECB

Michael Ball, Associate Director of the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) provided an overview on Services and assistance available to Veterans. Details are available at hecb.wa.gov/autheval/saa/saaindex.asp. Also, see HECB Apprenticeship information at hecb.wa.gov/autheval/saa/appsaas.asp.

CVC meeting Dates in 2006:

Most of the 2006 calendar will be determined at the Strategic Planning meeting session. At this point, the following has been determined:

January - Clark County

February - Whatcom or Skagit County

March - Grays Harbor or Kitsap County

April - Eastside

Date: October 26 & 27: Annual CVC Conference

Representatives from 25 of Washington's 39 counties attended the 6th Annual Washington State County Veterans Coalition (CVC) Conference, held in Yakima on October 26 & 27, 2005. Attendees participated in facilitated regional discussions around existing services, veterans' needs, and coordinating available resources. Strategies for implementation of legislative changes were a key topic of discussion throughout the conference. [See review of the 2005 CVC Conference.](#)

Date: August 17, 2005

Location: Snoqualmie

Attending:

Beth Augustine, WorkSource Auburn

Ric Price, WDVA

Tim Sewell, Snohomish County Veterans Assistance Program

Joel Estey, Veteran Program Manager - King County

Mark Mascho, Veteran Program Manger - Pierce County

Sharon Maier, IT Project Manager - King County

Date: July 20, 2005

Location: City of Spokane in Spokane County

Attending:

Frank Thompson, Veteran Program Manager - Spokane County
Ken Walden, VFW Colville & WorkSource
Dustin Duvanich, Legislative Aid for U.S. Congresswoman Cathy McMorris -- 5th District
Buzz Busby, Washington National Guard Family Programs
Chuck Elmore, WorkSource Spokane
Les Logsdon, WorkSource Columbia Basin
Kimberlee Tully, Grants Manager Yakima County
Beth Augustine, WorkSource Auburn
Joel Estey, Veteran Program Manager - King County
Mark Mascho, Veteran Program Manger - Pierce County
Sharon Maier, IT Project Manager - King County

Date: June 15 , 2005

Location: Aberdeen in Grays Harbor County

Attending:

George L. Daulest, VFW Post 2455
Sydney Becker, VFW Post 2455, AMVETS 1926
Bill Wickwire, VFW Post 1848 Commander, Grays Harbor Vet's Council
Mark Mascho, Pierce County
Fred Kogin, WDVA
Alex Deluao, WDVA
Linda Loyal, Thurston County
Henry Lamb, Thurston County
Jim Law, WorkSource Grays Harbor
Beth Augustine, Employment Security Department
Sharon Maier, King County
Joel Estey, King County
Ric Price, WDVA
E. Frank Jones, Commander AMVETS 1926

Discussion of what SHB 1189 will mean for local counties:

Advisory Board needed in each county. If a Board or Group is already in place serving in this capacity the county does not need to establish an additional board.
Each county will continue to determine what veteran services are needed

Discussion of how CVC can help with communication between counties as they explore new opportunities in serving veterans

Local Needs Identified:

Help identifying local resources, outside of VAF dollars, for veterans affected by PTSD. Help identifying other resources, outside of VAF dollars, for example: American Lake Minute Man, AAR and Unmet Needs national program. Help with finding and making contact with suffering veterans who may not know about services available.

Guest Presenter:

Wendy Vasquez, WA National Guard, Family Assistance Center

Date: May 18, 2005

Location: Mt Vernon, Skagit County

Attending:

Garey Seigerman, Washington Army National Guard
Gerald Pfannestiel, WDVA
Rick Hamilton, Whatcom County VFW 1585
Bill Henkel, Skagit County Community Action
Sarah Hinman, Skagit County Community Action - Vet Program Administrator
Carol Williams, Snohomish County Human Services Dept.
Robert Garrison, Skagit County
Mike Abbot, Skagit Valley College
Robert Mulligan, Skagit Valley Vets Association
Tom Flanik, Fleet Reserve Association
Allen Barney, DVA Chapter 47 - Oak Harbor
Don Mason, Island County VAF
William E. Adamek, President's National Hire Veterans Committee
Dave Mitchell, NW Homeless Veterans Coordinating Council
Joel Estey, King County Veterans Program
Mark Mascho, Pierce County Veterans Program
Beth Augustine, ESD Vets
Sharon Maier, Web Liason King County

Discussion of what SHB 1189 will mean for counties:

Advisory Board needed in each county
Each county will need to determine what veteran services are needed
Recommendation from D. Mason: Each county legislative authority recognizes in a public meeting the revised law and how county is in compliance
Revised Law goes into effect three months following signing

Garey Seigerman from Washington Army National Guard lead a discussion about issues returning forces will be facing

Date: April 20, 2005

Location: Wenatchee, Chelan County

Attending:

Larry Severin, VSO Douglas County, VFW Post 3617, District 7 Commander
Larry Strozyk, VSO Douglas County, VFW Post 3617
Ed Hoover, Chelan County, VFW Post 902, AL Post 10
Ken Sandhop, Douglas County, VFW Post 3617, AL Post 10, DAV
Joel Estey, King County Veterans Program
Len Little, ESD, Disabled Veterans Rep
Steve Hill, Yakima County
Kimberlee Tully, Yakima County
Buell Hawkins, Chelan County Commissioner
Sally Taylor, Chelan County
Mark Mascho, Pierce County Veterans Program
Beth Augustine, ESD Vets
G.R. Crossland, ESD Vets
Linda Loyal, Thurstan County Veterans Program
Sharon Maier, Web Liason King County

Introductions and thanks to our hosts.

It was noted that seven counties were represented at this meeting in Wenatchee.

Local Updates

Ed Hoover, Chelan County VSO reported that a new Veterans Hall to be called the "Wenatchee Community Center," will be opening soon at the site of the old St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Meeting rooms and separate showers for men and women were noted on the site plans. Once it's up and running Service Officers from the Marine Corp League, DAV and other Veterans Service Organizations will all be on-hand at this facility to assist veterans.

Buell Hawkins, Chelan County Commisioner, initiated a Q & A session on how veteran's funds are administered in various counties. All the represented counties contributed to the discussion. The diversity on how funds are administered was quite clear. Buell asked that CVC create a one page reference sheet representing each of the 39 counties to be used as a tool for others in his position and fund administrators. CVC is looking into this.

Discussion of HB 8911

Joel announced that HB 8911 has passed out of both House and Senate. It is anticipated the Governor will sign this bill along with other legislation related to veterans later this week or next. Tim's work on getting the bill passed was noted. Tim and Joel both plan to attend the signing ceremony if possible. Discussion of how the new law will affect services to local veterans was discussed. Chelan and Douglas County representative plan at looking more closely at how they can work together across county lines.

Date: March 16

Location: Yakima, Yakima County

Attending:

Stacey Hunter, Yakima County
Ernest Hume, Disabled American Veteran/Thurston County
Ben Butkovich, Kittitas County Veterans Center
Steve Gill, WDVA
Ric Price, WDVA
Joel Estey, King County Veterans Program
Beth Augustine, ESD
Mark Mascho, Pierce County Veterans Program
Tim Podhora, Clark County
Lonnie James, WDVA
Kim Tully, Yakima County
Steve Hill, Yakima County
Sharon Maier, Web Liason King County

Thanks to Kim Tully for hosting our meeting today. Introductions.

Revised brochure was handed out for future reference.

Legislative update:

HB1189 passed in the House 90 – 6
Currently in the Senate Rules Committee
Review of the Bill Request resulted in some questions of the language in the bill.
Immediately after the legislation passes, we need to start creating relationships with every county authority in Washington.

Ric handed out the WDVA Bill Tracking Report.

There was discussion of including younger/newer veterans (returning from deployment) as a voice within the CVC. Most of the younger ones have families and jobs and aren't able to go to meetings in the middle of the week. Keep this idea fresh in the mind as outreach opportunities may arise.

We have come to the conclusion there is a need for some type of organizational structure for the CVC. Do we become a Charter, Association, Non-Profit, etc.? We will discuss this further in our next meeting in April as well as finalizing the mission, goals, values, etc.

Sharon will place the Strategic Plan on the web as a draft. Ric to send her a final copy.

Conference Planning

Conference Planning Committee: Beth, Mark and Kim. They will meet this afternoon with the caterers regarding the Clarion Hotel as a potential site for the Conference.

Agenda for the next Conference Planning Committee meeting:

- Entice younger veterans to attend
- Confirm Keynote Speakers (2) - Ft. Lewis/Yakima Training Center (Mark will follow up), Commissioner of the ESD (Beth will follow up)
- What is our Theme/Mission For the speakers?
- 2 tracks: Fund Administrators & Veteran Service Organizations
- When Legislation passes, send invitations to people including brochures, agenda, as well as a presentation explaining how this new law will impact them and why they should attend.

- Design Workshops: Developing a Local Committee, Policies & Procedures, Program Management, Best Practices, Allowable Administrative Costs
- Ideas for the MC: Dave Mallory (Skagit/Whatcom County) and Steve Hill (Yakima)
- Need to schedule meetings for the Conference Planning Committee.

CVC Meeting Schedule

April CVC meeting is scheduled to be in Chelan County (Wenatchee). CVC needs to outreach in communities that we have few or no contacts in. Beth to follow up arranging April meeting.

August 17th CVC meeting will be held in Roslyn.

September 21st and October 19th will be moved to Yakima.

Good of the order

A draft of the Conference will be seen next meeting in the CVC Business session to follow this meeting.

Postal Service is announcing job testing/hiring and veterans would go to the top of their list, so send them there if you see a need.

Date: February 16, 2005

Location: Port Orchard, Kitsap County

Attending:

Joel Estey, King
 Kimberlee Tully, Yakima
 Beth Augustine, ESD Liason
 Tim Podhora, Clark
 Ric Price, WDVA
 Steve Gill, WDVA
 Linda Loyal, Thurston
 Mark Mascho, Pierce
 Anna Wilderboer, Kitsap
 Kay Anderson, Kitsap
 Timothy Sewell, Snohomish
 Sharon Maier, Web Liason

VAF managers from Kitsap County attended a CVC meeting for the first time. They explained how the Veterans Fund is managed in Kitsap County. VAF managers from Yakima, Clark, Thurston, Snohomish Pierce and King counties provided an overview of how their fund is managed and each shared a best practice with the newcomers.

Joel and Tim provided an update on VAF legislation.

2005 Conference Planning is gearing up. After weighing pros and cons of possible meeting locations CVC is narrowing in on Yakima. Kimberlee Tully has agreed to oversee conference logistics. CVC recognizes the need to provide outreach to counties that seldom or have yet to participate in CVC activities.

CVC web stats show that the CVC calendar is one of the most accessed parts of the site. Plans are in place to increase the usability of this feature.

Date: January 19, 2005

Location: Kelso, Cowlitz County

Attending:

Jerry Towne, WDVA
Steven Gill, WDVA
Ric Price, WDVA
John King, WDVA
John Witham, Marine Corps League, Cowlitz County Veterans Assoc.
Ethan Farnham
Paul Wilson, DAV
Raymond Porter
Kathleen Johnson, Cowlitz County Commissioner
Mark Mascho, Pierce County Veterans
Heinz Haskins, Lakewood
Larry Stetson, Tacoma
Claire Hauge, Cowlitz County OFM Director
Sheila Sebron, Seattle
Doug Reid, VFW Post 3017
Stephanie Dunn, Cowlitz County Cmsr. Admin. Coord./Veterans Relief Admin.
Joel Estey, King County Vet Program Admin
Tim Podhora, Clark County Veterans
Sharon Maier, Web Liaison
Beth Augustine, ESD Liaison

Briefing - Purpose/Mission/Goals of the CVC:: Estey and Mascho gave the background of the County Veterans' Coalition (CVC). The CVC started in 1998 facilitated by King and Pierce counties with the mission to pull counties together for the multi-veterans organizations. The website www.cvcwashington.org was developed as a communication tool and the Contact Database is currently under development. If organizations want to receive information about upcoming meetings and other information, subscribe through the website. Funding for the CVC is currently being split between King and Pierce counties through the S&S budget, with other counties also absorbing veterans work within their other duties. The CVC is not currently incorporated; members have discussed becoming a 501(c) in the future.

One main reason the CVC formed was to allow the ability to submit legislative changes. Communication was a huge goal to be able to share information among all counties via electronically and at the annual CVC Retreat in October. Information is distributed to counties and veterans post contacts. The CVC Strategic Plan was developed in December 2004 with a task to outreach counties in all regions of the state.

Legislative Update: The proposed legislation would require each county to establish a veterans' advisory board to better serve the needs of local indigent veterans and their families, add definitions, and clean up the out-of-date language. The changes proposed would be fairly conducive to all 39 counties and has gone through the WACO/WSAC legislative committees.

The Veterans Legislative Coalition is comprised of representatives of the veterans associations to be informal lobbyists in favor of legislation for veterans' members. They have taken on the revision of the Veterans Relief Act as one of the issues.

HB1189 will be coming forward to the legislature set for a hearing with the Local Government Committee on January 27, 2005; 1:30 p.m.; Room E.

Review of the 2005 CVC Strategic Plan: A Strategic Planning Session was held after the yearly retreat. Goals established are: Improve relations among County Veterans' Programs; Facilitate improved community relationships; Identify future service opportunities; and Be a resource for County Veterans' Programs and veteran service providers.

Committees outlined are: Conference; Legislation; Outreach; Communications; Pilot Project - Implement web-based system on CVC web site; and Organizational Structure. Committee leads have been named and anyone interested in participating, contact the CVC through the website.

CVC Pilot Project Review: The major issue is to obtain more funding into local government. This has been identified to occur through the CVC. Counties receiving monies from HUD must have an HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) system implemented. Data shows 23% of the homeless are veterans, so collecting data for service providers assists those who help veterans. The pilot project - Veterans Information System - will help identify where all of the veterans needs are for the state.

2004 Conference Debriefing: The 2004 conference had some very interesting topics: Post traumatic stress syndrome, sexual trauma, Gulf War veterans assistance issues, veterans pensions, and more.

The Conference Committee will be looking at existing problems and upcoming issues to be addressed at the 2005 conference in October on a Wednesday/Thursday with strategy sessions on Friday. Submit any ideas or topics to Beth, Marc, or Joel or post on the website. Possible topics could include: Veterans benefits and/or compensations - health care and education; Available resources in the state of Washington; and/or Changes and opportunities coming up this year for veterans assistance.

Suggestions/Comments from the Floor:

- Address the issue of the county levy - currently comes out of the county's \$1.80; suggest asking other counties if there is a collective interest to make a separate taxing district so it is outside the \$1.80 to keep the General Fund intact.
- Proposed legislation appears to take control from the specific veterans' posts; suggest to not change current legislation.
- Perception that the State of Oregon assists Cowlitz County more since the VA hospital utilized is in Portland, Oregon; suggest CVC gather information from the entire state, counties become involved in the CVC, and local posts/organizations communicate with members.
- Lack of participation from counties located on the east side; suggest alternating yearly retreat between east side/west side.
- Outreach meeting seemed focused on one county; suggest the host county invite the surrounding counties to participate in a regional forum format.
- A communication instrument is needed. Cowlitz County posts representatives are concerned with the veterans and do not have the time to be involved with the coalition. There are several facets to the county participants with the posts dealing directly with the veterans, the budget office concerned about the dollars and the commissioners setting the policy.

Next Meeting: February 16 at the Soldiers Home in Retsil, Kitsap County

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