



## 2006 CVC BUSINESS MEETING NOTES

**Date:** October 18, 2006  
**Location:** Best Western Tacoma Dome  
**Purpose:** Conference Planning

**Date:** September 20, 2006  
**Location:** Best Western Tacoma Dome  
**Purpose:** Conference Planning.

**Date:** August 16, 2006  
**Location:** Port Angeles, Washington  
**Purpose:** CVC General Meeting

<b>Name</b> .....	<b>Representing</b>
Kay Anderson.....	Kitsap County
Ron Bayton .....	American Legion, Port Angeles
Leif Bentsen .....	Kitsap County
John Bransch .....	Voices for Veterans
Ted Cordua .....	VFW-6788, Sequim
Tammy Davidson .....	Clallam County
Joel Estey.....	King County Veterans
Mike McEvoy.....	DVOP – Work Source / Voices for Veterans
Tom McKeown .....	Marine Corps League, VFW, DVA
Mark Mascho.....	Pierce County Veterans
Ric Price .....	WDVA
Dick Stumbaugh.....	Clallam County Veterans
Jerry Towne .....	WDVA
Ed Van Wald .....	American Merchant Marine Veterans.

Guest  
Pauline Cordua ..... TED

**Introductions and Thanks** - Joel Estey, King County veterans program coordinator, welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked Dick Stumbaugh, Clallam County veterans assistant for hosting the meeting.

**Local Issues or Concerns** –

- **Grant Funding** – Ric Price spoke briefly about grant opportunities and shared information on different community based programs that could be considered. To find more information please visit [www.grant.gov](http://www.grant.gov).

- **Local Veterans Museum** – A conversation was held about the possibility of Clallam County creating a veterans museum. Lewis County has a museum for veterans'. Information will be gathered and shared with Clallam County.
- **Healthcare** – Veterans at the meeting expressed that emergent healthcare in Clallam county is scarce, veterans in our area are isolated and do not have the accessibility that is needed. At the Skagit County regional meeting, it was discussed that rural areas have trouble getting access to services and they felt the time period between the first and second appointment was one of the biggest priorities that needed to be addressed.

A nurse practitioner will be coming to Port Angeles and Forks to see veterans about their emergent issues. Olympic Medical Center will be providing a room for the visits in Port Angeles.

- **Transportation for Healthcare** – The DAV provides transportation to veterans that have physician appointments in Bremerton and Seattle. It was shared that the vans are always full and there is a great need for qualified drivers. If you know someone who is interested in volunteering to drive please have them contact the DAV office at (360) 417-9444.
- **Clallam County Stand Down 2006** – Clallam County will be holding its veterans stand down on October 5, 2006. This will take place at the Clallam County Fairgrounds.
- **CVC Updates** – Each county will be responsible for updates to their individual pages on the web-site. Some information that may be of benefit to share on the web pages is demographics, statistics, population etc. There will also be a page to share best practices, upcoming meeting, current legislation and a directory.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Annual CVC Conference** – The seventh annual CVC Conference will take place at the Tacoma Dome Hotel on October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006. If you would like more information please visit the CVC web site.

The next CVC meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2006 in Tacoma.

Minutes submitted by Tammy Davidson, Clallam County

**Date:** July 19,  
**Location:** Everett, WA

**Attending:**

James Boyce.....	Snohomish County Vets Board
Joel Estey.....	King County Veterans
Joy Finley.....	Stanwood American Legion
Sarah Hinman.....	Skagit County Veterans
Mark Mascho.....	Pierce County Veterans
Sola Plumacher.....	Snohomish County Human Services
Ric Price.....	WDVA
Timothy Sewell.....	Snohomish County Veterans Assistance
Ken Swope.....	Stanwood American Legion
Rene C. Taculad.....	VFW/WDVA
Dale Vick.....	Snohomish County Vets Board
Bob Westphal.....	Stanwood American Legion
Brenda White.....	Congressman Larsen

Meeting was brought to order by Joel Estey (King County).

James Boyce (Snohomish Board) brought up the issue of veterans services in rural areas. Specifically eastern Snohomish County is of great concern. The city of Monroe and areas east are dramatically underserved. James stated that he was doing volunteer service work in the town of Sultan in eastern Snohomish County until some cost issues arose. Also of considerable concern is the town of Skykomish.

This small town on U.S. Highway 2 is actually a part of King County but cannot be accessed without going through Snohomish County or over the mountain pass. Joel brought up the possibility of doing a contract with Snohomish County to provide services. Need to find a location, determine costs and set down program perimeters. Also need to find out how many veterans are there to help determine the scope of the problem.

The representatives from the Stanwood American Legion Post stated that they have been working with a person from Work-Source who comes to their post one day a week to service the Stanwood – Camano Island area. Both Joy Finley and Bob Westphal recommended a set up similar to this might be a partial solution to the problem in eastern Snohomish County. Ric Price (WDVA) reported that Work-Source Everett is the recipient of the State's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project (HVRP) for upper Western Washington. A significant part of the contract is for outreach. Both Sola Plumacher (Snohomish County Human Services) and Brenda White (Congressman Larsen's Office) mentioned that they planned on being in eastern Snohomish County in the near future and will look for other possible contacts.

Bob Westphal provided additional information from a report he received from the American Legion. 20% of veterans are from rural areas. According to a report published in April of 2004 a disproportionate 44 percent of all soldiers killed during Iraqi Freedom (OIF) were from communities with populations of under 20,000.

The topic of transportation for veterans was once again brought up for discussion. A volatile and emotional subject, the discussion of transportation included a summary of what the Northwest Region is doing and some of the concerns in the greater Snohomish County area. Two areas of note were:

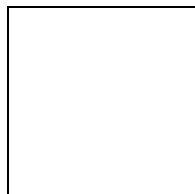
1. On Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, the Northwest CVC Regional Committee is going to meet at the Community Action Center in Mount Vernon to finalize their letter regarding transportation issues in the VA.
2. Brenda White report that Congressman Larsen has initiated a bill called the "Rural Transportation Act" which specifically addresses transportation issues for veterans in low population areas. While the legislation is still in the early stages of development it does, for the first time, acknowledge the fact that there is a problem with the current system.

Mark Mascho (Pierce County Veterans' Bureau) went over the agenda for the annual conference on 25 – 26 October in Tacoma. The Governor has officially been invited to be the Keynote speaker on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> but the CVC will not know if she can accept our invitation until early September. The cost of the conference (not including hotel rooms) should be in the neighborhood of \$100.

Ric Price talked about the updates for the web site and the data base system. It is especially important that any chapter or post of a veterans service organization have contact information available if they want to be listed on the CVC web site. There's no reason to continue to list organizations on the web site unless there's a way veterans can contact them.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:20 PM.

Notes provided by: Mark Mascho, Pierce County



**Date:** June 21, 2006  
**Location:** Yakima, WA

**Attending:** Stacey Hunter , Yakima County  
Ben Butkovich, Kittitas County Veterans Center  
Ric Price, Washington Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Joel Estey, King County Veterans  
Mark Mascho, Pierce County Veterans  
Kim Tully, Yakima County  
Steve Hill, Yakima County

Thanks to Kim Tully for hosting our meeting today.

Update on Regional Meetings:

Kim (Skagit County NW) – She is currently working on the first draft of the letter and she will go back on July 7<sup>th</sup> to deliver it. The #1 topic was transportation.

Mark (Greys Harbor SW) – Attendance was mainly comprised of NW residents who decided to come to both meetings.

Ric (SE) – Has not had much opportunity to address the issues in this region

The letter is going to state the issues that all counties are facing and it will be sent to the Washington State Legislature.

Across the board, transportation seemed to be the most common issue by far.

Discussion of Possible Solutions to Transportation Issues:

Steve suggested we push for transportation being covered by Title 19 (Medicaid). There is a limit on the income a veteran receives in order to qualify for Medicaid. It is believed to be around \$600 per month, which means that many of our veterans would not qualify to use this service. There may be ways to circumvent this requirement. If we can look for ways to pool the funds (i.e. 10% VAF, 10% State, 10% other organization, etc.)

Currently, some counties have access to a van, but finding drivers is difficult due to the strict insurance requirements. We could possibly solve this problem if we can find a way to pay the drivers, maybe through the Assistance Fund. Also, for those counties that don't have access to a van, we need to ask for a way to pay for a van for each county. Ultimately, a van must be accessible. We would prefer that the state be willing to fund this portion.

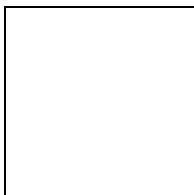
We may want to ask some of the representatives to attend the conference to discuss the issue of transportation.

Kim is going to work toward having the letter finished, approved and sent out by the end of July. Once the rough draft is complete, it will be reviewed internally by the CVC, WDVA, and each region. Then it will be sent to the Legislature, the WDVA, VAC, and the VLC.

The website is now up and running but still has some minor issues. The "Calendar of Events" is still a work in progress

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Minutes taken by: Kim Tully



CVC Business Session

**Date:** June 21, 2006

**Attending:**

Stacey Hunter, Yakima County  
Ben Butkovich, Kittitas County Veterans Center  
Ric Price, Washington Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Joel Estey, King County Veterans  
Mark Mascho, Pierce County Veterans  
Kim Tully, Yakima County  
Steve Hill, Yakima County

The meeting began at 12:00 pm.

The focus of the conference will be on the National Guard, the Reserves, and their families.

Ric offered to take care of getting the speaker from the National Guard or the Reserves.

**Ideas:**

- "Changing Face of Today's Heroes" – Topic for lunch hour discussion
- Needs of Mobilization and Post-Mobilization
- After Lunch on second day, coordinate a tour at Retsil

**Speakers:**

- Ray Switzer – Transitional Housing/Reintegration Program
- Someone from the Guard or Reserves (Mary Forbes or Denise Whitman)– Change in needs of families
- Christine Gregoire – dinner speaker

We need to have a "Save-the-Date" by July with a rough agenda, and the agenda finalized by early August.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Minutes taken by: Kim Tully

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**Date:** April 19, 2006

**Location:** Grays Harbor County, Aberdeen, WA

**Attending:**

Bill Bailey, Clark County, Veteran Advisory Board  
John Stofiel, Clark County, Veteran Advisory Board  
Ric Price, WDVA  
Jim Law, Grays Harbor County – WorkSource  
Allen Barney, Island County – Disabled American Veterans  
Sharon Maier, King County Community Services Division  
Dave Michel, Island County – Disabled American Veterans  
Syd Baker, Grays Harbor County - Veteran Advisory Board  
Mark Mascho, Pierce County – VAF Program Manager  
Joel Estey, King County – VAF Program Manger  
Linda Loyal, Thurston County – VAF Program Manager  
Maurie Fox, Grays Harbor County – Aberdeen VFW

**Discussion:**

Self introductions were made.

Short summary report of the 2005 conference was given by Joel Estey (King County) and Mark Mascho (Pierce County.)

There was considerable discussion on how counties are implementing the recent changes in the R.C.W. (See County Reports).

Some counties reported difficulty if finding out what the neighboring counties are doing. However, most are finding that those counties with successful working programs are willing the help other counties get started.

There was considerable discussion of VA vans. Joel gave a summary report of the Northwest Region's recent meetings regarding this issue. The Southwest Region reported that they were having difficulty getting veterans approved to ride on the van. The system mandated by the VA is cumbersome, not veteran friendly, and often just doesn't work.

Ric Price (WDVA) and Sharon Meier (King County) gave an overview of the recent changes to the CVC web site. All veterans are encouraged to visit the site and provide feed-back where appropriate.

Mark Mascho made an appeal for input for the 2006 state conference being held 25 and 26 October in Pierce County.

#### County Reports:

Grays Harbor (Host County): The County Commissioners Appointed a 5 member Veterans Advisory Board. It looks as though the VAB is going to take over the appeal process for any veteran who believes their request for assistance was inappropriately turned down. The board is also working to develop standing rules and bylaws. The representatives of Grays Harbor who work with the VAF expressed interest in how other counties deal with "repeat customers."

Clark County: John Stofiel of Clark County reported that things are going fairly well in the Vancouver area. Offered to provide information to any county that may be interested in knowing how Clark County set up their VAF system.

Thurston County: Linda Loyle reported that the Veterans' Assistance Fund program in Thurston County moved it offices in March. They are now across from the Thurston County Work Source offices. The Board of Commissioners did the initial approval of the Veterans' Advisory Board in March. It is expected to be in place by the end of June. As a result of these changes the VAF is in the process of updating its' procedures manual and the Veterans Advisory Board is developing working rules and regulations.

Pierce County: Mark Mascho reported that the Pierce County Veterans Advisory Council has selected the members to work with him on the CVC State Conference Committee. The committee is expected to survey several sites over the next few weeks and plans to have the location of the 2006 conference finalized by the next CVC meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The Pierce County Veterans' Bureau continues to do preliminary work on developing a Veterans Incarcerated Program.

King County: Joel Estey reported that King County Veterans' Services had its' annual Veterans Advisory Board retreat on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. This year, in addition to doing an orientation to new board members, they were tasked with doing some brain-storming on utilizing the increased funds made available by the passage of a special levy last year.

Island County: Island County reports that progress is being made slow but sure in getting the approval of a Veterans Advisory Board. Names for Advisory Board members and alternates are being submitted to the Board of Commissioners. Because Island County's VAF program was so unique, the new VAB is asking for a review of the system; how much revenue was collected and expended; and, how many applications were submitted vs. how many were approved. They also reported that they are looking at having a central veterans' office where indigent veterans can go to apply for assistance.

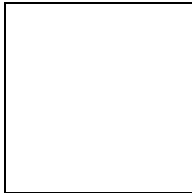
#### Action Items:

- What kind of work-shops and presentations would you like to see at the 2006 conference in Pierce County? Is there an item you would like to present? Contact Mark Mascho in Pierce County or the CVC with any input.
- What has your county done to implement the changes in the RCW regarding the Veterans Assistance Fund? Have you established a Veterans Advisory Board? Are you looking at different programs and services?
- Is your county having problems with transportation to the nearest VA treatment facility?
- Are you seeing more requests for assistance from Afghani and Iraqi vets?
- Next meeting: 10:00 AM, Wednesday, March 17, 2006, Whatcom County Courthouse, Bellingham, WA

Notes provided by: Mark Mascho, Pierce County

**Date: March 15, 2006**

**Location:**



**Date:** February 15, 2006

**Location:** Skagit County, Mt Vernon, WA

Attending:

Bob Garrison, Skagit Count  
 Sarah Hinman, SCCAA  
 David Mitchell, NWHVCC  
 Gerald Pfannenstiel, WDVA  
 David Mallory, ESD 360-416-3575  
 Shelly Zylstra, Whatcom  
 Allen Barney, Island County  
 Gene Goldsmith, Whatcom  
 Mark Mascho, Pierce County  
 Thomas Noel, Whatcom Co - ESD  
 Edwin Simmers, Whatcom County  
 Peter Hallgrimson, ESD  
 William Adamek, ESD  
 Ray Switzer, WDVA  
 Ric Price, WDVA  
 John Stufiel Clark County  
 Carol Williams, Snohomish County  
 Sarah Urrutia, Positive Women's  
 David P. Michel ,DAV Ch 47  
 Joel Estey, King County

Overview of CVC

Shifting from getting 1189 passed to ... What next?

## Conference Review-

Positive: Breakout groups, Legislative overviews, Lt. Debbie Allen

Improvement Needed: More time for breakout groups to meet, More counties represented

## Regional Meeting Recap

1. Transportation – getting people from outlying areas to pick up point.
  - a. Possible contract with VAF to provide transportation
  - b. Meeting with VA regarding van issues – Kim will schedule
  - c. Medicaid transportation (676-6749; 1-800-585-6749)
  - d. Possibility of counties contracting with brokerage
  - e. Contact Paul Meury
2. Veterans At-Large on Advisory Boards – Board is open to all veterans
  - a. Advertising through VSO's, newspapers
  - b. Whatcom and Snohomish appoint members
  - c. Skagit hold elections every March/ April for officer
3. Questions to be answered
  - a. How are boards in different counties operating?
  - b. Confidentiality issues?
  - c. Hands-on vs. Administrative
  - d. How are veterans getting help in different counties?

## CVC Updates – Ric

Website testing in progress

Revamped Website coming soon

Regional meetings starting to happen

Database design – updating DOC's

Best practice will be on website

## 2006 Strategic Plan

Accomplishments and goals discussed (Review Strategic Plan)

## Positive Women's Network Report from Sarah

Mobile screening in rural communities

Breast and cervical health

Income equal, age 40-64 or 34 with symptoms will cover treatment if cancer is detected

## Next meeting – March 15 in Tri-Cities

- April Grays Harbor

- CVC NW regional meeting – March 17, 10 am-12 pm at SCCAA

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**Date:** January 18, 2006

**Location:** Clark County, Vancouver, Washington

## Attending:

Robert 'Bob' K. Axlund 40 et 8 Voiture 99

Bill Bailey Post 14, American Legion

Jerry Bloss AMVET Post 6

Larry Brown VFW 7824

Don Cannady American Legion 189

Danny Catania VFW 12028 Alternate

Roger Daniels American Legion 122

Darrell Eastman NW Indian Veterans

Keith Fitch Marine Corp League Alternate

Frank Gallaher VFW Post 12011  
Michael D. Gibson Post 176 American Legion  
Robert Hitchcok VFW 4278 Alternate  
David Hull Am Vets Post 6 Alternate  
Jerry Keen VVA #512 Alternate  
Richard Langenbach American Legion 168 Alternate  
Paul Mason 40 et 8 Alternate  
Dennis Moore VFW Post 12011 Alternate  
Robert Nichols American Legion168  
Jack Quincy NW Indian Veterans  
Gib Ridout American Legion 189 Alternate  
Ray Saranto VFW 12028  
Peggy Sheehan American Legion 14  
David Silvernail VFW 7824 Alternate  
Paul J. Sobka DAV Chapt. #4  
John Stofiel Marine Corps League  
Greg Whitson VVA #512  
Richard Willingham VFW Post 4278  
Phillip Yasson Post 176 American Legion  
Phillip Goff American Legion Service Officer  
Pete Munroe, Clark County  
Samantha Givens, Clark County  
Melissa Bensink, Share  
Joel Estey, King County  
Ric Price, WDVA  
Sharon Maier , King County  
Mark Mascho, Pierce County