Veteran Advisory Board Meeting Minutes, March 2, 2022

1. Roll Call:

Board Members in attendance: Ken Slininger, Gary Bracht, Jim Brakebill, Ken Weston, John Nordine, Phil Anderson, Joanna Latimer, Tom Moncrief, and Eileen Boylston

Members absent - None

County Rep: Jerry Gingrich

Guests: Raymond Boylston, Thad Evans, Leland Johnson, Trevor Rollins

2. Reading and approval of the old minutes.

3. Reviewed Grant County Veteran Assistance Fund. Jerry provided a run down on the numbers. Discussed that the $5000 for each burial is not going to be sustainable. Gary asked Jerry to try to get us a median amount that the funeral costs based on the ones that have been done. To be discussed further when we meet in May.

4. Veteran Service Officer position for the county: Job has been posted on the county website as of 03/03/22. When the interviews take place suggested that we have at least a couple VAB members on the interview panel. Volunteered were Gary, Jim, Phil and Ken W.

5. VVA Contract for the Veterans Service Office: The contract will be renewed. The current rate will apply for use of the space. Contract is for up to 3 years, renewing each year. No cost to VVA for utilities, and they pay $1/month.

6. Old Business:
   - Stand Down. Reserved for next year: September 24th 2022. Eileen emailed Gary the poster for the Stand Down on March 4th. Gary will get printed and ready to hand out at the May meeting. Put out in communities in June, then again early September. During the May meeting establish a Stand Down Committee to start planning the event.
   - Veteran Court Discussion: Discussed that the Veterans’ Court will need veterans in our community to volunteer to be mentors for the veterans in this diversion program. Noted that Grant County is currently looking at doing a Drug Diversion Program and it might be possible to have a veterans’ court to piggyback on this endeavor. No actual planning took place today.
   - Memorial: On hold. What are other VAB’s doing to assist veterans: Jerry will reach out and ask.

7. New Business:
   - The board voted to add a member of the Combat Veterans to the VAB. Ken Slininger then will only vote to break ties.
   - Combat veterans will start sending their Newsletter to Jerry so he can share to the VAB.

8. Updates:

Post 157.

   - Continue doing blood drives. Next one is scheduled for March 14th.
   - Involved with helping the food bank (60 to 70% labor provided by them).
   - Boy scouts meet once a week at the Legion.
   - Veterans Memorial, in process.
   - Next meeting, March 8th.
Post 28.

- Crab/Prime Rib Feed, Feb 26th. Conducted elections. Noted that the Boys & Girls State will be taking place on March 19th where they will learn about how the legislator works
- Had six members attend the Legion College.

Joanna Latimer.

- Noted that masking will continue to be required at medical facilities even after the mask mandate ends.

Post 183.

- Meetings are scheduled the 2nd Saturday each month. Next meeting is on March 12th at 9am.
- Donated to the food bank.

Post 209.

- Open 6 days a week - 3pm-7pm, Monday to Saturday. Sunday breakfast is 9am – 11am.
- They have steak night every Friday; will have lunch on Wednesdays soon.
- They have their general meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Post 24.

- Meeting location alternates between being in Moses Lake and being in Quincy.
- Not fully active due to COVID.
- Had a dinner at the Lavender Farm and one at the Senior Center.

WorkSource.

- Our Office in Moses Lake is now fully open. Masks are required to enter.
- We again have in-person classes Resumes, Interviewing and more.
- Noted that the Big Bend Career and Job Fair will take place in May; and that the upcoming events are listed: dates, times, location in her Veteran Newsletter.

9. Meetings.

- Next VAB Meeting: **May 11, Wednesday, 4pm**, Jerry will set up virtual option, also have the option to come in person at the Ephrata Courthouse.