



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
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**Meeting Minutes**

<b>Meeting attended by</b>	Kathy Hobbs, Owen McCurdy, Bob Jones and Fred Scheffler
<b>Date</b>	February 19, 2105
<b>Time</b>	10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
<b>Location</b>	Clallam County Board Room #160, 223 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> St., Port Angele, WA
<b>Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order by Kathy Hobbs Invocation by Bob Jones Pledge of Allegiance by Owen McCurdy
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions:</b>	Kathy Hobbs made the welcome and introductions of VAAC Members present for the Town Hall Meeting Clallam County Commissioner Jim McEntire (Captain, USCG Retired) Welcomed attendees as well thanking the VAAC members present for doing the town hall meeting in his county Alan Barnard – Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce (US Army Veteran) also welcomed and thank everyone present. He also shared that one of the chambers mission is to recognize and advocate for veterans in the county. Newsletter is published and portion of the Newsletter is dedicated to veterans. A request to officially designate Port Angeles as a coast guard city – application is in process.
<b>Areas Discussed:</b>	<b>Agency Overview by Alfie Alvarado – WDVA Director</b> Alfie gave a WDVA agency overview and as well as legislative updates. Here are some veterans bills: HB 1112 – Authorizing siblings of US Armed Forces members who while in services or as result of service to apply for gold star license plate HB 1138 - Creating a task force on mental health and suicide prevention in higher education HB1213 – Concerning the definition of veteran for the purposes of the county veterans assistance fund HB 1644 - Concerning veteran survivor tuition waiver eligibility. Adds federal exceptions for children of eligible veterans or National Guard members who became totally disabled, became a prisoner of war, went missing in action, or who lost his or her life as a result of serving in active military or naval service to the qualifications for required tuition and fee waivers HB 1741 Allowing disabled persons to access public recreational sites or lands without a discover pass, vehicle access pass, or day-use permit HB 2040 – Initiates a campaign to increase veteran employment. Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to maintain a database of campaign participants

SB 5127 - Providing that veterans with total disability ratings and their surviving spouses and domestic partners are eligible to qualify for a property tax exemption without meeting certain income requirements  
SB 5974 - Requiring the insurance commissioner to review barriers to offering supplemental coverage options to disabled veterans and their dependents  
SJM 8012 – Requesting the designation of US Highway 101 to honor recipients of the Medal of Honor

**Behavioral Health – Robert Perry**

He is a contracted WDVA counselor that provides mental and chemical dependency counseling services in Port Angeles and surrounding areas for veterans and their families. His office is at the Peninsula Behavioral Health. He provides individual, group and family counseling.

**NW Veterans Resources – Jeff Reyes**

Veteran Resource Center launched 3 years ago and was modeled after Building 9 at Retsil. The center is run by volunteers who help assist and direct veterans and their families towards resources at the local, state and federal level. There are also three service officers that can assist with VA claim process and/or answer any questions regarding benefits.

**Sarge’s Place – Cheri Tinker**

Sarge’s Place – provides transitional housing assistance and support for veterans and their families. The place has an on-site service officer, has a mental health case manager and MSW on site. It opened its doors Fall of 2011. It is located in forks and assist veterans and their families from Clallam and Jefferson counties.

**Voices for Veterans – John Braasch**

10 years of existence. Primary function is to conduct yearly stand down for veterans in Clallam County and Jefferson County. They conduct 3 stand down per year. The first stand down for 2015 is on May 7, 2015 at Forks Elks Lodge from 9:00 – 3:00 p.m. Services provided during the stand-down are: employment, benefits counseling, housing assistance, haircuts, legal aids, medical and dental health screening, etc.

**Employment – Michael McEvoy**

Mike is the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) for Clallam and Jefferson Counties. His duties is to assist veterans with resume, application and interviewing assistance, use of computer to apply for jobs online, etc. Assess skills and interest and put together an employment plan that is right for the veterans. As the DVOP he works closely with the US Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Division to coordinate the right mix of services that each veteran needs to prepare for and find a job, provide information and counseling on how to look for job, referrals to job openings and labor marker information about the types of jobs that are in demand in the veterans respective community.

**WDVA Brief – Steve Gill**

He outlined the different services that WDVA offer for veterans and their

	<p>families in WA State, i.e.; claims, fiduciary, homeless, behavioral health, nursing home and interment.</p> <p><b>Transportation – Ed Bowen</b></p> <p>In Clallam and Jefferson County there is a Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN) – this is a courtesy program intended to provide transportation for veterans who does not have a means of travelling for their VA appointments. This is run by US Department of Veterans Affairs and Disabled American Veterans. The van is operated by volunteer drivers from the community. The van schedule varies and is largely determined by the demand for transportation services and the supply of volunteer drivers in each program. It was stressed that VTN van is for veterans who generally have no other means of travelling to and from their VA appointment destination, specifically the VTN van is for veterans who do not/should not drive and who do not have family members/friends available to drive them to their VA appointments and who are unable to utilize public transportation.</p>
<b>Issues Discussed</b>	