

SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES

SAN JUAN COUNTY (SJC), WASHINGTON Veterans' Advisory Board June 30, 2023

Friday, June 30, 2023 – Small Legislative Conference Room, Friday Harbor, San Juan Island with Online Microsoft TEAMS Access for COVID-19 Concerned VAB Members & Citizen Access

CALL TO ORDER – VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD (VAB)

Veterans' Advisory Board Chairman, Ted Whitley, called the online and Conference Room meeting to order at 11:44 AM. Members Michael Baker, Kevin Holmes, Steve Stringer, Steve Jehly, Barry Neville, Ron Krebs, and ex-officio member Cindy Wolf logged into the meeting or attended in person.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda for the June 30, 2023 VAB meeting was approved by acclamation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kevin Holmes moved, and Barry Neville seconded, a Motion to approve the Minutes of the May 26, 2023 online/in person meeting of the VAB. The Motion was approved unanimously.

CITIZEN ACCESS

US Army Veteran Albert Gonzalez attended the VAB meeting to inform himself of its function. He pointed out how very difficult it was to telephone for assistance, wishing for one number he could call to get into the VA system. Mr. Puente assured him that he would be provided with the phone number of the Veteran's Advocate Access person

David Puente, Director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, Solomon Gilbert, Deputy Director/WSDVA, and Steven Gill, Washington State Veteran's Services Administrator visited the VAB meeting in person to discuss general Veteran issues and to obtain input from our VAB to determine if State efforts could be helpful in considering the needs of San Juan County Veterans. They pointed out that only 15% of County Veterans obtained any sort of general assistance from the VAB and that only 6% obtained health-related services. VAB members pointed out that San Juan County Veterans were likely to be financially comfortable and not requiring nor qualifying for VAB assistance. At least 10% of VAB expenditures go to dental care assistance to a few local Veterans because of its high cost. A VAB member asked if a Veteran Priority Boarding Pass be provided by the State. Another asked if the State would relent in denying any services to Veterans with Dishonorable discharges. Apparently only "Don't Ask/Don't Tell" violations resulting in Dishonorable discharge are being reconsidered. The State officials assured the VAB that their issues would receive consideration. The State officials also announce the end of an initial sign up for qualification under the federal PACT Act would be mid-August 2023. They had no reason for waiting until the end of the registration to so inform the San Juan County VAB. They did provide a paper copy of the

application which will hopefully be distributed to VAB members in a timely fashion. Kevin Holmes received a copy of the application and promised he would share it with the VAB

OLD BUSINESS

No new status is reported with Whatcom County regarding VSO 18 month services re-negotiations.

Kevin Holmes showed the poster for the booth portraying the yearly expenditures of the VAB. Michael Baker offered a summary of VAB expenditures from 2016 to 2022 to Kevin for his poster which was included on the poster in small print.

Ron Krebs, was introduced as a new VAB member.

The "Serving Those Who Served" yearly meeting is scheduled for Wenatchee, Washington August 24-25. Ted Whitley is hoping for an interested VAB member to attend and assured the volunteer that all expenses would be covered for the two day conference.

NEW BUSINESS

Ted Whitley discussed his effort to get San Juan County to provide a secure website for storage of VAB records. Cindy Wolf indicated that she would contact Mike Thomas, SJC IT specialist for his assistance.

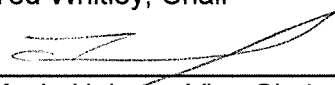
QUASI-JUDICIAL CONSIDERATIONS

RC (San Juan Application): Kevin Holmes moved, and Ron Krebs seconded, a Motion to ratify the emergency award of \$1065.64 for new tires. The Motion was approved unanimously. It is acknowledged that the Veteran should be apprised that he qualified for food assistance if he wished to apply for it.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned by declaration of the VAB Chairperson at 12:45PM. The next VAB meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2023 at 11:45AM in the San Juan County Small Legislative Conference Room in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island, Washington linked online via the MS TEAMS network.

VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Ted Whitley, Chair



Kevin Holmes, Vice-Chair

By: _____
Michael Baker, Secretary

application which will hopefully be distributed to VAB members in a timely fashion. Kevin Holmes received a copy of the application and promised he would share it with the VAB

OLD BUSINESS

No new status is reported with Whatcom County regarding VSO 18 month services re-negotiations.

Kevin Holmes showed the poster for the booth portraying the yearly expenditures of the VAB. Michael Baker offered a summary of VAB expenditures from 2016 to 2022 to Kevin for his poster which was included on the poster in small print.

Ron Krebs, was introduced as a new VAB member.

The "Serving Those Who Served" yearly meeting is scheduled for Wenatchee, Washington August 24-25. Ted Whitley is hoping for an interested VAB member to attend and assured the volunteer that all expenses would be covered for the two day conference.

NEW BUSINESS

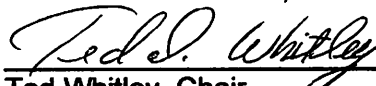
Ted Whitley discussed his effort to get San Juan County to provide a secure website for storage of VAB records. Cindy Wolf indicated that she would contact Mike Thomas, SJC IT specialist for his assistance.

QUASI-JUDICIAL CONSIDERATIONS

RC (San Juan Application): Kevin Holmes moved, and Ron Krebs seconded, a Motion to ratify the emergency award of \$1065.64 for new tires. The Motion was approved unanimously. It is acknowledged that the Veteran should be apprised that he qualified for food assistance if he wished to apply for it.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned by declaration of the VAB Chairperson at 12:45PM. The next VAB meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2023 at 11:45AM in the San Juan County Small Legislative Conference Room in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island, Washington linked online via the MS TEAMS network.

VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Ted Whitley, Chair

Kevin Holmes, Vice-Chair

By: _____
Michael Baker, Secretary