



Kitsap County Veterans Program

Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board

The purpose of the Kitsap County Veteran's Advisory Board is to advise the Board of County Commissioners on the needs of local indigent veterans, the resources available to local indigent veterans, and the programs that could benefit the needs of local indigent veterans and their families.

BOARD MEETING

DATE: January 14, 2026

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129



[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Topic: Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting

To join by phone call 1-253-215-8782

Meeting ID: 814 9194 3375

Passcode: 116863

Public Comments. To provide public comment during the meeting, click on the hand icon at the bottom of the screen to “raise your hand.” The chair or designee will call upon the attendee to speak at the designated time. Public comment may also be submitted in advance to be read by staff or the chair during the meeting. Email comments by 12:00 p.m. the day before the meeting to scorcoran@kitsap.gov.

A G E N D A

* = Action Item

1. **Call to Order.**
2. **Online Announcement.**
3. **Welcome to attendees and new board members.**
4. **Introduction of Attendees.**
5. **Approval of Agenda. ***
6. **Approval of December 10th, 2025, VAB Minutes. ***
7. **Guest Speaker** – Danny Piper
8. **Reports.**

Bill Martin
Mark Lowe
Mark Lowe
Mark Lowe
Mark Lowe
Mark Lowe
Mark Lowe

- a. **Veterans Assistance Fund Reports Review Expenditures.** Attachments A
- b. **Update on KCR Veteran Assistance Fund events and trends** Attachment B
- c. **Committee Reports.**

S. Corcoran
Marqus Ellis

Topic	VAB Member
Housing and Homelessness / Aging Veterans Services	Matt Shillingburg/Emily Buster
Public Affairs and Social Media	Brian Davis/Carlos Trujillo
Special Event VAB Support -	Jack Cahoon
Veteran Education	Tatiane Simons
Veteran Health Care	Jayne DeGooyer/Danny Piper
Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs	Vacant
Veterans Garden	Jason Reis
Women's Veteran Services	Jayne DeGooyer/Emily Buster
Veteran Employment and Employment Opportunities	Bill Martin
Veteran Court Mentorship	Vacant
Tribe Outreach	Emily Buster

See attachment C for future VAB supported events.

9. Old Business

- a. 2026 Work Plan Review.
- b. Veterans Advisory Board vacancies.
- c. Kitsap County VSO update.
- d. Guest speakers for 2026
- e. RTT update
- f. Military Appreciation Day update

Mark Lowe
Mark Lowe
Steve Corcoran
Mark Lowe
Mark Lowe
Steve Corcoran

10. New Business:

Topic	VAB Member
2026 Work Plan finalization (due to BOCC by Feb 9 th)	VAB Board

11. Public Comments.

12. Good of the Order/Announcements.

13. **Next Meeting** February 11th, 2026, 1730, Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129, November.

14. Adjourn.



Kitsap County
Veterans Advisory Board

The Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board 2025 Veterans Garden

Blueberry Park P-Patch Garden

737 Sylvan Way, Bremerton, WA 98310
Kitsap County Veterans Services 360-337-4811
Join us as we grow food for veterans.



Scan here to follow us on Facebook



Revised 03/11/2025

Meeting date 1/14/2026

[illegible]

Attachment A (Partial)

2025 Veterans Relief Fund Budget					
As of December 31, 2025					
Account #	Account Title	Budget	Year to Date	Percent	Balance
	Beginning Fund Balance	-	900,000.00		
	Current Revenue				
3110.10	Real & Personal Property	800,000.00	832,767.84	104.1%	(32,767.84)
3610.11	Investment Interest	2,000.00	4,115.40	205.8%	(2,115.40)
3000	Other Revenue	2,700.00	3,184.83	118.0%	(484.83)
	Revenue total	804,700.00	840,068.07	104.4%	(35,368.07)
	County Staff Charges				
5101	Regular Salaries	49,636.00	50,292.42	101.3%	(656.42)
5201	Industrial Insurance	592.00	546.47	92.3%	45.53
5202	Social Security	3,797.00	4,013.46	105.7%	(216.46)
5203	PERS Retirement	4,152.00	3,727.09	89.8%	424.91
5209	WA State Family Leave	108.00	139.42	129.1%	(31.42)
5229	Benefit Bucket	8,550.00	8,550.00	100.0%	-
5311	Office Supplies	1,000.00	651.10	65.1%	348.90
5425	Postage	150.00	2.07	1.4%	147.93
5452	Computer Software	500.00	106.38	21.3%	393.62
5431	Mileage	1,500.00	-	0.0%	1,500.00
5492	Other Miscellaneous	10,057.00	5,366.66	53.4%	4,690.34
	Total County Staff Charges	80,042.00	73,395.07	91.7%	6,646.93
	Contracted Services				
5419	Management Consulting				
	KCR	625,950.00	460,969.21	73.6%	164,980.79
	NW Justice League	80,000.00	78,918.00	98.6%	1,082.00
	Standdown				
5413	Medical/Dental	4,000.00	-	0.0%	4,000.00
5441	Advertising	2,000.00	1,139.00	57.0%	861.00
5454	Operating Rental	1,500.00	850.00	56.7%	650.00
5499	Veteran's Garden	1,200.00	-	0.0%	1,200.00
	County Charges				
5912	I/FIS Service Charges	3,711.00	3,711.00	100.0%	-
5913	I/FIS Program Maintenance	1,660.00	1,659.96	100.0%	0.04
5914	I/FIS Fleet Recovery	306.00	459.96	150.3%	(153.96)
5922	I/FIS Projects	460.00	306.00	66.5%	154.00
5996	Indirect Cost Allocation	3,871.00	3,871.00	100.0%	-
	Expense total	804,700.00	625,279.20	77.7%	179,420.80
	Estimated ending Fund Balance	-	700,000.00		

KCR has 295,000 additional budget from 2024 balance since we amended the contract and added 625,950

Attachment B

Kitsap County Veterans Assistance Program - Summary of Direct Emergency Assistance During 2025													
Total Direct Service Budget 2025 - \$476,867													
Activity	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Total 2025
Appliances	\$338.81												\$338.81
Auto Repair	\$7,117.72	\$7,390.72	\$387.00	\$962.17	\$6,096.29	\$4,080.05	\$676.02	\$10,696.60	\$2,496.45	\$3,793.36	\$4,551.52	\$10,122.30	\$58,370.20
Burial			\$1,149.18					\$1,644.05	\$1,500.00				\$4,293.23
Bus Pass	\$25.00									\$25.00		\$25.00	\$75.00
Bus Ticket Home													\$0.00
Clean & Sober Housing													\$0.00
Clothing	\$1,098.12		\$277.71	\$548.76	\$498.52	\$743.11	\$1,143.23	\$737.34	\$291.44	\$910.23	\$932.65	\$1,513.05	\$8,694.16
Dental	\$4,042.80	\$1,108.00		\$331.10	\$548.60		\$248.50						\$6,279.00
Eviction Relief Funding	\$12,783.00	\$9,751.90	\$20,876.66	\$11,172.00	\$12,815.22	\$26,114.03	\$22,931.02	\$27,464.90	\$20,250.52	\$9,359.18	\$12,481.00	\$14,777.59	\$200,777.02
Food	\$1,460.86	\$422.90	\$929.66	\$656.97	\$839.02	\$3,323.18	\$3,017.97	\$2,508.01	\$3,419.16	\$2,871.09	\$3,747.86	\$5,516.38	\$28,713.06
Gasoline	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$90.00	\$80.00	\$141.98	\$172.77	\$650.00	\$450.00	\$576.01	\$200.00	\$179.85	\$857.87	\$3,638.48
Heating Oil													\$0.00
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$525.19	\$200.00	\$256.65	\$588.40	\$257.99	\$617.75	\$772.11	\$305.93	\$544.41	\$888.20	\$353.97	\$1,133.12	\$6,443.72
Misc.													\$0.00
Motel	\$166.80		\$986.96		\$2,214.94	\$558.24	\$2,519.93			\$550.00		\$589.36	\$7,586.23
Medical			\$721.81		\$204.00			\$110.00	\$1,936.77		\$215.18	\$67.59	\$3,255.35
Natural Gas										\$1,118.16			\$1,118.16
Occupation Certification													\$0.00
Phone													\$0.00
Propane													\$0.00
PSE			\$554.88	\$802.30	\$1,017.30	\$2,805.22	\$1,349.76	\$358.21	\$2,004.29	916.58	\$760.26	\$1,657.68	\$12,226.48
Rent - 1st / Last month rent and expenses.	\$6,300.00	\$4,600.00	\$1,050.00	\$4,452.00	\$4,824.26	\$2,041.16			\$3,000.00	\$5,596.80	\$1,480.00	\$3,800.00	\$37,144.22
Sewer									\$349.62	\$962.24	\$150.01		\$1,461.87
Union Dues													\$0.00
Water		\$257.00							\$300.00		\$178.52	\$364.88	\$1,100.40
Wood for Heat/ Pellets													\$0.00
TOTALS	\$33,978.30	\$23,850.52	\$27,280.51	\$19,593.70	\$29,458.12	\$40,455.51	\$33,308.54	\$44,275.04	\$36,668.67	\$27,190.84	\$25,030.82	\$40,424.82	\$381,515.39
Balance	\$442,888.70	\$419,038.18	\$391,757.67	\$372,163.97	\$342,705.85	\$302,250.34	\$268,941.80	\$224,666.76	\$187,998.09	\$160,807.25	\$135,776.43	\$95,351.61	
2025 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage													80.00%

KCR Demographics Report

Demographics	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Total 2025
Veteran	30	20	25	24	29	35	30	32	28	28	22	32	335
Dependent	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Widow	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	13
Gender													
Male	26	19	19	19	27	28	25	26	21	25	18	27	280
Female	5	1	6	5	4	7	5	6	9	4	6	7	65
Other Gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age													
30 yrs. old and under	1	1	2	3	4	8	4						
31 to 60 yrs. old	20	16	16	12	15	20	15						
60 yrs. old and over	10	4	7	9	12	7	11						
Ethnicity													
Hispanic or Latino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Non-Hispanic or Latino	30	20	25	24	31	35	30						
Race													
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Black or African American	5	1	2	3	3	6	5						
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
White	24	16	19	20	25	25	20						
Other Race	0	0	4	1	3	4	3						
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	2	3	0	0	0	0	2						
2025 Applications (Services) Per month	20	15	26	17	18	28	16	32	28	26	24	26	276
2025 New Clients served YTD	14	7	11	10	10	16	10	15	16	14	11	15	149
2025 Clients denied	3	1	1	1	0	2	0	2	1	2	0	1	14
2025 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	27	16	25	15	10	17	10	15	16	17	16	17	201

Activity	December 2025	YTD
Total Application	26	335
Total # Of New Application	15	149
Applications Accepted	15	120
Applications Denied	1	3
General Discharges	0	3
Total Unduplicated	17	190
Total Payout	\$40,424.82	\$381,515.39
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$	0
Auto Repair	\$ 10,122.30	8
Burial	\$	0
Bus Pass	\$ 25	1
Bus Ticket Home	\$ -	0
Clean & Sober Housing	\$ -	0
Clothing	\$ 1513.05	8
Dental	\$	0
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 14,777.59	7
Food	\$ 5,516.38	9
Gasoline	\$ 857.87	11
Heating Oil	\$ -	0
Misc.	\$	0
Motel	\$ 589.36	1
Medical	\$ 67.59	1
Natural Gas	\$ -	0
Occupation Certification	\$ -	0
Phone	\$ -	0
Propane	\$	0
PSE	\$ 1,657.68	6
Rent / Move In	\$ 3500	1
Sewer	\$ 238.01	1
Union Dues	\$ -	0
Waste Management	\$ -	
Water	\$ 364.88	1
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$ -	0
Hygiene & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 353.97	5
Hygiene & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 1133.12	6

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2025
MONTHLY REPORT: December 2025
SUBMITTED BY MARQUS ELLIS

Attachment C

VAB Events 2026

January 7 – Begin Run to Tahoma planning meetings.

January 14 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – **Topic: Homelessness, Dan Piper**

February 11 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – **Topic: Sound Works, Bob Middlebrook**

March 11 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – **Topic: Matt (Legislative session)**

March TBD - Military Appreciation Day, Kitsap County Fairgrounds Pavilion

March/April TBD - Veteran Garden prep

April 8 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – **Topic: Permission to Start Dreaming FDN and Warrior PATHH Program - Scooter Lewis – 360.602.9589 (Bill Martin)**

April 25 – Spring Stand Down, Sheridan Park Community Center

May TBD – Veteran Garden Working Party

May 13 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – **Topic:**

May 22 – The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma; transfer Veteran remains from the Medical Examiner to the County Administration Building lobby.

May 23 – 1000, The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma

June 10 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – **Topic: County VSO program brief (Jason VA brief)**

July TBD – 1000 – 1200, Veteran's Garden Working Party

July 8 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting– **Topic:**

August TBD – Veterans Garden Working Party

August 12 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting. – **Topic:**

September 9 - 1730, VAB Monthly Meeting – **Topic:**

September TBD - 1830- 2000; World Suicide Prevention

September 26 - Fall Stand Down; 1000 - 1400 (set up, vet registration, and tear down)

October TBD - Veterans Garden Working Party

October 14 – 1730 VAB monthly meeting – **Topic:**

November 7 - 0900 - 1400, VAB Retreat (no monthly meeting)

November 11, Veterans Day

December 2, Unforgotten Run initial meeting,

December 9 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – **Topic:**

Attachment D



Kitsap County Veterans Program

Veterans Advisory Board 2025 Work Plan

Meeting Days, Time and Location: 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 1730; Location Olympic College Bldg4, Rm 129

Advisory Board Chair: Jayme DeGooyer; Jayme.DeGooyer@gmail.com;

Advisory Board Vice Chair: Mark Lowe; mark-d-lowe@wavecable.com

Advisory Board Staff: Steve Corcoran, SCorcoran@kitsap.gov, 360-337-4811

Advisory Board Purpose/Mission Statement: Advise the Board of County Commissioners on the needs of local indigent veterans, the resources available to help veterans and programs that could benefit the needs of local indigent veterans and their families.

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
TIER 1: HIGH PRIORITY			
1. Investigate expanding Stand Down type services to other times during the year.	100%	High	Stand Downs occur twice each year in Bremerton. Investigate options that might offer similar services at other times of the year and in different places that are more convenient to those without reliable transportation. Report options to the VAB in July 2025. Carlos Trujillo.
2. Develop a women's group that meets regularly.	50%	High	The number of women veterans has steadily increased over the years with a corresponding increase in participation at veteran events. Experience at the Women's Circle at Stand Downs has shown there may be enough demand to offer more regular meeting opportunities for women veterans. Investigate options to rally women veterans in Kitsap County as part of their support system. Jayme DeGooyer.
2. Support two Stand Downs.	100%	High	Kitsap Veteran Stand Downs have proven to be a valuable service to the indigent and homeless veterans. Continue the strong partnership with KAVA to plan and execute two Stand Downs during 2025. Mark Lowe
3. Run to Tahoma	100%	High	The Run to Tahoma is a deeply meaningful tribute to honor veterans in Kitsap County who have passed away without family or friends to claim them. Maintain the partnership with veteran service organizations to ensure a touching and impactful event on the Saturday before Memorial Day. Mark Lowe

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
4. Support Military Appreciation Day	100%	High	This well-loved event celebrates both active-duty service members and veterans, drawing significant community attention. Sponsor a table to share valuable information about the Kitsap County Veterans Program and veteran benefits. Veterans Program Coordinator
5. Support Veterans Day Event	100%	High	Dedicated to honoring veterans, this event offers a platform to connect with the community. Sponsor a table to provide insights into the Kitsap County Veterans Program and available veteran benefits. Veterans Program Coordinator
6. Hold a Community Service Provider gathering to discuss outreach and service to veterans. Kitsap County Veterans Service Provider "Muster."	30%	High	Develop and implement a plan to convene service providers and stakeholders for a collaborative discussion on creating a systematic approach to support veterans transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing and self-sufficiency. Focus on identifying key challenges, sharing resources, and establishing actionable steps to streamline services and improve outcomes for veterans in need. Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.
7. Consider veterans resource center expansion.	100%	High	The Veteran Resource Center is becoming increasingly recognized and used by the local veteran community. Collaborate with the Olympic College administration to expand impactful services, creating a comprehensive in-person experience for veterans in Kitsap County. This expansion will enable veterans to address and resolve multiple needs efficiently and effectively in one central location. Tatiane Simons

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
8. Investigate funding / contracting accredited VSO services in Kitsap County.	50%	High	Requests for assistance with VA disability claims remain the most common reason veterans seek support. Ensuring veterans receive the benefits they have earned not only improves their quality of life but also positively impacts county revenue through increased local spending by veterans. Advocate for the establishment of a paid Veteran Service Officer (VSO) position to enhance the support already provided by local accredited service officers. Additionally, back Washington State legislative initiatives aimed at securing funded VSO positions in every county statewide, ensuring consistent and accessible assistance for all veterans. Matt Shillingburg
TIER 2: MODERATE PRIORITY			
1. VAF Debit Card to meet immediate needs.	100%	Moderate	Indigent and homeless veterans frequently seek assistance from the Veterans Program Coordinator and Veterans Assistance Fund Administrator to address urgent needs such as food, fuel, and clothing. To better support these veterans in a timely manner, consider implementing a program to provide preloaded debit cards, with a maximum limit of \$100, for immediate relief. Develop a robust security plan to ensure proper oversight and minimize the risk of fraud and misuse. Legal issues prevent this from being pursued. Veterans Program Coordinator

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
2. Increase outreach activities to both active duty and veterans.	25%	Moderate	Ensuring veterans and transitioning active-duty service members are fully informed about the wide range of benefits available to them can significantly enhance their lives and overall well-being. Beyond supporting key events such as Stand Downs, the Run to Tahoma, Military Appreciation Day, and Veterans Day, explore additional opportunities to address the needs of both active-duty personnel and veterans. Potential strategies include expanding social media outreach, participating in more civic events, and fostering deeper collaboration with local veteran service organizations. These efforts can strengthen connections and provide even greater support to those who have served. Mark Lowe
TIER 3: LOW PRIORITY			
1. Garden – Improve veteran participation in the garden care. Deliver harvested vegetables to the Fall Stand Down.	Ongoing	Low	Look at moving the garden activities to Retsil veterans' home to help with garden care. Jason Reis
2. Continue perusing more veterans benefit administration presence in Kitsap County.	Ongoing	Low	The Veterans Administration once provided local in-person assistance to Kitsap County veterans. Low visitor counts to the office forced the VA to reconsider how they will deliver services to local veterans. The use of “pop up” events is used to address unmet needs in the rural areas of Washington State. Maintain contact with VA staff to ensure the VAB is informed about VA sponsored in-person events to better serve local veterans. Mark Lowe.
3. Consider a change to the VAB by-laws.	Ongoing	Low	The VAB by-laws does not address member residency requirements. Consider inserting a requirement that a VAB members must be Kitsap County resident. Jayme DeGooyer / VAB members.

**MINUTES OF THE
KITSAP COUNTY VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD
December 10th, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was conducted via Zoom and In-Person and called to order by Mark Lowe at 5:35 PM.

Announcements: Jayme DeGooyer reviewed the required on-line announcement covering the conduct of voting members and guests during the meeting.

Introductions: Mark Lowe led introductions of board members and other attendees.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed by all members. A motion was made by Matt Shillingburg to approve, with a 2nd from Harry Gilger to approve the December agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes: October minutes were reviewed by members. A motion was made by Matt Shillingburg to approve, with a 2nd from Jay Bonner. The minutes were approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Speaker: A presentation was given by Randy Johnson, of Randy's Heating and Cooling. Randy initiated a proposal to help support qualified veterans with home repairs. Various contractors were present. VAB agreed to add to 2026 work plan.

Reports.

a. **Veterans Assistance Fund Report** - Steve Corcoran reported

b. **KCR Assistance Fund Reports Review Expenditures** – Marquis Ellis was absent.

c. Committee Reports.

- **Housing and Homelessness/Aging Veterans Services.** The holidays are upon us. Washington Veterans Home Retsil was donated 6 boxes of Christmas decorations to make spirits bright. Veterans Transitional Housing Unit, building 10 also received 5 boxes of clothing as well as a box of reading glasses donated by Port Orchard Lions Club. Matt Shillingburg will be sending letters to all Kitsap County Assisted Living facilities to offer them a certified VSO. We had success in 2025 and want to build on that success for 2026.
- **Public Affairs and Social Media.** Holiday events will be advertised
- **Special Event VAB Support.** Wreaths Across America will be December 13th. Planning for Fall standdown is in full swing. Next KAVA meeting is January 8th, Fleet Reserve in Bremerton. RTT is Memorial Day weekend, in the planning stages. 1st meeting was December 3rd.
- **Veteran Education.** MVP welcomes Jessica Calalay as the new Navigator & Benefits Specialist. J'Myle, VA Benefits Counselor, assisted 18 veterans and community members with inquiries on service-connected ratings, survivor's benefits, and related topics. Tatiane will share VA Benefits Counselor hours for January with the VAB once available.
- **Veteran Health Care.** Services are still available
- **Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs.** Mental Health Day is in May.
- **Veterans Garden:** Sign is missing. Planning for Spring event.
- **Women's Veteran Services.** Women's Circle for Fall standdown is progressing well. Focus group -VA for Females will participate.

- **Veteran Employment Opportunities.** No report
- **Veteran Court Mentorship.** No report.
- **Tribe Outreach.** No report.

Old Business –

- Veteran Resource Center progress.** Steve reports center is busy with walk-ins and appointments.
- VSO Position** - Steve Corcoran reported VSO job requisition posting is being finalized and should be advertised in the first week in January.
- VAB** - Jaymee DeGooyer mentioned vacancies will be discussed at January meeting.
- 2025 Work Plan Review.** Jayme DeGooyer stated individuals need to review the work plan and encouraged them to report progress on their goals. See Attachment A.

New Business –

- 2026 Work Plan finalization planned for January meeting.
- Military Appreciation Day planning.
- Run to Tahoma planning, application submitted.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Good of the Order/Announcements:

- Matt - Habitat for Humanity built a home for a disabled vet in Port Orchard.
- Matt - was re-elected Deputy Chair for the Veterans Legislative Coalition representing the Washington Department of the VFW. The Coalitions priority during this short session is a property tax bill for 100% disabled veterans.
- Matt - Collected delivered Toys for Tots.
- Matt - Working with Port Orchard Rotary, as the Veterans Board Chair, we donated \$1500.00 to South Kitsap Helpline Food Bank to help junior enlisted with food insecurity during the government shutdown. The Club provided 167 kids Christmas presents and groceries to 58 families for our annual "Port Orchard Cares" program.
- Matt - Participated in the Annual Veterans Affairs Advisory Board Committee "Commanders Call" hosted by State of Washington WDVA in Tumwater, Discussions included Veterans Homelessness, Veteran Suicide, Veteran and families VA Benefits and Women Veterans.
- Matt – Port Orchard Rotary's Caribbean Nights Crab Feed Auction will be held March 21st, 2026, 5:00 pm, at Kitsap Convention Center.
- Steve – RTT application (DRAFT) has been submitted for review.
- Steve – Flag disposal bin is located at the County Administration Building. Not sure who placed it there.

Next meeting: The next public Veterans Advisory Board meeting will be Wednesday, January 14th, 2025, at 5:30 pm. This meeting will be held at Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129 and will also be available through Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

ATTENDANCE		
MEMBERS	GUESTS	STAFF
<u>Present</u> Jay Bonner (I) Emily Buster (I) Jack Cahoon (Z) Brian Davis (Z) Jayme DeGooyer (I) Harry Gilger (I) Mark Lowe (I) Dan Piper (I) Rick Raymond (I) Jason Reis (Z) Phil Sauer (Z) Matt Shillingburg (I) Tatiane Simons (I) Carlos Trujillo (Z) Ron Valencia (I)	Randy Johnson (Randy's Heating & Cooling) Steven Franks Matt Wilson Jillian Staib Wendy Robinson Elizabeth Court (Z) Jeremy Murray (Z) Charles Groves (Value Glass) Kimmie Groves John Broshears Jennifer Broshears Jarvis Mongold	Steve Corcoran
<u>Absent / Excused</u> Bill Martin (E)		
Note: (I) = In-Person (Z) = Zoom (E) = Excused (A) = Absent		

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Attachment A



Kitsap County Veterans Program

Veterans Advisory Board 2025 Work Plan

Meeting Days, Time and Location: 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 1730; Location Olympic College Bldg4, Rm 129

Advisory Board Chair: Jayme DeGooyer; Jayme.DeGooyer@gmail.com;

Advisory Board Vice Chair: Mark Lowe; mark-d-low@wavecable.com

Advisory Board Staff: Steve Corcoran scorcoran@kitsap.gov, 360-337-4811

Advisory Board Purpose/Mission Statement: Advise the Board of County Commissioners on the needs of local indigent veterans, the resources available to help veterans and programs that could benefit the needs of local indigent veterans and their families.

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
TIER 1: HIGH PRIORITY			
1. Investigate expanding Stand Down type services to other times during the year.	0%	High	Stand Downs occur twice each year in Bremerton. Investigate options that might offer similar services at other times of the year and in different places that are more convenient to those without reliable transportation. Report options to the VAB in July 2025. Carlos Trujillo.
2. Develop a women's group that meets regularly.	0%	High	The number of women veterans has steadily increased over the years with a corresponding increase in participation at veteran events. Experience at the Women's Circle at Stand Downs has shown there may be enough demand to offer more regular meeting opportunities for women veterans. Investigate options to rally women veterans in Kitsap County as part of their support system. Jayme DeGooyer.
2. Support two Stand Downs.	50%	High	Kitsap Veteran Stand Downs have proven to be a valuable service to the indigent and homeless veterans. Continue the strong partnership with KAVA to plan and execute two Stand Downs during 2025. Mark Lowe
3. Run to Tahoma	100%	High	The Run to Tahoma is a deeply meaningful tribute to honor veterans in Kitsap County who have passed away without family or friends to claim them. Maintain the partnership with veteran service organizations to ensure a touching and impactful event on the Saturday before Memorial Day. Mark Lowe

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
4. Support Military Appreciation Day	100%	High	This well-loved event celebrates both active-duty service members and veterans, drawing significant community attention. Sponsor a table to share valuable information about the Kitsap County Veterans Program and veteran benefits. Veterans Program Coordinator
5. Support Veterans Day Event	0%	High	Dedicated to honoring veterans, this event offers a platform to connect with the community. Sponsor a table to provide insights into the Kitsap County Veterans Program and available veteran benefits. Veterans Program Coordinator
6. Hold a Community Service Provider gathering to discuss outreach and service to veterans. Kitsap County Veterans Service Provider "Muster."	30%	High	Develop and implement a plan to convene service providers and stakeholders for a collaborative discussion on creating a systematic approach to support veterans transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing and self-sufficiency. Focus on identifying key challenges, sharing resources, and establishing actionable steps to streamline services and improve outcomes for veterans in need. Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.
7. Consider veterans resource center expansion.	30%	High	The Veteran Resource Center is becoming increasingly recognized and used by the local veteran community. Collaborate with the Olympic College administration to expand impactful services, creating a comprehensive in-person experience for veterans in Kitsap County. This expansion will enable veterans to address and resolve multiple needs efficiently and effectively in one central location. Tatiane Simons

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
8. Investigate funding / contracting accredited VSO services in Kitsap County.	50%	High	Requests for assistance with VA disability claims remain the most common reason veterans seek support. Ensuring veterans receive the benefits they have earned not only improves their quality of life but also positively impacts county revenue through increased local spending by veterans. Advocate for the establishment of a paid Veteran Service Officer (VSO) position to enhance the support already provided by local accredited service officers. Additionally, back Washington State legislative initiatives aimed at securing funded VSO positions in every county statewide, ensuring consistent and accessible assistance for all veterans. Matt Shillingburg
TIER 2: MODERATE PRIORITY			
1. VAF Debit Card to meet immediate needs.	0%	Moderate	Indigent and homeless veterans frequently seek assistance from the Veterans Program Coordinator and Veterans Assistance Fund Administrator to address urgent needs such as food, fuel, and clothing. To better support these veterans in a timely manner, consider implementing a program to provide preloaded debit cards, with a maximum limit of \$100, for immediate relief. Develop a robust security plan to ensure proper oversight and minimize the risk of fraud and misuse. Veterans Program Coordinator

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
2. Increase outreach activities to both active duty and veterans.	25%	Moderate	Ensuring veterans and transitioning active-duty service members are fully informed about the wide range of benefits available to them can significantly enhance their lives and overall well-being. Beyond supporting key events such as Stand Downs, the Run to Tahoma, Military Appreciation Day, and Veterans Day, explore additional opportunities to address the needs of both active-duty personnel and veterans. Potential strategies include expanding social media outreach, participating in more civic events, and fostering deeper collaboration with local veteran service organizations. These efforts can strengthen connections and provide even greater support to those who have served. Mark Lowe
TIER 3: LOW PRIORITY			
1. Garden – Improve veteran participation in the garden care. Deliver harvested vegetables to the Fall Stand Down.	Ongoing	Low	Look at moving the garden activities to Retsil veterans' home to help with garden care. Jason Reis
2. Continue perusing more veterans benefit administration presence in Kitsap County.	Ongoing	Low	The Veterans Administration once provided local in-person assistance to Kitsap County veterans. Low visitor counts to the office forced the VA to reconsider how they will deliver services to local veterans. The use of "pop up" events is used to address unmet needs in the rural areas of Washington State. Maintain contact with VA staff to ensure the VAB is informed about VA sponsored in-person events to better serve local veterans. Mark Lowe.
3. Consider a change to the VAB by-laws.	Ongoing	Low	The VAB by-laws does not address member residency requirements. Consider inserting a requirement that a VAB members must be a Kitsap County resident. Jayme DeGooyer / VAB members.

Attachment B

Veteran Benefits Distribution Policy

1. **Purpose.** This policy establishes guidelines for the distribution of benefits to eligible veterans within a rolling 12-month period. It ensures equitable access while maintaining fund sustainability.

2. **Eligibility & Distribution Cycle.**

- Veterans may receive benefits distributions over a 12-month period.
- The first distribution in a given year marks the start of a rolling 12-month period.
- A veteran must wait 12 months from the date of their first distribution before accessing benefits in the second year.
- After receiving distributions for two consecutive years, the veteran **must "sit out" a full year from the date of their last distribution in the second year** before reapplying for benefits.

3. **Distribution Schedule Example.**

Year	First Distribution Date	Last Distribution Date	Next Eligible Date
Year 1	March 1, 2024	December 1, 2024	March 1, 2025
Year 2	April 1, 2025	November 1, 2025	November 1, 2026 (after sit-out)
Year 3	N/A (sit-out year)	N/A	November 1, 2026
Year 4	January 1, 2027	December 1, 2027	January 1, 2028

4. **Key Provisions.**

- A veteran may receive benefits no more than four times within a 12-month rolling period up to the total maximum amount allowed of \$3,500 dollars.
- Extraordinary circumstances may justify access to the fund more than 4 times each rolling 12-month period as determined by the Veterans Program Coordinator.
- The rolling 12-month period begins from the first distribution date each year.
- After two consecutive years of receiving benefits, a full sit-out period is required before reapplying.
- The sit-out period starts from the last distribution date in the second year.

5. **Compliance & Enforcement.**

- Any violation of the policy, including attempts to circumvent the sit-out period, may result in temporary or permanent disqualification from benefits as determined by the Veteran Program Coordinator.
- Appeals may be submitted to the Veteran Program Coordinator for review under exceptional circumstances.