



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 indigen veterans and their families

## Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

**DATE: May 13, 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 comments 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](mailto:scorcoran@kitsap.gov).

\*Action items

1. Call to Order – Mark Lowe
2. Online Announcement – Mark Lowe
3. Welcome to attendees and new board members
4. Introduction of Attendees
5. Approval of Agenda \*
6. Approval of April 8th, 2026, VAB Minutes \*
7. Guest Speaker: Lynette George – Blue Star Banner Program
8. Reports
  - a. Veterans Assistance Fund – Steve Corcoran (Attachment A)
  - b. Update on KCR – Marqus Ellis (Attachment B & C)
  - c. Committee Reports
    - Housing & Homelessness/Aging Veteran Services – Matt Shillingburg/Emily Buster
    - Public Affairs and Social Media – Brian Davis/Carlos Trujillo

- Special Events/VAB Support – Jack Cahoon
- Veteran Education – Tatiane Simons
- Veteran Health Care – Jayme DeGooyer
- Women’s Veteran Services – Jayme DeGooyer/Emily Buster
- Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs/Suicide Awareness – Emily Buster
- Veterans Garden – Jay Bonner
- Veteran Employment and Employment Opportunities – Bill Martin
- Tribe Outreach - Emily Buster

9. Old Business

- a. Veteran’s Advisory Board Vacancies – Steve Corcoran
- b. Guest speakers for 2026
- c. KAVA Spring Standdown

10. New Business

11. Public Comments

12. Good of the Order/Announcements

13. Next Meeting – June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

14. Adjourn -



**VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD 2026 WORK PLAN**

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

**Advisory Group Staff:** Steve Corcoran [scorcoran@kitsap.gov](mailto:scorcoran@kitsap.gov) 360-396-337/4811/360-227-9093

**Advisory Group 2025 Chair/Co-Chairs:** Chair – Mark Lowe, Co-Chair – Bill Martin

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

2026 Goal	Status % Complete	2026 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
<b>TIER 1: HIGH PRIORITY</b>			
1. Establish 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. <b>Jayme DeGooyer, Emily Buster</b>
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. <b>Mark Lowe, Bill Martin</b>
3. Run to Tahoma	0%	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. <b>Jack Cahoon</b>
4. Kitsap County Veterans Home Support	0%	High	Randy Johnson of Randy's Heating and Cooling, 360-979-9429/360-621-6915 POC. Bill Martin to assist with this endeavor. This program will help low-income veterans with home improvements for little or no cost. <b>Bill Martin</b>

2026 Goal	Status % Complete	2026 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
5. 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. <b>Veterans Program Coordinator</b>
6. 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. <b>Veterans Program Coordinator</b>
7. Hold a Community Service Provider gathering to discuss outreach and service to veterans. Kitsap County Veterans Service Provider "Muster."	0%	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. <b>Matt Shillingburg, Mark Lowe.</b>
8. Provide guidance, support, and resources to newly hired Kitsap County VSO.	25%	High	The Board will offer institutional knowledge, local context, and strategic insight into veteran needs across Kitsap County; assist with onboarding through introductions to community partners and service providers; and provide ongoing feedback on emerging trends, service gaps, and best practices. Through regular communication, shared resource development, and coordinated outreach efforts, the Board will help ensure the Veteran Service Officer is well-equipped to effectively serve veterans and their families while strengthening continuity and impact across the county's veteran support network. <b>Veterans Program Coordinator, Entire VAB</b>

TIER 2: MODERATE PRIORITY

2026 Goal	Status % Complete	2026 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
<p>1. Increase outreach activities to both active duty and veterans. Work with other Veteran organizations, groups, and individuals to determine what needs are not being met in Kitsap County and if we can find appropriate solutions.</p>	<p>0%</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>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. We will do this by connecting with more veterans to determine what needs are not being met. 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. <b>Bill Martin / Mark Lowe</b></p>

TIER 3: LOW PRIORITY

<p>1. Garden – Improve veteran participation in the garden care. Deliver harvested vegetables to the Fall Stand Down.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Determine if Blueberry park is still the right location for the Veteran's garden and consider moving the garden activities to the Retsil veterans' home to help with garden care. <b>Jason Reis/Jay Bonner</b></p>
<p>2. Continue perusing more veterans benefit administration presence in Kitsap County.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>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. <b>Mark Lowe, Entire VAB.</b></p>

## VAB Events 2026

January 7 – Begin Run to Tahoma planning meetings.

January 14 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic **Homelessness, Dan Piper (re-Scheduled)**

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: Lynette George – Blue Star Banner Program**

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: Next Mission Alliance (Formerly known as Operation Military Family) Shala Reese 360-767-2021**

August TBD – Veterans Garden Working Party

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

**Navy Wounded Warrior – Marcia Patty – 360-8507388**

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:**

**WorkSource DVOP – Nancy Zellers – 360-340-7540**

# Minutes of the Kitsap County Advisory Board April 8, 2026

**Call to Order:** The meeting was conducted via ZOOM and in-person and called to order by Mark Lowe at 5:32 PM.

**Announcements:** Mark Lowe 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 additional attendees.

**Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was reviewed by all members. A motion was made by Matt Shillingburg to approve, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Wendy Robinson to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of minutes.** February minutes were reviewed by all members. A motion was made by Matt Shillingburg, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Jack Cahoon. The minutes were approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

**Speaker.** Guest speaker Scooter Lewis – Presented a slide show explaining Permission to Start Dreaming Foundation & Warrior PATHH Program, focusing on veterans suffering from PTSD.

## Reports

- A. Veterans Assistance Fund Report – Steve Corcoran reported KCR total budget thus far is \$99,045.39/15.8% of budget, NWJ is \$12,670.00/15.8% of Budget. Resource Center continues to be busy.
- B. KCR Assistance Fund Expenditures – Marqus Ellis reported total for March 2026 was \$45,355.41, increase of \$4151.47 from February. Expect the need to help veterans will increase as the year progresses. Max Teague shared how fuel prices affect food prices and goods, due to shipping cost increases. He also shared Foodbanks seeing 50% more customers since 2023 consistently, increased from 15 families/week to 60 families/week then spiked to 150 families/week during SNAP freeze. (Stats taken from presentation by Bremerton Food line Program Manager Erinn Hale (erinn@bremertonfoodline.org).

## Committee Reports

- **Housing & Homelessness/Aging Veterans Services** – Matt is supporting KAVA preparing for April standdown. Matt continues to help Kitsap County Assisted Living facilities, offering multiple services. Matt also thanked all the

volunteers for helping with the crab feed.

- **Public Affairs and social media** – Brian Davis is advertising KAVA April standdown event and additional events on social media. Brian is always asking for additional information to share.
- **Special Event/VAB support** – Jack reported VAB is supporting KAVA standdown April 25<sup>th</sup>, and the Unforgotten Run to Tahoma, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Veteran Education** – Tatiane reported MVP Center is busy. Awaiting dates for Seattle VA visits in April. Mentioned Skill Bridge and Hiring Heroes programs. Shawn Presher, Transition Warrior Program will be at Olympic College March 20<sup>th</sup>, to support transition active-duty military. Hiring fair will take place April 30<sup>th</sup>
- **Veteran Health Care** – Jayme shared Vet Resources news. See link. [veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov](mailto:veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov)
- **Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs** – No report.
- **Veterans Garden** – No report.
- **Women’s Veteran Services** – Jayme and Emily are preparing for the Spring KAVA event and are gathering donations for the Woman’s Circle.
- **Veteran Employment & Employment Opportunities** – Bill Martin spoke of various job/hiring fairs happening soon. Vet Tribe meeting April 29<sup>th</sup>, Crane’s Castle Brewing, Bremerton.
- **Tribe Outreach** – Emily visited Suquamish Vet Center April 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Old Business

- **Randy Jackson’s Community Assistance Proposal** – Bill Martin will be the point of contact for this proposal.
- **Veterans Advisory Board vacancies** – One candidate has been submitted (Thelma Ruiz). One more vacancy exists.
- **Kitsap County VSO update** – Steve introduced new county VSO Jennifer Doering.
- **Guest speakers for 2026** – Mark Lowe asked board members to seek speakers for the year.
- **Unforgotten Run to Tahoma** - Plans still happening for May 23<sup>rd</sup> event. Next meeting April 22<sup>nd</sup>, American Legion post 149, 1800.

## New Business

None

## Public Comment

None

## Good of the Order/Announcements

- Bill Martin announced Jayme DeGooyer received Volunteer of the Year award from Tessera. Well deserved.
- Max Teague and Bill Martin mentioned internship opportunities available in Kitsap County. More discussion and research to follow.



Next meeting – May 13th, 2026.

Adjourn – Motion was made by Bill Martin to adjourn; a 2<sup>nd</sup> was made by Matt Schillingburg. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:01PM.

## Members' attendance at the April meeting:

Mark Lowe

Bill Martin

Jay Bonner

Emily Buster

Jack Cahoon

Brian Davis

Jayme DeGooyer

Jason Reis

Wendy Robinson

Phil Sauer

Matthew Shillingburg

Tatiane Simons

Carlos Trujillo

Ron Valencia

## Staff

Steve Corcoran (County Staff)

Jennifer Doering (County VSO)

## Guests

Fred Borgmann

Marqus Ellis – KCR

Max Teague – KCR

Thelma Ruiz

Scooter Lewis

## 2026 Fund Balance Report Veteran's Program

April 30, 2026

Account Title	Budget	Year to Date	Percent	Balance
Beginning Fund Balance	-	\$1,000,000.00		
<b>Current Revenue</b>				
Real & Personal Property	\$850,000.00	\$374,337.64	44.0%	\$ 475,662.36
Investment Interest	\$1,114.14	\$1,114.14	100.0%	-
Other Revenue	\$3,054.00	572.24	18.7%	\$ 2,481.76
<b>Revenue total</b>	<b>\$ 854,168.14</b>	<b>\$ 376,024.02</b>	<b>44.0%</b>	<b>\$ 478,144.12</b>
<b>County Staff Charges</b>				
5101 - Regular Pay	\$ 116,780.00	\$ 22,736.27	19.5%	\$ 94,043.73
5201 - Industrial Insurance	\$ 990.00	\$ 187.55	18.9%	\$ 802.45
5202 - Social Security	\$ 8,934.00	\$ 1,719.57	19.2%	\$ 7,214.43
5203 - PERS Retirement	\$ 6,516.00	\$ 1,248.71	19.2%	\$ 5,267.29
5209 - WA Family & Medical Leave	\$ 254.00	\$ 73.39	28.9%	\$ 180.61
5229 - Employer Benefits Costs	\$ 24,624.00	\$ 8,208.00	33.3%	\$ 16,416.00
5311 - Office Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 1,000.00
5352 - Small Tools and Equipment - Trackable	\$ 500.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 500.00
5419 - Professional Services	\$ -	\$ 49.40	0.0%	\$ (49.40)
5421 - Telecommunication and Web Services	\$ 1,000.00	159.58	16.0%	\$ 840.42
5425 - Mailing, Shipping, and Courier Services	\$ 150.00	\$ 3.74	2.5%	\$ 146.26
5431 - Employee Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 1,500.00
5451 - Long-Term Equipment Leases	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 187.13	12.5%	\$ 1,312.87
5452 - Short-Term Software and Cloud Subscriptions	\$ 300.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 300.00
<b>Total County Staff Charges</b>	<b>\$ 164,048.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,573.34</b>	<b>21.1%</b>	<b>\$ 129,474.66</b>
<b>Contracted Services</b>				
Management Consulting				
KCR	\$ 625,950.00	\$ 162,006.96	25.9%	\$ 463,943.04
NW Justice League	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 18,396.00	23.0%	\$ 61,604.00
<b>Standdown</b>				
5413 - Employee Healthcare Services	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 4,000.00
5441 - Legal Notices and Advertising Services	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 2,000.00
5454 - Short-Term Equipment and Operating Rentals	\$ 950.00	\$ 965.00	101.6%	\$ (15.00)
<b>Veteran's Garden</b>	<b>\$ 1,200.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>\$ 1,200.00</b>
<b>County Charges</b>				
5912 - Interfund IS Service Charges	\$ 3,862.00	\$ 1,287.32	33.3%	\$ 2,574.68
5913 - Interfund IS Program Maintenance and Dev	\$ 1,645.00	\$ 548.32	33.3%	\$ 1,096.68
5914 - Interfund IS Fleet Recovery	\$ 400.00	\$ 133.32	33.3%	\$ 266.68
5922 - Interfund IS Projects	\$ 304.00	\$ 101.32	33.3%	\$ 202.68
5996 - Interfund Indirect Cost Allocations	\$ 7,363.00	\$ 3,681.50	50.0%	\$ 3,681.50
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 891,722.00</b>	<b>\$ 221,693.08</b>		
<b>Total 2026 Balance (Income minus Expense)</b>	<b>\$ (37,553.86)</b>	<b>\$ 154,330.94</b>		
<b>Estimated ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 962,446.14</b>	<b>\$ 1,154,330.94</b>		

Activity	April 2026	YTD
Total Application	48	178
Total # Of New Application	12	49
Applications Accepted	10	36
Applications Denied	1	3
General Discharges	2	5
Total Unduplicated	48	154
Total Payout	<b>30,749.54</b>	117,308.89
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$	
Auto Repair	\$ 3,401.95	3
Burial	\$ <b>1233</b>	1
Bus Pass	\$	2
Bus Ticket Home	\$	
Clean & Sober Housing	\$	
Clothing	\$ 1,603.01	11
Dental	\$	
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 11,039.00	6
Food	\$ 1200	9
Gasoline	\$ 4,821.02	16
Heating Oil	\$	
Motel	\$ 1453.38	1
Medical	\$	
Natural Gas	\$ 508.72	1
Occupation Certification	\$	
Phone	\$	
Propane	\$ 274	1
PSE	\$ 3,913.50	8
1 <sup>st</sup> Month Rent / Move In / Security Deposit	\$ 278	1
Sewer	\$	
Union Dues	\$	
Waste Management	\$	1
Water	\$ \$695.88	3
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$	
Hygiene / Household / Cleaning Supplies	\$ 600.33	6

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2026

MONTHLY REPORT: April 2026

SUBMITTED BY MARQUS ELLIS

