

# Veterans Advisory Board of Skagit County

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 1300  
1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA, 98273-5625

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## Attendance – Total Attendees

1. Bob Stratton – VAB Board Chair / VFW 5056
2. Bob Garrison - VVA / VAB First Vice Chair
3. April Patterson – American Legion Post 91/VAB Second Vice Chair
4. Chris Diaz - Skagit County Veteran Service Specialist
5. Carmina Villalobos - Community Action of Skagit County
6. Other Attendees - See sign in sheet

## Call to Order

- Bob Stratton called to order the regular meeting of the Skagit County Veterans Advisory Board at 1303 on Tuesday, October 13, 2022.
- We have a quorum and can continue with business

## Meeting Minutes Approval

- September 2022 minutes were available for review
- Special meeting minutes were also available for review
  - Printed copies available - all members should have received an email with these minutes for review before the meeting
- ***TJ Molendyk motioned that we accept the VAB general meeting minutes as presented***
  - ***Pete Sill seconded the motion***
  - ***Motion passed unanimously***
- ***Pete Sill motioned that we accept the VAB special meeting minutes as presented***
  - ***Jamie Thornberry seconded the motion***
  - ***Motion passed***

## Reports

- Bob Stratton - Board Chair Report
  - Events Update
    - Stand Down Thursday, October 20, 2022, 0900-1500, at the American Legion in Burlington
      - Susan went to Snohomish and grabbed some stand down goodies for our event
    - Veterans Day Parade and Breakfast, November 12, 2022
      - Breakfast 0800-1000 at the Burlington Senior Center
      - Parade starts at 1100 by Banner Bank on Fairhaven in Burlington



- American Legion Post 91 October Stand Down will be Thursday, October 20, 2022
  - Set up starts at 0800 - will have coffee and donuts
  - Runs from 0900-1500
  - VetsConnect office will be closed as their staff will be at the stand down
- Council terms are expiring. More information to come at next meeting
- Stand Down Food Drive
  - We were not able to coordinate a food drive in time for the stand down
    - Ande Mitchell has food he can bring and donate (cases of food)

### **New Business**

- Vet Smile Day
  - Carmina found a dentist that is willing to help. If you have a veteran in need of dental care, please send them to Carmina.
  - Veterans MUST see Carmina to get signed up for a spot with the dentist
- Energy Assistance Program
  - This program does NOT count veterans compensation anymore!
  - Reach out to your seniors and low income folks to let them know of the new guidelines. There are veterans that will now qualify!

### **Good of the Order**

- Jamie Thornberry joined American Legion Post 147 in Conway. She will be attending the Conway legion meeting this week to be confirmed as their representative on the board.
- TJ is actively working with Helping Hands to get a representative on the board
- Pete Sill is very thankful for all the help with the stand down. Everyone has come through in the best ways. Thank you.
- Martin Symons is working on putting together a last minute job fair.
  - This is NOT confirmed, but he is working on it.
  - It will be focused on government contracts and NAS Whidbey stuff
  - Aiming for November j9, 2022, from 1100-1600, at the Elks Club in Oak Harbor
  - Ande Mitchell would like to connect about hiring for his new investment company here in Skagit County
- Ande Mitchell and Bob Garrison will be in Washington DC for a VVA celebration in November

### **Adjournment**

- ***Pete Sill motioned for the meeting to adjourn***
  - ***TJ Molendyk seconded the motion***
  - ***Motion passed unanimously***
- Meeting adjourned at 1336

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Minutes submitted by: April Patterson, Second Vice