



STATE OF WASHINGTON

VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PO BOX 41150 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1150 • 360-725-2157

PLANNING MEETING

January 9, 2024 – 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

1102 Quince St. SE

OR

Virtual via Teams [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Olympia, WA

Attendees:

- Bob Mead, Ryan Nabors, Cat Nichols, Bob Wallace, Shellie Willis, Chuck Whitman, Shawn Durnan, Chuck Wharton, Jerry Fugich, David Puente, Solomon Gilbert, Heidi Audette, Sue LaVoie

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order by Bob Mead at 8:10AM

Welcome & Introductions

Welcomed new members and made introductions.

Table with 2 columns: Agenda Item, Tasks. Rows include Commander's Call, outreach needs, administrative tasks, and methodologies for distributing dates/times.

Agenda Item:	Tasks:
b. Can we use television advertisement? What is the Cost?	Bob Wallace to research free PSAs on TV.
c. Utilize small newspapers and invite them to townhalls. They want things to report on.	Add small newspaper contact and church contact to Town Hall Lead to do list.
d. Reach out to churches. e. Radio	
5. Discussion to continue community visits the day before town hall meetings, this is an opportunity to convene partners and build better relationships in communities	Sue & Heidi will continue to schedule.
Communications Plan	
1. Governor's VAAC Communications Plan and Town Hall Protocols	Sue & Heidi will update the VAAC Communications Plan document and share for comments.
2. Split up the VAAC Members by county.	
3. VAAC Strategic Planning Outcomes:	
a. Intro sentence – this is what you need to know.	
b. Livestreaming/cyber presence – motion to add/motion carried.	Shawn provided edits which are included in the VAAC Communications Plan draft document..
4. Pre-Town Hall Communication	<a href="#">Pre town hall questions</a> available on VAAC website, task added for VAAC Lead on the Town Hall to do list.
Comment Card Review	Tasks added to <a href="#">Town Hall to - do list and Town Hall Script</a> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give out at the beginning of meeting.</li> <li>• Have a point person responsible for collecting.</li> <li>• Announce information regarding these comment cards during the meeting.</li> </ul>

Agenda Item:	Tasks:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include QR Code for the comment card at the event.</li> </ul>
<p>WAC/RCW</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. RCW 43.60A.076 – VAAC Membership, Terms, Powers and Duties. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Discussed information in the RCW</li> <li>b. Changes to this document must go through the Legislature.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. WAC 484-10-035 – 484-10-035 – VAAC Rules of operation. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reviewed changes WDVA made to the WAC.</li> <li>b. Suggested adding in person or virtual for attending meetings.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>Motion to adopt changes – motion carried.</p>
<p>Discuss whether to modify times of Town Hall Meetings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Older veterans don't drive at night and younger don't want to take time off work.</li> <li>2. May be difficult to get presenters in the evenings and on Saturdays.</li> </ol>	<p>Town Hall lead will work with community leaders to determine the best time to hold the Town Hall.</p>
<p>Assign Town Hall Lead/Co-Lead (dates and locations available on the VAAC web page: <a href="https://www.dva.wa.gov/councils-committees/governors-veterans-affairs-advisory-committee-vaac">https://www.dva.wa.gov/councils-committees/governors-veterans-affairs-advisory-committee-vaac</a>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stevens County – Chuck Whitman/Cat Nichols</li> <li>2. Long Beach – Ron Black/TBD</li> <li>3. Benton County – Chuck Whitman/Bob Wallace</li> <li>4. Whatcom County – Shawn Durnan/Shellie Willis</li> </ol>	<p>Need VAAC Member to volunteer as co-lead for Long Beach Town Hall.</p>
<p>Assign Homes Liaisons</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss Expectations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Discussed the expectations for a Homes Liaison</li> <li>b. RCW only list Port Orchard and Orting as they were the only 2 in existence when it was written.</li> <li>c. Would like to add Spokane and Walla Walla. Walla Walla may be difficult as we do not have a VAAC member in the area.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>Need a VAAC Member to volunteer as the Homes Liaison for the Port Orchard Veterans Home.</p> <p>Volunteers are also requested for the Spokane and Walla Walla Veterans Homes.</p>

Agenda Item:	Tasks:
<p>2. Review Guide for VAAC Liaisons to the State Veterans Homes (available on VAAC Website)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Work with Administrator at the home to discuss.</li> <li>b. After action review after each meeting to share at resident council meetings.</li> </ul> <p>3. Orting – Shawn Durnan</p> <p>4. Port Orchard – TBD</p> <p>5. Spokane – TBD</p> <p>6. Walla Walla – TBD</p>	
<p>VAAC Motto of “No Veteran Forgotten”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received a suggestion regarding the VAAC Motto from Robert Miller, MSSM as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ With reference to the DVA Newsletter concerning the VAAC motto of “No Veteran Forgotten”, may I suggest a motto with a more innately positive influence, something like “All Veterans Honored”. My thoughts are that reactions to the words ‘no’ and ‘forgotten’ arrive from negative spaces, while something like the words ‘all’ and ‘honored’ lead to positive spaces.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Decision to leave as is</p>