

WASHINGTON STATE VETERANS EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUP (VERG) CHARTER

2019-2020 General (Charter) Agencies

General Committee Member Agencies

- Attorney General's Office (**ATG**)
- Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals (**BIIA**)
- Department of Agriculture (**AGR**)
- Department of Commerce (**COM**)
- Department of Corrections (**DOC**)
- Department of Early Learning (**DEL**)
- Department of Ecology (**ECY**)
- Employment Security Department (**ESD**)
- Department of Enterprise Services (**DES**)
- Department of Financial Institutions (**DFI**)
- Department of Health (**DOH**)
- Department of Labor and Industries (**L&I**)
- Department of Licensing (**DOL**)
- Department of Natural Resources (**DNR**)
- Department of Retirement Systems (**DRS**)
- Department of Revenue (**DOR**)
- Department of Social and Health Services (**DSHS**)
- Department of Veteran Affairs (**DVA**)
- Employment Security Department (**ESD**)
- Health Care Authority (**HCA**)
- Legislative Support Services (**LSS**)
- Liquor and Cannabis Board (**LCB**)
- Office of Financial Management-State HR (**OFM/SHR**)
- Office of the Insurance Commissioner (**OIC**)
- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (**OSPI**)
- Parks and Recreation Commission (**PARKS**)
- Washington State Department of Transportation (**WSDOT**)
- Washington State Gambling Commission (**GMB**)
- Washington State Military Department (**MIL**)
- Utilities and Transportation Commission (**UTC**)
- Washington State Patrol (**WSP**)
- Washington State School for the Blind (**WSSB**)
- Washington Student Achievement Council (**WSAC**)
- Washington Technology Solutions (**WATech**)

Executive Board

Chair: Steve Severson (**ESD**)
Co-Chair: Jimmie Wimberly (**COM**)
Secretary: Angela Petty (**DSHS**)
Exec. Sponsor: Mary Forbes (**DVA**)
OFM SHR Advisor: Altavia Jones (**OFM**)
Past Chair: Christine Dominguez (**L&I**)

Background

The Washington State Veterans Employee Resource Group (VERG) was formed in 2012 as a resource for making state government an employer of choice for Veterans by recommending and developing strategies with the state employees' veteran community. The Office of Financial Management-State Human Resources Division will provide guidance and support to help the VERG succeed.

Purpose

The VERG exists to help integrate the experience, values, and knowledge of both veterans, service members, and spouses in state employment. The VERG shall provide advice and assistance to state agencies on veteran recruitment, retention, and development strategies in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 19-01. The VERG assists state agencies in support of existing state employees who have served as members and spouses of members of the armed forces through recognition, resource identification, and mentorship.

Goals

- Recruit veterans and spouses to state service through outreach and educational activities.
- Retain veterans and spouses by providing a support structure, education, and career progression assistance.
- Recognize veterans and their spouses by planning activities that honor their military and state service.

2019-20 Focus

The VERG is governed by a set of By-Laws that outlines the group's membership, operational processes, and scope of activities. The VERG does not act as an alternative employment mechanism for addressing employee grievances and operates in alignment with all related bargaining agreements, rules, and laws.

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I. Membership

A. The VERG membership is open to state employees, with supervisory approval, who are interested in promoting the values of veterans, spouses the principles, and activities of the VERG. Prior military service is not a requirement of membership.

B. Executive Board

1. Chair

The Chair is the person who served as the previous years' Co-Chair. The Chair will serve a one-year term before moving to the position of Past Chair.

2. Co-Chair

The General Committee elects the Co-Chair. The Co-Chair will serve a one-year term before moving to the position of Chair.

3. Secretary

The General Committee elects the Secretary. The Secretary will serve a one-year term. Additional terms may be consecutive.

4. Executive Sponsor

The Executive Sponsor is a non-elected position. The Executive Sponsor is currently appointed by OFM State Human Resources.

5. Advisor

The Advisor is a non-elected position. The Advisor is currently determined by OFM State Human Resources.

6. Past Chair

The position of Past Chair is served by the Chair of the previous term.

C. General Committee/Members – Agency Representatives

1. The General Committee members are state employees that have been selected by their agencies.
2. OFM Advisors will ask Charter agencies to renew their list of representatives by providing the Secretary a confirmation of their representatives before July 31st of each year.
3. Charter agencies will provide at least one primary and one alternate employee to serve on the General Committee. Other employees are encouraged to participate in VERG activities as a member of the Veteran and Spouse Community at Large.

D. Veteran and Spouse Community at Large

1. Veteran and Spouse Community at Large members are individuals interested in promoting the values, principles, and activities of the VERG.
2. A Veteran and Spouse Community at Large member is strongly encouraged

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to participate in all VERG activities.

E. Removal of General Committee Members

1. Members may be removed from the VERG by a majority vote of the Executive Board or their host state agency.
2. If the Executive Board removes a member, the Chair will provide the host state agency a full reasoning for the removal.

II. Roles

A. Executive Board Officers

1. Chair
 - a) Acts as the lead facilitator for all meetings of the Executive Board and General Committee.
 - b) Acts as a representative of the VERG to the Executive Sponsor, agency leadership, and others as needed.
 - c) Invites state agencies or other guests to VERG meetings and activities to provide information on veteran and spouse benefits, entitlements, or other information.
 - d) Serves a one-year term and then moves to the Past Chair position.
2. Co-Chair
 - a) Assumes the role of Chair in their absence.
 - b) May sit as an ad-hoc member on all subcommittees.
 - c) Serves as the lead and reviews Charter and By-Laws updates.
 - d) Serves a one-year term before moving to the position of Chair.
3. Secretary
 - a) Maintains all meeting notes and documentation related to the VERG.
 - b) Schedules meeting space and disseminates information related to the VERG.
 - c) Maintains membership and attendance rosters.
 - d) Serves a one-year term before moving into the co-chair role, additional terms as secretary may be consecutive.
4. Past Chair
 - a) Assists the current Chair as needed.
 - b) Provide continuity in the leadership and direction of the VERG.
 - c) Facilitates the election per section IV.
 - d) Serves a one-year term.

B. General Committee

1. The General Committee consists of state employees selected by and assigned to represent their agencies as members of the VERG. It is expected that these members will:

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- a) Attend all VERG general meetings.
 - b) Actively participate in VERG activities.
 - c) Provide own agency with information pertaining to the VERG and annual summary report.
 - d) Report to the VERG on agency-level activities during scheduled VERG meetings.
2. Members of the General Committee must actively participate in at least one subcommittee.
 3. Costs related to the Committees' role and actions relating to the VERG are covered by the individual's agency. This may include agency-approved travel, staff time, use of state resources, or other costs.
 4. VERG members will adhere to all applicable state rules, regulations, and policies at all VERG activities and events.
- C. Veteran and Spouse Community at Large
1. These members may be: state employees, private sector entities, transitioning veterans, and veteran spouses.
 2. These members will follow the guidelines applicable to state employees as established by state rules, regulations, and policies.
 3. Veteran and Spouse Community at Large members are non-voting members.
 4. Must be interested in promoting the values of veterans and spouses and willing to participate in the activities of the VERG.
 5. All costs relating to membership at this level are absorbed by the individual.

III. Standing Committees

A Lead will be chosen for each sub-committee. Leads will work with their group to establish goals and organize events. Sub-committee Leads should be rotated every two years.

A. Executive Board

1. Establishes and reviews the Charter and By-Laws of the VERG.
2. A review of the Charter and By-Laws will be conducted during the month of June by the Executive Board.
3. Convenes as needed to review, update, or modify the Charter and By-Laws.
4. Presents a report on changes or modifications to the VERG during the August meeting for review and approval.
5. The Co-Chair acts as the lead.

B. Recruitment & Outreach

1. Mobilizes VERG members and initiatives to assist state agencies in their efforts to recruit, mentor, and promote veterans and spouses within state

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service.

2. Partners with local veteran and spouse related organizations that refer veterans and family members to state employment.
3. Track and document data analytics amongst subcommittees to demonstrate measurables of veteran and spouse related activities.

C. Veteran's Integration

1. Assists in developing information to state employees who are veterans, spouses of veterans, or members of the Reserves/National Guard on their benefits and entitlements.
2. Work with VERG members, agencies, and their hiring managers to develop and implement coaching, mentorship, and resources for hiring & retaining state employed veterans and their family members.

D. Recognition

1. Acts as a focal point in state agencies to recognize, value the contributions, and honor veterans and family members within state service.
2. Supports the planning and hosting of state agency-funded veteran and spouse recognition events.
3. Collaborates with interagency VERGs, local veteran and spouse events, and organizations.

E. Marketing and Communication

1. Develop news stories for the VERG . Write and submit articles on a continuous basis from subcommittees throughout the year.
2. Obtain photos from external media entities to be integrated into news stories for the VERG.
3. Provide continuous updates to the VERG's website and social networking sites to reach audiences consisting of potential volunteers, employees and the veteran and spouse community at large.

IV. Nominations and Elections

A. Elected Officers may be:

1. Chair
2. Co-Chair
3. Secretary

- B. During the month of May, any current General Committee member may submit nominations for the elected officer positions to the Past Chair. Nominations must first be confirmed and accepted by the Nominee.**

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- C. The Past Chair will conduct the elections of officers prior to June 30th of each year. The elections process must be documented and approved by the Executive Officers by May 1st.
- D. Anonymous surveys will be used. A majority vote of the General Committee will determine the Elected Officers. Ties will be broken by a coin flip.
- E. The Elected Officers terms are from July 1 – June 30.
- F. The Executive Board may appoint a member of the General Committee into a vacant Elected Officer position in times of unexpected vacancies subject to the approval of the Advisor & Executive Sponsor.

V. Executive Sponsor

- A. Provides executive level guidance to members of the VERG.
- B. Acts as a champion for activities supported by the VERG by collaborating with state agencies leadership to foster their engagement and commitments of support.
- C. Assists the VERG to identify and capitalize on available resources to complete the VERG Action Plan and activities.

VI. Supporting Agencies

- A. Agencies that offer direct services to state employees and are in alignment with the VERG Charter and Activities Plan may be called upon to provide assistance, information, and services. These include, but are not limited to the following:
 - 1. Department of Enterprise Services
 - 2. Department of Veteran Affairs
 - 3. Employment Security Department
 - 4. OFM State Human Resources
- B. Supporting Agencies may enter into agreements with other organizations to provide support and assistance to the VERG, including entering into Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) or contracts when appropriate.

VII. Meetings

- A. General Committee
 - 1. Meetings will be held from 9-noon on the fourth Thursday of the following

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months:

- a) January
- b) February
- c) March
- d) April
- e) May
- f) August
- g) September
- h) October

2. In the month of August, an Annual Meeting of the VERG will be held. Items on the agenda for this meeting will include:
 - a) Presentation of the Annual Report.
 - b) An updated report by the Executive Board
 - c) Confirm and orient new agency representatives regarding VERG expectations.
 - d) All VERG business will be conducted in an open and transparent manner that is expected of all public servants.

B. Subcommittees

1. Time will be allotted for sub-committees to meet during the VERG General Meeting, however, all standing subcommittees should meet independent from the General Committee meetings on a regular basis if possible to ensure completion of all initiatives and work activities identified in the Activities Plan.

VIII. Activities Plan

- A. Each year, the VERG Secretary will work with the leads for the subcommittees, the Executive Board, and the Executive Sponsor in generating an Activities Plan. The plan will include the following:
 1. A list of planned activities in support of the Charter and By-Laws to include the focus of each subcommittee.
 2. Methods to measure the success and/or performance of each activity.
 3. Measureable goals that will be tracked and reported in the Annual Report.
- B. The Activities Plan will be approved by the General Committee during the September meeting.

IX. Staffing/Operational Costs

- A. Costs for all VERG activities will be absorbed by the supporting agencies.

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- B. Costs may include, but are not limited to de minimis use of state resources, as approved by each executive committee member's agencies, to include:
1. Email
 2. Meeting Rooms
 3. Transportation
 4. Presentation or Handout Materials
 5. Staff resource time
- C. Support for other VERG activities such as data collection, hosting a VERG information web site, records storage, or other costs may be funded by the supporting agencies.

X. Dissolution

- A. Should the VERG become dissolved and no longer a functioning entity any resources or products will be turned over to an appropriate state agency or veterans support group in accordance with applicable WAC, RCW, and policies.



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