

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
VETERAN ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

San Diego County Veterans Service Office
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego CA 92123
November 14, 2015

Meeting held at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park (VMMC)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Beth Newton, District 1; John Weaver, District 4; Ted Kagan, District 2; Michael Robledo, District 5

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ben Dillingham, Member at Large (E); Laurie Martel, District 3 (E); Nancy Owen, Member-at Large (E); Wil Rodriguez, Member at Large (E); Commander Navy Region Southwest (U)

OTHERS PRESENT

Wil Quintong, Military & Veterans Affairs Officer, County of San Diego; Susan Hee, UPAC Positive Solutions Program.

1. Call to Order

Mary Beth Newton called the meeting to order at 9:30 am

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introductions/Public (3 minutes)

Susan Hee with Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC), Positive Solutions Program. This is a program funded by the County of San Diego. Their objective is to help seniors and senior veterans connect to available benefits and resources they may qualify for. This service is free to seniors 60 and above and services can be provided in their home such as in home counseling services and case management. She passed out brochures (Attachment 1).

4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting

No quorum, minutes could not be approved

5. Chairman's Report

Mary Beth spoke about the San Diego County Veteran of the Year Luncheon and offered her congratulations to Edward Berger, from Poway Veterans Organization, as the winner of the San Diego County Veteran of the Year 2015 and John Atchison recipient of the Wil Hays Lifetime Achievement Award. She also thanked the County of San Diego for the Invitation for this event.

Legislative

John Weaver passed out a copy of the topic points for the Toxic Exposure Research Act. Mary Beth asked for a current status, John said the bill is still active and still trying to get sponsors on board.

Wil Quintong spoke about a meeting he will be participating in with Christi Knight, liaison for Nick Macchione, and Tony Atkins' staff to give them a briefing on some of the county initiatives to help veterans.

One VA

No report

Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH)

Mary Beth stated the Chula Vista Veterans Home next meeting is scheduled for December.

Wil said the CVVH went forward to Supervisor Cox to get the Memory Care Unit at the home. It was shut down at the state level due to funding.

United Veterans Council (UVC)

Wil was at the October UVC meeting and commended their attendees. He said they have very dedicated members. This last meeting Patrick Preib, Director of the VA Regional office attended and the Director of the VA Medical Center.

Mary Beth said UVC meeting is always the 4th Saturday of the month.

Office of Military and Veterans Affairs (Veterans Service Office)

Wil spoke about the Veterans Board Conference on November 17 at the North Inland Live Well Center in Escondido. The formal Board Conference will start at 9 am. He invited all members of the VAC.

The Ramona Library was just added to the outreach offices. Borrego Springs and Campo Libraries will be added sometime in mid to late 2016. The County is still moving forward with the National City Military and Veterans Resource Center.

Also the County is looking to add the Ramona Library to the Vet Connect program.

Wil spoke about the Driver's License designation for veterans. We are certifying the DMV application after verifying the veterans' status. They are to take the certified stamped copy by our accredited County Veteran Service Representative to DMV to add the word "veteran" to their driver's license. Only County Accredited employees can approve this form.

The County of San Diego is also issuing County ID card to veterans. This is mostly for discounts from vendors.

6. Community Reports

Ted Kagan said El Cajon Veterans Day ceremony was very successful.

Mary Beth recommended that members try to seek the liaison in their supervisor's office to communicate with for a mutual exchange of information on current veterans' issues or initiatives.

7. Unfinished Business

None

8. New Business

None

9. Closing Remarks

VAC discussed the December 12, 2015 to be cancelled due to the holiday related schedule conflicts for members and attendees. An email will be sent out. Next VAC will be January 9, 2016.

10. Adjourned

10 AM