

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
VETERAN ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

San Diego County Veterans Service Office  
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego CA 92123  
Meeting of August 8, 2015

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Beth Newton, District 1; Ted Kagan, District 2; Ben Dillingham, Member-at-Large; Laurie Martell, District 3; Will Rodriguez, Member-at Large

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

John Weaver, District 4 (E); Nancy Owen, Member-at Large (E); Michael Robledo, District 5 (U); Commander Navy Region Southwest (U)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Wil Quintong, Military & Veterans Affairs Officer; Rick Carter (GoHireAVet.com)

**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)**

**4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting**

June 2015 meeting minutes were approved as written by all.

**5. Chairman's Report**

**Legislative**

Mr. Dillingham made a motion that the Council endorse The Women and Family Health Services Act of 2015 (S469). This Federal legislation would allow the Department of Veterans Affairs to fund in vitro fertilization (currently prohibited) where a veteran with spinal cord and/or genital injuries wishes to attempt to have a biological child. Motion seconded and passed by all.

## **One VA**

No report

## **Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH)**

The Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation (CVVHSF) meeting is scheduled for September 10.

## **Meeting quarterly**

## **United Veterans Council (UVC)**

No report

## **Office of Military and Veterans Affairs (Veterans Service Office, CVSO)**

Wil Quintong spoke about the Board of Supervisors conference scheduled for November 17 in the Board of Supervisor s Chambers. Chairman, Bill Horn will brief the Board on current initiatives the county is working on to support veterans.

Wil spoke about the County effort for outreach to veterans in all areas and adding more libraries in the next couple of months, Ramona, Campo and Borrego Springs. Currently we have a presence in 3 libraries, Rancho San Diego, Pine Valley and El Cajon. This is where we have a Veteran Service Representative (VSR) go into the library once or twice a month to inform veterans on benefits and to assist them with the process on filing the claims for benefits.

Wil also spoke about the Pilot for Vet Connect in Julian. This is conducted via a WebEx system where a veteran can go into the Julian library and connect with a VSR in the Kearny Mesa office face to face and file a claim via teleconferencing. The media event to demonstrate to the D2, D5 and CAO is being scheduled in October 2, 2015. It will be conducted in conjunction with the Veteran's Coalition meeting in the County Operations Center conference room third floor, 5560 Overland Avenue, San Diego CA 92123.

He also spoke about the Military and Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) in Escondido. There are 14 veteran's non-profit organizations ready in that center. The grand opening will be September 21, 2015 and it is open to the public. Also, mentioned the office is hiring 4 new Veteran Service Representatives. These will double the number of VSR's and will allow presence in other locations.

## **6. Community Reports**

Rick Carter a veteran dedicated to helping veterans spoke about GoHireAvet /FreePhones4Vets and VetReady. He spoke about how he initiated this GoHireAvet.com and FreePhones4Vets non-profit organization. Spoke about his experience being homeless and how Standown helped him realize that he was not as bad as other veterans that were disabled and how much he could help them. He does outreach everywhere especially homeless veterans and advocates for them to get a job and prepare them for it. Wil Quintong suggested he look into the Veterans Coalition Organization.

**7. Unfinished Business**

None

**8. New Business**

None

**9. Closing Remarks**

None

**10. Adjourned**

10 AM