

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**
Saturday, July 12, 9:30 a.m.
San Diego County Veterans Service Office
5560 Overland Ave. Ste. 310, San Diego, CA 92123

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Terry Jensen; Nancy Owen; Michael Robledo; Mary Beth Newton; Tom Splitgerber; John Weaver

MEMBERS ABSENT

Justin Singer (E); Ben Dillingham (E); Will Rodriguez (U); Laurie Martell (U)

OTHERS PRESENT

Tom Garcia, Assemblyman Rocky Chavez office; Tim Hanna, Scott Peters' office; Rob Winkler, Chula Vista Veterans Home

1. Call to Order

Mary Beth Newton Chair, called the VAC meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introductions/Public Input (3 minutes)

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made and seconded to approve prior meeting minutes.

5. Chairman's Remarks

Mary Beth is going to take an action to contact Justin Singer to ask if he is planning on attending future meetings since he has only attended one VAC meeting since January.

6. Committee Reports (Limited 5 minutes)

Legislative:

Tim Hanna, Scott Peters' office, asked if anyone has names of veterans to nominate for the Veteran of the Year Award Ceremony. If there are any suggestions, talk to him after the meeting.

Tom Splitgerber said that support is needed for AB935 Veterans Designation on Driver's License.

Tom Garcia spoke about Proposition 41, Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention, voters approved it. Next step is how to implement the funds. Cal Vet will be holding forums to determine the framework on how to distribute the funds. Tom Garcia will forward information on the forum here in San Diego.

One VA

Michael Robledo attended One VA meeting. There was discussion on the following:

- VA backlog nationwide is at about 53%, San Diego is doing well compared to the nation at about 40%. They are moving to a centralized location and electronic submissions. However, the VA still has to accept any type of paperwork submissions.
- General Shinseki resignation.
- Fort Rosecrans having their last interment.
- Tim Hanna added Miramar is open for first interments and they are working with Arlington also for first interments there. Terry Jensen added there are strict requirements for Arlington Cemetery.

Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH)

Rob Winkler said CVVH is in the process of interviewing for a new Administrator. He added that Jim Miller is doing a great job as Acting Administrator. It should not be long before the new Administrator is hired.

There are 300 residents currently and there is a wait list. He mentioned a new program for approving new residents in need of living at the home. Applicants can apply and go to the Barstow, Redding, or West LA homes which have openings and still have their name on the waiting list for the Chula Vista Home.

United Veterans Council (UVC)

No report

Veterans Day Parade

No report

County Veterans Service Office (CVSO)

Tom Splitgerber spoke about CVSO's getting an extra \$3 million in the budget to be redistributed possibly through the subvention process. Tom is going to go to a meeting with Cal Vet on July 22nd and 23rd to find out more.

San Diego County Veteran Service office is hosting the CACVSO fall Conference on Sep 29th through Oct 3, 2014. Tom invited the VAC members to attend the banquet on October 1, 2014.

Tom spoke about the Strategic Plan that SDCVSO and the county is working on to provide services for veterans in other parts of the county. Proposals include:

A mobile office, virtual counseling network using kiosks, outreach stations using county libraries, an interactive website with training videos on how to submit claims, fill out forms and possibly making appointments online. This is in conjunction with the new Veteran Service Center opening in Escondido.

Community Reports

Nancy spoke about a fundraiser documentary event at The Village Theater in Coronado on Travis Mills, quadruple amputee. He is getting a smart house built for him in Maine. This event was sold out and he and his family were there and saw the doctors that treated him in Afghanistan who attended this event. Travis Mills is a motivational speaker.

Terry Jensen reminded everyone that Stand Down is happening this Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The gates open to the homeless at 6 am. This is organized by VVSD thanks to sponsors helping and providing services.

Unfinished Business

Veterans Hiring Policy.

A report was sent to the County Board of Supervisor compiling the results on the cities that have a veteran's hiring policy and the ones that do not. We are waiting on any feedback.

Ex-officio vacancy follow-up.

A letter was sent to Commander Navy Region Southwest, Admiral Lorge two weeks ago requesting his support to fill the vacant ex-officio seat. No response yet.

Statement of Incompatible Activities

VAC members signed it per county policy.

8. New Business

John Weaver proposed removing the Veterans Day Parade report from the Agenda.
No objections from VAC members.

9. Closing Remarks

No closing remarks

10. Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.