

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

San Diego County Veterans Service Office
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego CA 92123
February 13, 2016

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 III, Member at Large; John Weaver, District 4; Nancy Owen, Member at Large

MEMBERS ABSENT

Will Rodriguez, Member at Large (E); Laurie Martell, District 3 (E); Mike Robledo, District 5 (E)

OTHERS PRESENT

Wil Quintong, Office of Military & Veterans Affairs, County of San Diego; Troy Wilson

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)

Troy Wilson attended the VAC meeting, and he submitted an application to the Board of Supervisors for the member at large opening with this council. He served in the Marines from 1993 to 1991. He has his bachelor's degree in Business Administration and now he is a contract CMS for the county of San Diego. His VAC application is waiting for approval.

4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting

Motion to approve by Ben, second by Nancy, minutes were approved by all

5. Chairman's Report

Legislative:

Wil Quintong spoke about the AB1556. This bill gives tax exceptions for the principal place of residence to a veteran or spouse 100% service connected permanent & total disabled. There are qualifications that need to be met.

A motion by John Weaver to support AB1556 and seconded by Nancy Owen passed by all members of VAC.

Also discussed was AB1560 Substance allowing abuse programs for veterans to have referrals to Veterans Court for this type of violations.

The motion presented and seconded by VAC members and was passed by all to support AB1560.

John Weaver spoke about a bill proposal (no bill number available) that the state requires pharmaceutical companies to get the same discounts to every agency as is given to the Department of Veterans' Affairs today. VA gets a tremendous discount.

One VA

Nancy spoke about an article in the UT about Veterans Suicide in San Diego.

The reported suicides for 2014 were 40 completed suicides for the fiscal year 2015 there were 49. There is focus on suicide on the younger generation. Nancy spoke about the Choice Program and that there is discussion on maybe some of the providers in the program may be lack veterans' mental health background.

Wil spoke about the county's effort to get information out to our veterans and their dependents on services available to them.

Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH)

Nancy reported that Steve Milliken, he was a member of the CVVH board and resident of the Chula Vista Home for 10 years passed away. Services will be at the home will be Monday, February 28 at 10 am Building F.

Nancy reminded the annual Golf Tournament will be May 5, 2016. She asked everyone to share the information with friends.

United Veterans Council (UVC)

Mary Beth passed a copy of the agenda for the last UVC meeting. (Attachment)

County Veteran Service Office (CVSO)

Wil reported that Tim Mathues is now a part of the OMVA office as a Program Coordinator. He used to do Veterans Outreach for County of San Diego Human Resources Department. The County is also hiring Ray Flores, a Temporary Expert Professional) TEP to work directly with the Veterans Coalition.

Poway Library has been selected as the next Vet Connect site. Alpine Library will probably be set up in May. The County is looking into South Bay, Borrego Springs, and Campo. Increasing outreach is one of the County of San Diego biggest goals.

The Military Veterans Resource Center South Bay in National City is getting ready to open in April 2016. There are already non-profits in line to provide services to the south bay veterans.

On February 25 the Vet Community Connection (VCC) will roll out. This organization goes out to the community gets vendors to sign up and become a member and possibly provide veterans free incentive services.

Wil is meeting with N&R publications. They will print an 8-page publication newspaper, either an insert or stand alone to the UT. It will concentrate on veterans services and will highlight what the county and OMVA are doing for veterans and how to contact our office.

Ben Dillingham spoke about an insert that was added with the ballots in the past highlighting services from the County's OMVA to veterans. Wil will find out more and will talk to Registrar of Voters.

6. Community Reports

Tim Kagan has been reappointed to the El Cajon Veterans Commission. He also said El Cajon City Council finally budgeted for a larger flagpole for the front of City Hall.

Gary Sinise & the Lt Dan Band is going to have a concert at on the beach in June 2016 in front of the Hotel Del Coronado. Fundraiser for the Gary Sinise Foundation. Tickets on sale through the Hotel Del Coronado.

7. Unfinished Business

No

8. New Business

No

9. Closing Remarks

Mary Beth thanked everyone for coming

10. Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am