

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

San Diego County Veterans Service Office  
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego CA 92123  
May 14, 2016

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Benjamin Dillingham, Member at Large; Nancy Owen, Member at Large; Michael Robledo, District 5; John Weaver, District 4; Ted Kagan, District 2;

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ray Flores, OMVA, County of San Diego; Luis Monteagudo, Supervisor Greg Cox

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Troy Wilson-prospective member of the VAC

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Nancy Owen

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Introductions/Public (3 minutes)**

**4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting**

Meeting Minutes for April approved by all

**5. Chairman's Report**

No Report

**Legislative:** Nancy shared Press Release from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs related to "Improving the Veteran's Experience through My VA Communities." Modeled after San Diego's successful One VA Community Advocacy Board, more than 50 communities have joined the *MyVA Communities* movement.

### **One VA Community Advocacy Board**

Nancy Owen discussed some issues from the One VA CAB meeting of April 2016.

- VA Choice Program
- Rex Kern, Navy Veteran, is the new director for Fort Rosecrans and Miramar National Cemeteries.
- A non-profit group called Physician Advocates for Veterans (PAVE) was discussed. They are working with interfaith and they go with veterans to their medical appointments. Several members of the VAC were not familiar with the organization. Luis added they have been around for a while and they are part of 211 San Diego. Nancy will send an invite to someone from this group to attend VAC to find out more about what they do.

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

Nancy spoke about the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament. She thanked everyone for participating and supporting the event. Over \$15,000 was raised.

Nancy invited everyone to the Veterans Home of Chula Vista 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Founders Day celebration on May 21, 2016 (Attachment 2)

John Farrell, a resident of the Chula Vista Veterans Home, is the newest board member. He replaces Steve Millikin, the resident member who passed away earlier this year.

Luis Monteagudo spoke about Supervisor's Cox office still working on the Alzheimer's Unit at the home. Supervisor Greg Cox's office is working with Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzales, who also was recently appointed Chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee and Senator Ben Hueso, who is also in support of the Memory Care Unit.

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

No report

### **Office of Military & Veterans Affairs, County of San Diego (OMVA)**

Ray Flores attended on behalf of Wil Quintong and spoke about the following:

Advised the VAC about the HHS Advisory Board Annual Review due in May of each year and of the following have to be completed; AB-4 Mandated Ethics Training and AB-3 Incompatible Activities Form. These were emailed to the members along with instructions. To access the free online AB 1234 Local Ethics Training visit the link: <http://localethics.fppc.ca.gov/login.aspx>

The library in Ramona is now in rotation for VSR presence once a month. The Poway and Alpine libraries are getting ready to launch the Vet-Connect; a veteran can connect with a VSR via computer.

The OMVA is looking to add 2 additional VSR's to the staff by October of this year to increase the level of support to veterans.

Ray Flores is the Executive Director for the San Diego Veterans Coalition which has over 130 non-profit organizations. The coalition is expanding at about three members a month. The organizations provide many resources and support and services to veterans and veteran's community.

Ray also mentioned the grand opening of the South Region Live Well Center at National City.

VVSD Stand-down is coming up on July 22 through July 25, 2016. Over 150 organizations and 2500 volunteers participate. The emphasis of Stand Down is helping homeless veterans with specific services.

Ben Dillingham mentioned that in the past, changing the Council name to Military & Veterans Affairs Council was discussed. Since the former CVSO name has been changed to Military & Veterans Affairs Office, Ben asked what the procedure would be to pursue a change to our council name to "Military & Veterans Advisory Council". Luis Monteagudo suggested following up with Wil Quintong. Name change to be discussed further at June meeting.

## **6. Community Reports**

Luis Monteagudo from Supervisor Greg Cox's office invited everyone to the Grand Opening to the South Region Live Well Center on May 31, 2016. The address is 401 Mile of Cars Way, National City, CA 91950. (Attachment 1)

Ted Kagan informed the members that El Cajon Veterans Commission Memorial Day celebration will be on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Nancy Owen attended a Navy Nurse reunion in Newport, Rhode Island. 200 Navy Nurses attended. As part of the reunion, a Memorial Service was held recognizing the Navy Nurses who have passed away during the past two years including several Navy Nurses from the San Diego area including RADM Shea-Buckley.

Nancy also acknowledged the Navy Nurse Corps birthday was May 13 and the Navy Nurse Corps is 108 years old. The active duty Navy Nurses from Balboa, Camp Pendleton and Twenty-nine Palms will have a celebration on May 14.

**7. Unfinished Business**

**8. New Business**

VAC Nomination of Officers 2016-2017

Michael Robledo was nominated for VAC Chair.

Nancy Owen was nominated for Vice Chair

Ben Dillingham moved the nominations and all were in favor. Additional nominations will be elicited and voting for new officers will take place at the June meeting

**9. Closing Remarks**

No closing remarks

**10. Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

**VETERAN'S HOME OF CALIFORNIA  
CHULA VISTA  
PRESENTS OUR 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION**

**SATURDAY MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>**

**11:00 UNTIL 2:00**

**CELEBRATING THE MORE THAN SIX MILLION  
'ROSIE'S'**



**LIVE MUSIC BY 'DOWNBEAT BAND'**

**DANCING, FOOD, KETTLE CORN, GAMES, AND LOT'S OF FUN!**

**FREE EVENT  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND WELCOME!**



**ARMED FORCES DAY**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
SUSAN SHIPP (619) 205-1482  
700 EAST NAPLES COURT  
CHULA VISTA**



*Supervisor Greg Cox Invites You to  
Attend the Grand Opening of the*

**South Region**  
*Live Well Center*  
**at National City**

**Tuesday, May 31, 2016  
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm**

**401 Mile of Cars Way  
National City, CA 91950**

Meet our team and join us for snacks, refreshments, and tours!

RSVP to Ebony Post at (619) 409-3303  
or via email to [ebony.post@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:ebony.post@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
by May 20, 2016



**LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO**