

The United Veterans Council of San Diego County (UVC)

3245 University Ave Suite 1-227

San Diego CA 92104

An Alliance of Veterans Organizations ‘Voice of Our Veterans’

Website: www.sduvc.org Contact: UVCNews@gmail.com

Chairman: Jack Harkins

Vice Chairs: Steve Schweitzer Rick Nathanson Treasurer: David Moran
Veterans Elder Statesman Brigadier General Robert Cardenas, USAF Retired
Dean, Emeritus, of Veterans Frank Burger, American Ex-Prisoners of War Assoc
Legion of Valor Honored Veteran Ron McKeown, Captain USN Retired

February 21, 2015 SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA

Call To Order 9:30 a.m.

*** UVC Mission: Improve Conditions For Veterans and Their Families**

*** UVC Key Strategies:**

Communicate Veterans’ Information and Requirements and Requests

Pronounce Veterans issues regionally, in California, and nationally

Link with prominent civic entities to support Veterans’ agenda

Lead action to effect change in support of Veterans and their families.

*** 2015 Contributing Members**

Veterans of Foreign Wars District 1

Fleet Reserve Association Br 289

William Landry

Military Order of World Wars San Diego Chapter

*** Elected Officials Appearing In Person To The Council.**

*** Website Enhanced: www.sduvc.org “Resources” Directory**

- **Services by Category**
- **Map of Services**
- **Agencies by Name**
- **Services by Name**

*** 2015 Milestones**

FEB/MAR 'A WEEK TBD': VMMC Closed for floor cleaning, resealing

MAR 5 VMMC Volunteer Recognition

MAR 10 BGen Bob Cardenas Statue Unveiling

MAR 14 9:00–4:00 & MAR 15 10:00–2:00 'Thursday Club' Rummage Sale, Refreshments for Sale at Veterans Museum

MAR 21 WWII Veterans Honors At "Massing of Colors" Balboa Park

APR 24-30 Vietnam Veterans Memorial "The Wall That Heals" / "TWTH".

USS Midway flight deck display: Free entry to see the Wall.

APR 24-25 8pm VMMC "Pin-ups for Vets" Stage Show – Sponsors Welcome

APR 30 Opening of VMMC "Vietnam War Retrospective" Gallery

MAY 9 10:00-4:00 Motorcycle Ride for Vets and Veteran Art Vendors Fair

*** Directors within U.S. Depart of Veterans Affairs**

VA Town Hall Meetings for Veterans, Family Members, and Beneficiaries

Thursday, March 26, 5:00 p.m. VA Mission Valley Building

Thursday, June 25, 5:00 p.m. VA Oceanside Clinic

Thursday, September 24, 5:00 p.m. South Bay (location TBD)

VA San Diego Healthcare System

Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (VACAA)

- **VA has issued a "Choice Card" to all enrolled Veterans**
- **Veterans may choose to be seen in the community when VA cannot provide an appointment within 30 days.**
- **San Diego has received funding for additional staffing:**
 - **147 total approved for hire. 38 positions hired.**
 - **109 additional positions to be added (Primary Care, Specialty, and Mental Health Providers)**
 - **Total budget \$9.4 million**
- **Currently San Diego has 3,093 Veterans on the Veteran's Choice List and 207 Veteran's are currently scheduled with Triwest**
- **150 Mental Health referrals were sent back from Triwest that they could not accommodate**

VA San Diego Healthcare System continued

Major Construction Project: SCI and Community Living Center

- Included in the President's FY 2015 budget as a Major Construction Project, the Spinal Cord Injury building which will replace the current building that does not meet California earthquake standards.
- The total project cost is \$ 227,100,000
- The new building will have 184,500 gross square feet for a 45-bed SCI Center, a 43-bed CLC, and hospice nursing unit plus a 800-space parking structure.
- Timeline: Bid May 2015. Award Sept 2015.
Construction: Begins Nov 2015. Completion Late 2018.

Parking Garage Construction

Phase 1. 334 Spaces Under construction. Estimate complete August 2015.

Phase 2 & 3 of the Parking Garage part of the SCI/CLC major project

Estimate: Start Nov 2015. Complete all phases 2017.

VA San Diego Regional Office

Brokered Work. As part of "One VA" concept: "Brokered In" over 7,100 claims from other stations this fiscal year in order to reduce the backlog and serve Veterans timelier. This is similar to how the "National Work Queue (NWQ)" concept will work, where stations with higher output capacity will help stations with less, as the VA looks at service to Veterans on a National level.

Backlog Report.

Reduced our rating backlog of claims from 73% in March 2013 to 37% today.

- At San Diego, we have 9% lower rating backlogged claims than the national average (37% vice 46%).
- San Diego Rating Inventory includes 20,254 total claims with 7,639 rating claims in the backlog.
- Our ADP is currently 120 days, down 146 days from March 2013.
- Issue-based accuracy stands at 97.47%.

Paperless Claims Progress

99.5% of claims now worked in Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS).

Backlog for VBMS claims is on average 10% lower than paper claims.

Average Days pending for VBMS claims is 39 days lower than paper claims.

UVC Military & Veterans Transition Summit

Veterans Transition and Services Phone / Web / email

Veterans Crisis Line 800-273-8255 (Press 1)

VA National Call Center 800-827-1000

VA San Diego Health Care 858-552-8585

DOL Veterans Employment & Training milligan.maarla.k@dol.gov 619.266.4299

VA Healthcare OEF/OIF/OND Case Management Team:

<http://oefoif.vssc.med.va.gov>

San Diego Vet Center (858) 642-1500

2790 Truxtun Rd Suite 130- San Diego CA 92106

San Marcos Vet Center (760) 744-6914

1 Civic Center Dr Suite 150- San Marco, CA 92083

Chula Vista Vet Center (877) 618-6534

180 Otay Lakes Road, Suite 108-Bonita CA 91902

Vet Center Locations Nationally: <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov>

VA Benefits 1-800-827-1000

- **Burial**
- **Death Pension**
- **Dependency Indemnity Compensation**
- **Direct Deposit**
- **Directions to VA Benefits Regional Offices**
- **Disability Compensation**
- **Disability Pension**
- **Education**
- **Home Loan Guaranty**
- **Medical Care**
- **Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment**

Beneficiaries in receipt of Pension Benefits 1-877-294-6380

Debt Management Center (Collection of Non-Medical Debts) 1-800-827-0648

Children of Women Vietnam Veterans (CWVV)

Foreign Medical Program (FMP) 1-877-345-8179 (or)

Spina Bifida Health Care Program 1-888-820-1756

**Civilian Health and Medical Program of the
Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)**

CHAMPVA In-House Treatment Initiative (CITI) 1-800-733-8387
Education (GI Bill) 1-888-442-4551
Health Care Benefits 1-877-222-8387
1-855-QUIT-VET
Smoking Cessation Counselors 855-784-8838
1-800-273-TALK
Veterans Crisis Line 800-273-8255
Combat Call Center 1-877-WAR-VETS 1-877-WAR-VETS
(877-927-8387) 877-927-8387

Life Insurance:

Service members and/or Veterans Group Life

Insurance Program 1-800-419-1473

All other VA Life Insurance Programs 1-800-669-8477

Mammography Helpline 1-888-492-7844

1-855-VA-

Women Veterans Hotline

WOMEN (829-6636)

1-888-385-0235 (or)

1-866-229-7389

CHAMPVA Meds by Mail

Special Issues - Gulf War/Agent Orange/Project

Shad/Mustard Agents and

Lewisite/Ionizing Radiation

1-800-749-8387

Status of Headstones and Markers

1-800-697-6947

CA Employment Development Department Career Center (619) 266-4200

<http://www.metrocareercenters.org> [Click 'Events Calendar' icon]

10:30-11:30am Veteran Orientation Workshop Every Monday

9-11am Veteran's Employer Panel 4th Friday

California Dept. of Veterans Affairs 619-400-0070

CALVET College Fee Waiver 858-694-3222

CALVET Home Loan 800-952-5626

SD County Veterans Service Office 858-694-3222

