

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

San Diego County Veterans Service Office  
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego CA 92123  
September 10, 2016

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Michael Robledo, Chair, District 5; Nancy Owen, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large; Mary Beth Newton, District 1; Benjamin Dillingham III, Member-at-Large; John Weaver, District 4; Ted Kagan, District 2; Laurie Martell, District 3.

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Will Rodriguez, Member-at-Large (U).

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Wil Quintong, County of San Diego Office of Military & Veterans Affairs Officer;  
Ray Flores, SDVC Executive Director; Tom Splitgerber, Executive Director, California Association of County Veterans Service Officers.

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Michael Robledo, Chair

**2. Pledge of Allegiance** led by John Weaver

**3. Introductions/Public**

**4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting**

There was a motion to approve the August minutes by John Weaver seconded by Ben Dillingham.

**5. Chairman's Report**

Michael Robledo, Chair, will be attending the meeting on 9/28/16 at 10:30 AM for the HHS Advisory Board Chairs Bi-Annual meeting.

## **Legislative**

John Weaver stated some veterans organizations are against Proposition 61 and the reason is it may increase veterans' medication's prices.

## **One VA**

Nancy attended the August One VA meeting. They spoke about a nationwide One Million Veteran Research Program being done at the VA. This is a voluntary research program to help better understand how genes affect health and illness with the goal of improving healthcare for veterans. The goal is to have one million veterans enrolled. It is open to anyone that is involved in the VA system and Nancy encouraged anyone enrolled in the VA system to participate.

Nancy advised the Marriot in La Jolla is hosting a Women's Veterans' Town Hall meeting September 21-23.

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

Nancy went over meeting at CVVH last Thursday. Leal Hepburn left and the acting administrator is Jim Miller. Interviews are being conducted and hopefully a selection will be made by next month; the governor has to approve the new person.

Current census at the Chula Vista Veterans Home is 304.

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

At the UVC it was announced that a Federal Veterans Court was being established in San Diego County the first of this type in the Country as it deals with felonies. Watch for further announcements.

## **Office of Military & Veterans Affairs (OMVA)**

Ray Flores stated Bill York, Maurice Wilson and him, will be attending a conference on Thursday September 15 and 16 in Los Angeles. The conference will be hosted by USC "State of the American Veteran" and will be held at the science Center. Ray will be presenting on collaborative efforts in San Diego County from the County support and all the veterans organization of the San Diego County.

Wil Quintong, Military & Veterans Affairs Officer, spoke about the San Diego County outreach continuing efforts. The City Central Library is the new addition to the rotation of a veteran service representative starting the 20<sup>th</sup> of September. The libraries we have presence now are El Cajon, Rancho San Diego, Ramona, Pine Valley and the Chula Vista City Library. There are other libraries interested like Coronado City Library and the Imperial Beach Library. Borrego Springs and Campo are being looked at.

Vet-Connect are implemented now in the Poway Library, Alpine and in Julian. Also the South Region and North Inland Military Veteran & Resource Centers (MVRC) are growing and non-profits are being added to both offices. There are also discussions within the County about an MVRC in Oceanside.

There are important upcoming veterans support activities:

- On September 13, 2016 9 AM, Supervisor Greg Cox is presenting the Vets Community Connection with the Live Well Partner Proclamation at the Board of Supervisor's meeting.
- October 3<sup>rd</sup> Supervisor Bill Horn will present the Live Well Proclamation to the San Diego Veterans Coalition at the County Operations Center. The goal is to have every veteran's coalition member to be a Live Well Partner.
- November 10 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM, Supervisor Bill Horne will be presenting at the 2016 Veterans Forum. There will be the latest information on collaborative efforts to serve San Diego County's military population. It will be at the North Inland Live Well Center. A save the date flyer attached.

Wil informed VAC that a recruitment notice for 3 more OMVA VSR's is getting ready to go out.

Wil said Tim Mathues applied to be a partner for the Vietnam Veteran Commemoration Program. The county is getting pins and certificates to recognize Vietnam veterans in the next 2 years.

Tom Splitgerber said the NACVSO Training Conference is being hosted by San Diego County and it is in the planning stage right now. This is one of the largest organizations training functions in the country.

Ben Dillingham expressed concern about the ITT school and the veterans that are affected and asked if anything was being done to help these students. Ray Flores stated San Diego Veterans Coalition member, Able and Disable Advocacy and Southwestern College, are taking ITT students and helping them under a federal grant.

## **6. Community Reports**

Ted Kagan mentioned El Cajon city is hosting a 9/11 ceremony, on September 11.

Ben Dillingham attended the Harvey Milk Navy ship naming ceremony commemoration on August. It was at the lawn of Treasure Island in San Francisco. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, Mayor Ed Lee, Mayor Kevin Falconer, and Councilmember Tod

Gloria were part of it. Secretary Mabus gave a great speech about the value of diversity in the military services.

John Weaver attended the California State Council Vietnam Veterans. Support against the Drug Discount Proposition 61 was rededicated.

Nancy's reminders:

- 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Military Women's Luncheon, at the Officers Club Miramar.
- Veteran of the Year luncheon on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November at the Scottish Rite.
- Veterans parade on November the 11, unsure what the theme is this year.

Ray Flores advised there is a Veterans Wellness services event at the North Inland Live Well Center in Escondido on September 16 from 1 pm to 6:30 pm. Organizations to support that event from SDVC will be there.

Ray will be speaking at the Command Leadership meeting to Navy Region Southwest as the Executive Director of the San Diego Veterans Coalition about the awareness on veterans support available in the County.

#### **7. Unfinished Business**

None

#### **8. New Business**

None

#### **9. Closing Remarks**

None

#### **10. Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned 10:30 am

Chair: Michael Robledo

HD