

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

San Diego County Veterans Service Office
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego CA 92123
August 13, 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; Benjamin Dillingham III, Member-at-Large; John Weaver, District 4; Ted Kagan, District 2; Laurie Martell, District 3.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mary Beth Newton, District 1 (E); Will Rodriguez, Member-at-Large (U).

OTHERS PRESENT

Ray Flores for Wilfred Quintong, County of San Diego Office of Military & Veterans Affairs; 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

Motion to approve the July minutes by Ben Dillingham. Seconded by John Weaver.

5. Chairman's Report-none

Legislative-nothing to report

One VA

Nancy did not attend the June One VA but will attend the August meeting and will distribute the minutes from the July meeting electronically.

Nancy shared that the VA San Diego Healthcare System (VASDHS) announced the appointment of Dr. Robert M. Smith as director of the health care system effective July 24, 2016. He had been an interim director, along with Cindy Abair. He has worked at the San Diego VA since the time of his residency training at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and has held a range of leadership roles including Chief of Staff, Director of Medical Care, Associate Chief of Staff for Healthcare Analysis, and Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development.

California Veterans Home at Chula Vista (CVVH)

No further information regarding Veterans Home Administrator, Lael Hepworth's rumored departure from the home to Washington State. Nancy will try to obtain accurate information.

United Veterans Council (UVC)

No update

Office of Military & Veterans Affairs (OMVA)

Ray Flores stated that there is an upcoming conference to be held in Los Angeles on September 15 and 16 to discuss the "State of the California Veteran". The conference will be hosted by USC and will be held downtown. There will be workshops and seminars. The conference is open to the public. The link for the veterans' conference is <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/state-of-the-american-veteran-in-california-registration-25938405469>.

6. Community Reports

Ted Kagan said that El Cajon will be hosting its own Veterans' Day celebration on November 11, 2016.

Ted Kagan reminded members that the Spirit of '45 celebration will be tomorrow, Sunday, August 14 at the Veterans Museum & Memorial from 11-2. He also mentioned that Fleet Week activities will begin soon. Nancy Owen added that Gary Sinise and his LT Dan Band will play at the Fleet Week sponsored Speed Festival in Coronado.

Ben Dillingham has been invited by the Secretary of the Navy to attend a ship's naming ceremony in San Francisco on Tuesday, August 16. The ship will be named in honor of Harvey Milk, a former Naval Officer, and councilman who was assassinated in San Francisco. The ship is a replenishment ship and will be constructed at the NASSCO shipyard in San Diego. Locally, Nicole Ramirez, was responsible for having the ship named in honor of Harvey Milk.

Tom Splitgerber, new Executive Director of the California Association of County Veteran Service Officers, said that the group is conducting a salary survey of CA veteran service officers. He reported that there exists a great disparity in salary among the veteran service officers across the state.

OMVA secretary, Hilda Dusso, provided via e-mail, the list of veteran representatives to each of the County Board of Supervisors. Nancy Owen suggested that our VAC minutes and agenda be e-mailed to them to encourage attendance. Chairman Michael Robledo stated that he has a call into his County Supervisor to schedule an appointment and hopes to meet with the supervisor on a quarterly basis. Other committee members are encouraged to do the same.

Nancy Owen also mentioned that the office of the County Board of Supervisors has not gotten back to her regarding reappointment nor has the OMVA heard regarding the appointment of Troy Wilson as a new member. Nancy will follow up on this issue.

7. Unfinished Business

None

8. New Business

None

9. Closing Remarks

None

10. Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 9: 55.

Nancy Owen
Vice Chair
Acting Secretary