

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Saturday, February 9, 2013, 9:30 a.m.  
San Diego County Veterans Service Office  
5560 Overland Ave. Ste 310, San Diego, CA 92123

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chip Dykes; Terry Jensen; Nancy Owen; Ben Dillingham III; John Weaver; Mary Beth Newton; Will Rodriguez; Tom Splitgerber; Laurie Martell.

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Justin Singer

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Bronwyn Ingram, Mayor Bob Filner's office; Evan Bollinger, from Supervisor Dave Roberts' office; Sterling McHale, from Supervisor Ron Roberts' office; Bruce Abrams, Human Relations Commission City of San Diego; Nicole Murray Ramirez, City Commissioner City of San Diego; Rachel Gregg, from Assembly Member Toni Atkins' office.

1. Chair Chip Dykes called the VAC meeting to order at 9:30 am.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Introductions/Public Input (3 minutes)  
Those present introduced themselves
4. Approval of Minutes  
Motion was made and seconded to approve the January 12, 2013 meeting minutes.

5. Chairman's Remarks

Chip Dykes thanked the elected officials' representatives who attended. Chip stated the business of the San Diego County Veterans Council is to support the veterans' population and to understand what is going on with the veterans' community. One of the missions is to make sure elected officials know what is going on issues pertaining to the military and veteran community. At the same time, understanding what each elected official is doing to support veterans' issues. Their attendance makes it easier to find out what is going on from them directly.

**Special Presentation from Bronwyn Ingram from Mayor's Bob Filner's office:**

Bronwyn Ingram from the Mayor's office expressed her gratitude for the VAC involvement and service to the veterans' community. Ms. Ingram wanted to learn more of what VAC does and how she can help. She has a group of volunteers "Team First Lady" that includes members of every area of San Diego who are eager and excited to help veterans.

She shared some of the issues that her and her group has been involved in.

- Getting female veterans allowed into the winter shelters at the Veterans' Village. This will allow for these women easier access to information regarding services they can receive and benefits earned.

- Ms. Ingram advised that the winter shelter is only up for 7 more weeks. Raising funds through this summer will be a focus for the mayor's office and her team for a separate tent at the Veterans Village for female veterans and one for men.
- Ms. Ingram and Team First Lady want to help with promoting the veterans parade. She noticed last Veterans Parade did not receive the attention and public participation it deserves. She believes promoting the parade would help and understands funding could be an issue. She and her volunteers have ideas to help achieve this.

She asked for input on other possible issues she can assist with for the next parade.

John Weaver agreed and appreciates her assistance. Ben Dillingham brought up that one of the biggest issues was the difficulty in getting a route for the parade. John mentioned Pacific Highway is the route given and due to the construction going on there makes it hard to manage. Ms. Ingram wants to help and asked John to email her more information so they can help.

Tom Splitgerber reminded Ms. Ingram of the Mayor Filner's promise of \$50000 to support the veterans' day parade and also mentioned San Diego is the only large city in the United States that does not put on a parade for their veterans, instead the veterans have to do their own.

Ms. Ingram said team First Lady is very enthusiastic in making sure the parade this year is a success and becomes a standard for years to come and for San Diegans to help celebrate it as part of our city. Ms. Ingram wanted to share her email for any issues that she may assist with: [bronwyningram@rocketmail.com](mailto:bronwyningram@rocketmail.com).

John Weaver advised the theme for the parade this year is going to be medical personnel in the armed forces.

Ben Dillingham brought up more awareness needs to be done in regards to chronic abuse of women in the armed forces and the affects it causes like PTSD, and homelessness.

Chip thanked Ms. Ingram for coming to the meeting and her involvement with the veterans' community.

6. Reports – Limited to 5 minutes.

**Legislative Reports** (see attachments)

Sterling updated on the results of the yearly State Legislature report highlighting what the different counties are doing through their CVSO programs with use of Federal dollars in services and how it is working and benefiting the veterans' homes. Also spoke about free heart health screenings sponsored by the San Diego County started by Supervisor Ron Robert's office last year. On Valentine's Day 50 locations had free blood pressure checks throughout San Diego County.

Rachel Gregg from assembly member Atkins spoke about the assignments for member Atkins:

- Veterans Committee
- Agriculture Committee
- Health Committee
- Housing and Community Development Committee
- Legislative Audit Committee

A Veterans bill AB-163 has been submitted by assembly member Atkins office. This will make permanent a previous bill from 2009 set to expire that exempts sales and use tax for the Navy, Marine Corp. thrift stores on military bases.

Chip Dykes passed out a flyer from assembly member Brien Maienschein's office. A fact sheet for AB-186 (See attachment) It seeks to authorize military spouses, who have moved to California during active duty orders who have a valid professional license in another state, to receive an 18-month provisional license in the same profession for which they are applying for licensure.

Chip Dykes also gave an update on the "California Veterans Home Fund". Tax payers' donations were not enough to make the threshold needed for 2012 so the bill is off the board.

Tom Splitgerber updated on bill AB-171 introduced by Rocky Chavez which brings the EDD portion that deals with veterans into Veteran Services uniting the two. Texas did this about 6 years ago and went from 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation in job placement to number 3 within 3 years. The mission of EDD and Veteran Services need to go in the same direction. EDD people working with veterans do not keep track on how many they place, under Veteran Services it would be accountable.

Rachel Gregg advised she handles EDD issues in assembly member Atkins office and if anybody is having issues getting through EDD they can call her office. Her office will follow up.

**Motion was made by Bill Dillingham and seconded favorably supporting AB-171. There were no nays.**

#### **One VA**

Next meeting will be March 20, 9:30 am - VA Medical Center La Jolla, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor conference room.

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

- Nancy Owen reminded on the Chula Vista Veterans Home Annual Golf Classic on May 2, 1013 at Eastlake Country Club Golf
- She also spoke on the Chula Vista foundation had designers come out to work on plans for a Dementia enclosure and how they want to help support it.

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

Sterling McHale attended the UVC meeting and it was discussed that a new director is needed for the National Cemetery. The director that was to start had to go back to Texas. There will be a temporary one assigned.

#### **County Veterans Service Office (CVSO)**

Tom Splitgerber spoke about how the veterans' homes in Fresno and Redding have been fully funded from the governor's budget. Subvention funds from CVSO are safe. More efforts for funding for the CVSO's for staffing either contract or volunteers is going to be worked on to provide the help needed to reach out veterans.

### **5 Committee Reports (Limited 5 minutes)**

Bruce Abrams spoke about an award to honor veterans presented by the Human Relations Committee. Ben Dillingham was one of the honorees.

Tom Splitgerber shared information he read in the Department of Labor report about unemployment rate for veterans is down around the country. Terry said those statistics only apply to old veterans not the young ones returning now.

John Weaver passed out copies of a page from the Cal-Vet monthly newsletter with information on job fairs throughout the counties. None schedule in the south.

Tom Splitgerber shared there was a career Fair Feb 7 "Hire a Patriot" at Liberty Station in San Diego, and according to Simon Marquez, Cal-Vet Coordinator who attended, it had great turnout.

Will Rodriguez is taking over San Diego Pride this year as the co-chair.

Chip Dykes said that pertinent useful information received by members from their contacts needs to be passed on to make sure the information reaches people that need it.

#### 7 Unfinished Business

- Veterans Hiring Policy discussed.
- Reviewed the letter sent out to the cities about 6 years ago and proposed revisions.
- Goal is to have this completed by next month.
- Ben will look in his files for the survey enclosed with the original letter to check if revisions are needed or if it is needed. If not found, Chip still thinks the letter will serve at this time.

#### 8 New Business

Chip Dykes brought up rotating the meeting throughout the districts. Terry said the idea is good but the participation from the community is usually lower. Mary Beth expressed that VMMC is at a good location and everybody knows where it is. Its consistent location makes participation convenient. Ben said if the member wants to have one at their district, he is for it. Chip said they should let the council know with 2 months advance notice. This is enough time to get a location and make sure participants are notified with plenty of time to assure attendance.

#### 9 Closing Remarks

Chip thanked everybody for their participation.

10 Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am

# Assembly California Legislature



## BRIAN MAIENSCHIEIN ASSEMBLYMAN, SEVENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT AB 186 – Fact Sheet

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### **Background**

Current law allows spouses of active duty military members, who have been redeployed to California from another state, to get an expedited professional license if they have a valid license for the same profession in another state.

According to a recent study by the California Research Bureau, California has around 72,500 military spouses residing in the state at any given time. It is estimated that over one third of these individuals are involved in a profession that requires some sort of licensing requirement—two of the top three professions being school teachers and nurses.

A military family can receive orders to move as often as every two years. According to the Department of Defense, military spouses are ten times more likely to have moved across state lines in the last year compared to their civilian counterparts. This poses a particularly difficult problem for spouses of military personnel who work in a licensed vocation such as teaching and nursing.

A December article published in USAA Magazine described the process as taking many months even after all appropriate documentation has been submitted, fees being paid, and tests taken to receive the license. Often times, potential employees can't even start looking for jobs until their licenses have been received. This has all lead to an estimated 26% of military spouses being unemployed and seeking work—more than three times the national average.

With the implementation of temporary licensing though AB 186, military spouses will be able to immediately look for employment to help support their families while taking all the necessary steps to apply and receive a license from the state.

### **This Bill**

AB 186 seeks to authorize military spouses, who have moved here on active duty orders and who have a valid professional license in another state, to receive an 18-month provisional license in the same profession for which they are applying for licensure. The licensee applicant must provide sufficient evidence of being married to, or in a domestic partnership or legal union with, an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces.

### **Contacts**

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## TELE-HEALTH COMING TO BARSTOW VETERANS HOME

By Isa Baca

The long-anticipated Tele-Health and Tele-Medicine kiosk program will soon be available at the Barstow Veterans Home. This program will save residents both time and money as they will no longer have to go to Loma Linda Veterans Administration to obtain critical health care information. Transitioning to Tele-Health and Tele-Medicine will mean residents at this home will have easy access to appointments, medication

refills, and online conversations with their physicians.

With the Tele-Medicine kiosk for example, if a resident had a routine check-up, the resident does not have to take the five-hour trip down to Loma Linda. Through this kiosk, the doctor will be able to see the resident via video conference and review vital statistics with the help of the nurse on duty in the clinic. After the doctor's assessment, the doctor will be able to prescribe the course

of action to be taken. They will even be able to perform psychiatric evaluations for at-risk residents.

Collaboration between the Barstow Veterans Home team and the Loma Linda Veterans Administration began about six months ago. As a result, Tele-Health and Tele-Medicine equipment was installed at each site.

"I am ecstatic that our residents will be able to take advantage of this new technology," said Raymond Lau, Director at the Barstow Veterans home. "This is just a part of the quality care we provide for our veterans."

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## HIRING OUR HEROES

### JOB FAIRS FOR VETERANS, SPOUSES

Hiring Our Heroes—launched in March 2011—is a nationwide initiative to help veterans and military spouses find meaningful employment. Working with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's network of 1,600 state and local chambers and other strategic partners from the public, private, and non-profit

sectors, the program's goal is to create a movement across America in hundreds of communities where veterans and military families return every day. Since its inception, Hiring Our Heroes has hosted more than 400 hiring fairs in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. More than 14,100 veterans and military spouses have obtained jobs.

Hiring our Heroes expanded its efforts with the establishment of a stand-alone program for military spouses and with a sustained campaign to enlist the commitments from the small business community to hire veterans and military spouses

by the end of 2014.

A number of Hiring our Heroes job fairs have been scheduled in California this year:

- February 13, 2013 – Sacramento, CA
- February 28, 2013 – Oakland, CA
- March 28, 2013 – Fresno, CA
- April 4, 2013 – Long Beach, CA
- April 11, 2013 – San Jose, CA
- April 30, 2013 – Walnut Creek, CA

These hiring fairs are free to both job seekers and employers. For more information and to register, go to [www.uschamber.com](http://www.uschamber.com). If you don't find a job fair in your area, check back. New jobs fairs are added to the list frequently.