

## **SAN DIEGO COUNTY VETERAN ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

February 10, 2018

San Diego Veterans Museum - 9:30am to 11:30am.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

John Weaver (District 4), Nancy Owen (Member-at-Large Seat 9), Anthony "Tony" Stewart (District 1), Helen Horvath (Chair, Member-at-Large Seat 8).

### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Ted Kagan (District 2) Jesse Robinson (Member-at-Large Seat 6), Wil Quintong (OMVA Ex-Officio)

#### **1. Call to Order**

The Veterans Advisory Council (VAC) meeting was called to Order by Helen Horvath, Chair.

#### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Led by Nancy Owen

#### **3. Review of By-Laws**

Due to quorum not being met, By-laws were not voted upon. Voting was tabled to discuss regarding how many members are needed to make quorum and approve the By-laws.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting**

There was a motion by Helen Horvath to approve minutes on February 10, 2018. Motion seconded by Tony Stewart. Motion passes by all.

#### **5. Reports**

**Legislative** – The members present, discussed the Legislative Report from January there no questions. Report had not changed since the prior full meeting in January 2018. Report will be provided at next meeting, if available.

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

Chula Vista Veterans Home. Golf tournament for the veteran's home will be May 11<sup>th</sup> and Nancy Owens will distribute flyers. This is one of the major fundraiser for the veteran's home.

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

No update

#### **Community Reports**

The Vietnam Veterans of America quarterly meeting was discussed. The VVA has been conducting discussions and preparing for the bi-annual convention in June which will be held in Fresno.

Nancy Owen has worked with the Coronado Chamber of Commerce to coordinate the necessary interview coordination of Vietnam Veterans. Approximately 20 Vietnam Veterans were interviewed that live or are connected to Coronado. The interviews were completed at the Naval Amphibious Base in Coronado. Members of the Navy Seals were present.

Each year a military ball is held in April. The organization sponsors 100 active duty military to this military ball this year – the event is entitled “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans”.

The American Legion has been involved in the First Lives Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for PTSD care projects. They have been promoting the program. The rationale is that the healthcare industry is seeking new and innovative treatments for PTSD. These alternatives are chemical free and do not rely upon drugs to impact the PTSD. Segments of the program utilize Electromagnetic therapy (EMT). EMT is used to change the brain waves of the PTSD survivor through the use of the body’s own neurological chemical stimulations. PTSD may cause brain waves and neurons not to fire properly causing a disconnection between the various neurons that make up thoughts and actions. This causes a dysregulation of how a person functions on a day to day basis. It is purported that the use of EMT assists in the neurological processing of key brain activity.

Tony Stewart reports that his foundation US4Warriors has taken on a project to repair homes for WWII veterans in Chula Vista.

## **6 By-laws Review.**

The Council discussed the difficulty of meeting a quorum when there are only a limited number of active members. The quorum currently required 6 out of 10 authorized members to participate in the voting. The Council only had six members. This precluded voting when one or more members were absent.

During the discussion of the by-laws review process Tony Stewart recommended a special meeting so that the council would be able to attend the meeting for one hour to complete a vote of the by-laws with a quorum. The meeting was scheduled for February 24, 2018 at 4 pm at the Veteran’s Museum. All members will be required to attend. Mr. Wil Quintong will be invited with the Council providing OMVA an official agenda to be published.

## **7 Procedural Manual**

The Council discussed the development of a procedures manual. The Chair had requested a copy of a current and typical policy manual for the County from OMVA; it had not been received as of the date of the February 2018 meeting.

The Council seeks to complete an internal procedures manual that will provide the capability to address key factors that are tied to the revised by-laws. Tony Stewart agreed to organize and develop the procedures manual.

The Council discussed the VAC Council website and noted that there was not much information on the website. In the past, Wil Quintong of OMVA had offered to create an improved website for the VAC while collaborating with the VAC to create more visibility and accessibility for the Council. This would become a tool to create marketing to the veteran community while advertising open seats.

As part of this process, the VA discussed drawbacks and possibilities of determining the actual website content and also how to contact a Council member. The VAC will collaborate with the OMVA and the County’s IT department, upon approval, in the development of a revised website and content. The VAC members present agreed to have a photograph of each member, their district represented and a short biography of each member with a contact us feature.

The VAC continues to explore methods to successfully market what VAC has accomplished, upcoming events, and obtaining feedback from “constituents” and the Board of Supervisors.

The VAC discussed issues relating to the email addresses and personnel who receive the agenda items, reports, and other key documents from the Council.

#### **6. Welcome Packet For New Council Members**

The Council discussed the Orientation Manual and process in addition to the development of a “welcome aboard” packet for new council members that includes information currently provided by OMVA and any additional information that would be helpful to the new Council members.

It was agreed upon by members present that the information in the package provided by OMVA is fairly current. The following items were agreed upon as action items:

- a. The instructions on how to re-apply for your appointed position is missing.
- b. A copy of the Ethics training and how to acquire that is needed as well.
- c. John Weaver’s term expires in 2019. A reminder will be sent out to District 4 120 days before he terms out and be placed in the 2019 annual report.

#### **7. Community Meeting**

The VAC discussed various methods to create additional visibility, such as attendance at various meetings, where the Council members are able to obtain additional community input and network within the veteran community. Examples of this include our membership in the OneVA CAB and participation in the various organizational meetings in the community.

#### **8. Name Tags**

The Council discussed the use of name tags and tents with the name of each member on the name tent.

After asking if there was any additional new business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.

JR