

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

San Diego County Veterans Service Office
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego CA 92123
January 9, 2016

Meeting Held at the Veterans Museum at Balboa Park (VMMC)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Beth Newton District I; Benjamin F Dillingham III, Member at Large; Nancy Owen Member at Large; John Weaver District 4

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ted Kagan District 2 (E); William Rodriguez Member at Large (U); Laurie Martell District 3 (U); Michael Robledo District 5 (E);

OTHERS PRESENT

Wil Quintong Military & Veterans Affairs Officer; Kevin Cortes Miramar Federal Credit Union

1. Call to Order

Mary Beth Newton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30am

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introductions/Public (3 minutes)

4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting

No quorum met, minutes could not be approved

5. Chairman's Report

Mary Beth reminded everyone about the vacant VAC Member at Large position and asked everyone to pass the word to honorably discharged veterans that might be interested.

Legislative:

Kevin Cortes, attended VAC for the first time. He was referred by Jack Harkins from UVC. He is the Business Development Officer for Miramar Federal Credit Union. He works with veterans and active military on helping them with financial issues. He is a retired Marine.

Wil Quintong said he gets legislation information coming through the state on veterans' issues. In the future he will forward that information to the VAC Board to discuss any of these bills at the meetings. Right now there is one on tax exemption for veterans that are 100% disabled. This legislation may allow totally disabled unemployable veterans, with additional requirements, to get all of their taxes exempt.

One VA

Nancy discussed One VA changes:

- Steve Arends, Co-Chair, stepped down and John Stryker Meyer from Interfaith is the new Co-Chair
- Jeff Gering has left as the head of the VA health centers.
- Wil Quintong added VA La Jolla parking structure is going to be completed sometime midyear. The lobby is being renovated and a Starbucks is being added.

Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH)

Nancy spoke about.

- The Chula Vista Veterans Home annual Golf Tournament will be on May 5, 2016 at the Eastlake Golf Course. Last year about \$16,000 was raised. All this money goes to the CVVH for support of the residents.
- Spoke about the CVVH Holiday Party. The foundation funded \$30 for each of the residents to use as they want to.
- VFW Fun Walk donated \$6000
- There are currently 305 residents
- The Memory Unit is still on the table. An architect from Sacramento has not come down to assess the structure.
- Nancy said the VA has a new secretary. There are still vacancies
- Mary Beth encouraged everyone to look at the Chula Vista Veterans Home Facebook page. Rob Winkler has done a great job with it.

United Veterans Council (UVC)

The next meeting should be the 4th Saturday of January, January 23, 2016. There was no meeting in December.

County of San Diego Office of Military & Veterans Affairs

Wil Quintong said Chairman Bill Horn stepped down as the Chair and Supervisor Ron Roberts is the new BOS Chair. His term culminated with the Board Conference in November. At this conference there were highlights of Chairman Horn's service in Vietnam.

- Ramona Library has been added to the list for rotation of VSR's to help with claims
- Chula Vista City Library will be added in February
- There will be a meeting with Mayor Faulconer's representative on veterans support to get into their downtown library. They are asking if we can get a VSR there also
- Our National City Veteran Resource Center will possibly open in April, which is ahead of schedule. One VSR will be there full time and one office assistant. There are non-profits already lined up that want to be in our center.
- New non-profit Financial Literacy Group, Glenner, and VetBiz

Total accredited Veteran Service Representatives that cover the entire County of San Diego are seven and also seven Contract Outreach Representatives

Wil spoke about the County's involvement with a big city initiative to end veterans' homelessness this year. It will involve faith organizations and the 25 Cities Initiative. Wil will keep VAC updated on upcoming meetings for their participation.

Wil advised the County of San Diego is hiring a Temporary Expert Professional (TEP) to work for the Veterans Coalition to help coordinate some of their activities. The San Diego Veterans Coalition is all volunteers. This TEP will be a paid County employee that will handle some of their internal and external work.

6. Community Reports

John expressed concerns about how to make sure veterans out there know where the County has services and locations to apply for benefits. Wil said the County is working with N & R Publications. They issue a newspaper that prints once a year and highlights County services and locations for services including veteran's services and initiatives the County is working on for veterans. The publication is done once a year and it is distributed to libraries, health centers and other locations for the public to read. The County will have about 50,000 copies printed and distributed.

7. Unfinished Business

n/a

8. New Business

n/a

9. Closing Remarks

Mary Beth thanked everyone for coming and providing their input.

10. Adjourned

10:30 am