

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

San Diego County Veterans Service Office  
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego CA 92123  
July 8, 2017

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Nancy Owen, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large; Anthony Stewart, District 1; Ted Kagan, District 2; Laurie Martell, District 3; John Weaver, District 4; Helen Horvath, Member at Large.

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Michael Robledo, Chair, District 5 (E); Benjamin Dillingham III, Member-at-Large (E); Don Foster, Member at Large (A).

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ray Flores, for Director of the Office of Military & Veterans Affairs, County of San Diego; Seth Senecal, Postgraduate student; Angelique Murray, Women's Veteran Network, San Diego Veterans Coalition.

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Nancy Owen, Vice Chair

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Introductions/Public**

**4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting**

There was a motion to approve the minutes of June 10, 2017. Motion passed.

**5. Vice Chairman's Report**

Nancy Owen commented on the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NAVCSO) President's Reception held aboard the USS MIDWAY on June 11. Other attendees from the VAC were Helen Horvath and Ted Kagan.

Nancy also announced that an exhibit “Heroiners in Arms” has opened at the Women’s Museum at Liberty Station. The exhibit features women’s uniforms and other historical photos and memorabilia tracing women in the military from the 1900s to present day. In addition, Nancy acknowledged the many celebrations held throughout the county for the Fourth of July.

### **Legislative**

No formal report. Ray Flores will follow-up with Wil to pass along any pertinent legislative reports received by Office of Military & Veterans Affairs (OMVA). In addition Tony Stewart offered to contact former member Steve Arends to ascertain his local and state contacts for legislative measures and also Pete Conaty. Tony will report on legislation at our VAC meetings.

Discussion on Affordable Housing in San Diego County was initiated by Helen Horvath. Ray Flores responded with information on some of what is currently being done through the “Housing First Program” and other programs. A special session of the San Diego City Council was dedicated to this issue. Solutions to this issue are of a larger scope than can be tackled by the VAC. However, the VAC may be able to review and recommend to the county BOS legislation related to affordable housing. The VAC may want to focus on an aspect of affordable housing.

### **One VA Community Advocacy Board (VA CAB)**

Nancy Owen attended the One VA meeting on June 21 and will have the minutes forwarded to the VAC when they are distributed. Nancy is unable to attend the July meeting but Helen Horvath has offered to attend as a substitute. Nancy will notify the co-chairs of the One VA of Helen’s attendance.

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

Nancy Owen stated that Virgil Whitehead, who has resigned from the Foundation due to medical issues, will be recognized by Mayor Mary Salas at the Chula Vista City Council Meeting on July 25, 2017 at 5 p.m.

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

No update. UVC meets the fourth Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Veterans Museum & Memorial. Meeting is open to all.

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

Ray Flores gave the OMVA updates:

- The National Association of County Veterans Service Officers Executive Board held their annual training conference at the Town & County Hotel beginning Wednesday, June 17. The president's Reception was held on board the USS MIDWAY on Sunday, June 21 and was attended by over 600 CVSOs and their families. Training sessions were held throughout the week. Several activity opportunities were provided including trips to the San Diego Zoo, casinos etc. San Diego, as always, has excelled in setting the benchmark for other annual training meetings. Next year's conference will be in Reno, Nevada.
- VVSD's annual Stand Down will be held July 21-23 on the grounds of the San Diego High School. Many volunteers are needed to make this a success. Volunteers can go "on-line" to sign up for particular duties and times at [www.vvsd.net](http://www.vvsd.net)
- The Veterans Coalition is partnering with the local Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) organization to provide mentorship to guide military members through the VA process. While the WWP, at the national level, received a lot of negative press over the past couple years, changes have been made. The Veterans Coalition has vetted and ratified the local WWP and is confident in their participation in the coalition.
- Planning continues for the October 13 Women's Veterans Forum which will be held at SDSU's Montezuma Hall. The Women's Veteran Network is working with SDSU and the County on preparations. Anticipate attendance of 800.

### **6. Community Reports**

Tony Stewart, on behalf of Us4Warriors Foundation, distributed flyers announcing an upcoming comedy featuring Blake Clark and many others at an event on August 26, 2017 at SKYLARS, 9160 Kearny Villa Ct. San Diego, CA. Tickets and more information can be found at [www.Laughs4Warriors.org](http://www.Laughs4Warriors.org)

Tony also shared that Us4Warriors is now partnering with the San Diego Food Bank to provide need food items to military families. A Home Depot grant is being used to help renovate the VFW to store food items.

### **7. Unfinished Business**

Nancy will follow up on VAC reappointment procedures. Ray will follow-up on recent appointment and continuance on VAC of Dan Foster and reappointment of Michael Robledo.

**8. New Business**

By-Laws were sent out electronically prior to meeting. Parts of the By-Laws were reviewed during the meeting particularly those sections dealing with elections. Elections are to be held every two years in the odd years. Nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary are accepted in June and July with elections held in July. No nominations were made in June and a motion was made and approved to delay the nominations and elections until August to give members time to decide. VAC By-Laws were last amended on June 7, 1994. The VAC has been in existence since February 1988.

**9. Closing Remarks**

No closing statements

**10. Adjourned**

11:00 AM

Submitted,

Nancy Owen  
Vice Chair, Veterans Advisory Council