

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

Office of Military & Veterans Affairs
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego, CA 92123

March 10, 2018

Meeting held at Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park (VMMC) 9:30 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Helen Horvath, Chair, Member at Large; Anthony Stewart, District 1; John Weaver, District 4; Jesse W. Robinson Jr., Member at Large; Nancy Owen, Member at Large;

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ted Kagan, District 2 (E); Karolyn Smith, Member-at-Large (E).

OTHERS PRESENT: Wil Quintong, Director, OMVA

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Wil Quintong

3. Introductions

4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting

There was a motion by Tony Stewart to approve minutes for January 13 and February 10, 2018 VAC meeting as corrected. Motion seconded by John Weaver and passed by all. Also, Tony Stewart made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes for February 24 meeting as corrected. Motion was seconded by John Weaver and approved by all.

5 Chair's Report – No report

6 - Reports

Legislative

Tony Stewart said the next full report comes out in April 2018.

Tony spoke about the referral to the committee of the Armed Services Committee of S.2379 bill – Military Spouse Employment Act of 2018. To improve and expand authorities, programs, services, and benefits for military spouses and military families. This bills covers the following:

- Contracts of firms with programs for employment
- Education and career opportunities
- Child care matters

- Career Transition assistance
- Public-private partnerships on health, safety, welfare and morale
- Small business activities on base

Discussion from VAC members on the areas in this bill and how it will affect California.

One VA

Helen attended the One VA meeting and they went over the following:

- Claims process; fully developed claims (FDC)
- Healthcare statistics

United Veterans Council Meeting (UVC)

The Council discussed how to expand our reach within the community as a Council. Several methods were discussed to include members attend the United Veterans Council and other community meetings to represent the Council. The VAC will follow up to determine how to obtain minutes from the UVC to pass along to the VAC members. The membership of the UVC is invited to participate in the VAC meetings through the public comment segment of the Council meetings.

San Diego Veterans Coalition (SDVC)

The VAC discussed the factors associated with the San Diego Veteran's Coalition attendance and participation in presenting reports. VAC decided to continue to not place the SDVC on the Meeting Agenda unless a specific issue is brought to the attention of the Council. The SDVC is always invited to participate in the public comment segment of the Council meetings. John Weaver suggested to pass along the SDVC minutes to VAC members just like the UVC. Asked if anyone can attend, Wil advised he has an OMVA member attending regularly. The meetings are every first Friday of the month in various locations. Next SDVC meeting will be at the County Operations Center Chambers conference room. Tony Stewart will attend the next SDVC meeting.

Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH)

Due to closure of Salt Creek Golf Course, the CVVH Annual Golf Tournament has been moved to Eastlake Country Club on Thursday, May 17 with a shotgun start at 12 noon. The golf tournament benefits the nearly 300 residents of the CVVH and enables the Foundation to purchase items and services that appropriated funds can't or are unable to fund.

Office of Military & Veterans Affairs (OMVA)

Wil Quintong advised on Tuesday March 13, 2018 at the County Board of Supervisor's Meeting Supervisor Greg Cox, together with Supervisor Bill Horn, will be presenting a Proclamation to commemorate Vietnam veterans and OMVA was able to get a Vietnam veteran to accept the proclamation. This will be at the County Administration Center.

After the State of the North County address by Supervisor Bill Horn, county OMVA will start preparing for the Veterans Forum which will be in October or early November prior to Veterans Day. This will be Supervisor's Bill Horn last forum. Also we will celebrate the Marine Corps birthday and our Senior Veteran Services Representative, Chris Gunn, will coordinate.

Wil Quintong will be attending a CalVet Leadership Conference meeting on May 29 through May 31, 2018 in Sacramento. Non-profits are also invited, like the SDVC, to brief in collaboration.

There will not be a Women Veterans Forum this year.

Wil will be briefing at the Vista Library CalVet Veteran & Families Pathway to Citizen Workshop. CalVet is trying to inject veteran's services into the veteran tribal community. There was a brief this last week at Rincon Casino, CalVet Native American Outreach and Claims Workshop event. We had Veteran Services Representatives present and pass out information and file claims.

Wil Quintong reported he attended the NACo training conference in Washington DC last week as Vice Chair for the NACo Military & Veterans Committee.

He mentioned 2 of the policy resolutions discussed:

- HR 1797 - Proposed resolution on the Veteran's Choice Accountability Act. NACo urges congress to ensure that reimbursement from the U.S. VA to non-VA facilities for the care they provide to eligible veterans through the Veterans Choice Program are processed in a timely manner to avoid private providers not accepting veterans due to the delay in payment.
- HR 1472 – Resolution in Support of the Military & Veterans Caregiver Services Improvement Act. NACo urges Congress to pass the Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act to expand the U.S. VA program of comprehensive assistance for veteran family caregivers other than post 9/11 and to enhance special compensation for members of the Armed Forces or veterans who require assistance in every day life.

Community Reports

Tony Stewart spoke about Stand Down coming up this year June 29, 30, July 1, 2018. Us4Warriors is doing security for this event so volunteers are needed for 100 to 120 positions. May 11 there will be a clothing drive for Stand Down from 6 am to 2 pm at VVSD. You can drop off your donations.

Tony also spoke about Food4Warriors serving about 200 meals/groceries each month to mostly military families in 7 locations throughout San Diego County. Also. Food4Warriors just partnered to be the designated VA representative for food starting April 6. They will be taking food to VA clinics for the homeless. There is a dietary list of needed items for those clinics and this will start in North County.

San Diego Food bank asked Food4Warriors to be their exclusive partner for the military bases. Miramar will be doing a monthly food festival where Food4Warriors will provide food to military families. The foundation already has grant money to support this program.

Nancy Owen announced that on March 29, 2018 from 9 am to 12 pm at the San Diego VA Regional Office, 4th floor, there will be a "Honoring our Vietnam Veterans" 50th Anniversary of

the Vietnam War Commemoration Resource Fair. The address is 8810 Rio San Diego Drive, San Diego, CA 92108.

Nancy also reported the departure of the USNS MERCY on February 23, 2018 in support of its 13th Pacific Partnership mission. The USNS MERCY will visit Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam from February through June.

7 - Unfinished Business

Procedures Manual

Tony informed that Nancy Owen will be assisting him with the Procedures Manual. The Chair agreed.

On-boarding procedures

The Chair spoke about new members and said it would be helpful for the supervisor's offices to advise the VAC, as a courtesy, that they are considering a particular person to be on the council. The Council discussed methods to improve communications, community outreach, and gaining input to market and rebrand the VAC Council. The rebranding will start after the By-Laws are approved.

E-mail Mailing List

VAC will start reviewing and making updates to the current members and non-members e-mail list to include two separate e-mail distribution lists: one with VAC members, Board of Supervisors, and /or military representatives and an organizational list that lists by title rather than individual, as the persons who hold those positions change.

Review of By-Laws

Helen Horvath sent the revised By-Laws via email to all military liaisons for the Board of Supervisors for review.

Wil Quintong said, he in turn received e-mails and calls from the military liaison representatives to the Board asking clarification of the changes to the current By-Laws to make it easier for review and possible approval of the changes. He also received an e-mail from the Clerk of the Board representative, Mayra Camacho, to advise that these changes may have to go before the Board of Supervisors and be calendared for a vote as an agenda item.

Wil stated a strikeout version of the By-Laws changes would help them review and process the approval. The Chair stated to the Council that there are no strikeout versions nor electronic versions of the three specific sets of By-Laws. The new By-Laws completely updates and revamps the By-Laws to bring everything to current day methods and process. The Chair provided the Board of Supervisors the three separate old versions along with the revised version of the By-Laws. Tony thanked Wil for his input and his efforts to help with the process.

8- New Business

The Chair is working to coordinate attendance at the next VAC meeting by the Board of Supervisor's military liaisons. There is also an ongoing effort by the Council to have the Board of Supervisor's staff attend the VAC meetings at least biannually. The Chair will send out an

email asking who will be in attendance. Dr. Horvath will provide a response to the goal date of April 14, 2018 and their response to the request for attendance by designated Board of Supervisor staff.

Wil Quintong reminded Helen Horvath, chair, of the HHSA Advisory Board Chair Bi-Annual Meeting on March 19, 2018 10:30 am at the County Administration Center.

Tony Stewart mentioned the shooting at the Veteran's Home in Yountville, CA. The Chair, Dr. Horvath, mentioned that three mental health providers were killed by the veteran shooter, as reported by the News stations, allegedly suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The veteran shooter committed suicide.

9 – Closing Remarks

In light of the recent tragic event at the Yountville Veterans Home, Dr. Horvath, Chair, asked that a moment of silence to be observed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am