

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**
Saturday, September 13, 2014, 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 (VMC)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Terry Jensen; Ben Dillingham III; Nancy Owen; Michael Robledo; Mary Beth Newton; Tom Splitgerber; John Weaver; Laurie Martell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Will Rodriguez (U)

OTHERS PRESENT

Jason Moore, representative for Congressman Juan Vargas; Ted Kagan, El Cajon Veterans Commission; Rob Winkler, Chula Vista Veterans Home

1. Call to Order

Mary Beth Newton Chair, called the VAC meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introductions/Public Input (3 minutes)

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made and seconded to approve prior meeting minutes.

5. Chairman's Remarks

No remarks

6. Committee Reports (Limited 5 minutes)

Legislative:

Nancy Owen spoke about AB1580, Veterans homes (Morale Welfare and Recreation Fund) did not pass in Sacramento. This would take the MWR funds from the Veterans Homes and combine them and divide them out.

Steve Arends spoke about AB13, Nonresident State Tuition Exemption for Veterans. It went to the Governor's office last week and it is assumed he is going to sign it.

One VA

Next One VA meeting will be Wednesday, September 17 at 9:30 am, at the VA Medical Center, 4th Floor conference room.

Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH)

Rob Winkler said they are focusing on the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs Conference (NASDVA) taking place on Sunday September 14, through Wednesday September 17 and the CalVet Board Meeting on September 18 at the Chula Vista Veterans Home.

United Veterans Council (UVC)

No update

County Veterans Service Office (CVSO)

Tom Splitgerber spoke about:

- Four CVSO Veteran Service Representatives, (VSR's) attended the AARP National Conference. There were about 8,000 attendees.
- Two VSR's attended the LGBT Center. There were 20 attendees.
- The 25th of September HHSA is sponsoring a combination breakfast for civilian and military members who support active duty, veterans, and their families and explore further potentials in support of those missions that may be gained through collaboration.
- Tom is participating in a demonstration at the Julian Library on an internet interviewing program (Virtual Counseling Center). This may be a new way to help veterans using a computer in County libraries and a VSR in our office assisting them.
- Fee waiver season finally slowed down. We were getting 75 to 100 people daily. We will process about 7000 applications this year.

Community Reports

Nancy Owen reminded about the 25th Annual Military Women's Luncheon, on November 1, 2014. Lindsey Sin, Deputy Secretary, Women Veterans Affairs from CalVet, will be the guest speaker.

John Weaver spoke about Bonita Vet Center and said it is getting very busy. The appointments are filling up. Anything that can be done to promote the services would be great.

Terry Jensen said he received emails about VA Secretary Bob McDonald talking to employees and stakeholders at a meeting this week. Undersecretary Allison Hickey will have a meeting on benefits.

Jason Moore spoke about a presentation the Air Force Academy is having on September 27, 2014 at the Town and Country hotel starting at 11:30 am.

Tom invited VAC members to the Banquet on October 1, 2014 from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Veterans Museum during the CACVSO training conference.

Michael Robledo spoke about Escondido having a 9/11 commemorative ceremony at the Grape Day Park at Valley Center and also mentioned the Rotary club is offering veterans free memberships, pass the word.

Steve Arends spoke about the Work Study program still not restored after 15 months. No action by the US Senate.

Unfinished Business

Veterans Hiring Policy

Tom confirmed the report was received by the County Board of Supervisors. No response as of yet.

8. New Business

N/A

9. Closing Remarks

No closing remarks

10. Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.