

County of San Diego
Health and Human Services Agency
SAN DIEGO MILITARY & VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL (SDMVAC)
Phone (858) 694-3222 * Fax (858) 505-6961

Via [Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 821 8937 2215
Passcode: 819092

MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2022, 6:00PM

AGENDA

1. Call to Order by Chair Jack Harkins at 6:02 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Jack Harkins
3. Roll Call.

Present: Griselda Delgado, District 1.
Paula Jansen, District 2.
Danny Jackson, District 3.
Jack Harkins, District 4.
Mia Roseberry, District 5.
Mark Balmert, Member at Large Seat 6.
Philip Kendro, Member at Large Seat 7.
Tony Teravainen, Member at Large Seat 8.
Jude Litzenberger, Member-at-Large Seat 9.

Absent: Wil Quintong; OMVA Director, Ex-Officio

ACTION ITEMS

4. Authorization of Teleconferencing Meeting Option Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e).

Chair Jack Harkins opened floor for a motion that the Council finds that there is a proclaimed State of Emergency and that, local officials have recommended measures to promote social distancing and carry-on with authorization on teleconference meetings.

Moved by Member Philip Kendro.
Seconded by Member Jude Litzenberger.
Opposed: None.
Abstain: None.

5. Approval of October 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Secretary Mia Roseberry.
Seconded by Vice Chair Griselda Delgado.
Opposed: None
Abstain: None.

6. Approval of November 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Member Mark Balmert.
Seconded by Vice Chair Griselda Delgado.
Opposed: None
Abstain: Philip Kendro

7. Non-Agenda Public Comments.

Chair Jack Harkins sees no one on screen present – there are no public comments.

8. Information Item: Time specific presentation. U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Benefits Administration San Diego, Benefits Updates. Kadell Felton, VA San Diego Regional Benefits Office.

Chairman Jack Harkins announced that a speaker/presenter is not available.

Jack asked members for any comments on how the experience this Thursday evening meeting in comparison to a Saturday morning day/time schedule. Future meetings may have access for public participation. He appeals to invite others and sign in on the link.

Member Philip Kendro commented to keep in this timeline via Zoom, the public can join, and virtual is the best workwise also, that may want to communicate with the Council.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

9. Jack shared and read a letter/message on screen to send to Hon. Nathan Fletcher expressing sincere concerns for him and his family as they deal with the fire at their residence. This letter will be signed by all members of the council.

There are no objections or recommendations from the council members.

ACTION / PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Information Item: Military and Veterans Actions and Events.

Chairman Jack Harkins announced that contact roster has been prepared with each council member's telephone no. and email address. The council member will determine who may want or does not want to share their information by the council or by the OMVA.

Vice Chair Griselda Delgado is willing to share her cellphone and email address to anyone, including the council and anyone who may ask for her info.

Member Paula Jansen announced that her information is already on VFW and is fine with her.

Member Tony Teravainen approves to share email and phone no. with the SDMVAC Roster.

Chair Jack Harkins stated that no member has the authority to further share his email, phone no. on how to get hold of him without his permission.

Objections/recommendations – none.

Chairman Jack Harkins screen shared the VARO (Veterans Affairs Regional Office) fact sheet provided to some organizations, including the County of San Diego. He encourages the members to be included on the VA's monthly mailing list. More resources are recommended under the **VA.gov website**. All council members are willing and agreed to sign-up.

Member Jude Litzenberger commented on a lawyer's point of view on "discharge upgrade" wizards. A discharge upgrade, that most of the time, if the person filed their petition/application has no chance of winning. The BCNR will tell, all the things that said in writing counts. They need somebody who could help in filing it, like the VBA. There are still few people there we can trust, give advice, there are still vets now living in the streets and doesn't have any VA benefits.

11. Information Item: 2022 Legislative Initiatives Summary:

Chairman Jack Harkins shared that the CA Senate & Assembly Legislation page is as good as The Library of Congress. The website **www.Congress.gov** "homepage" has prominent search types and topic categories.

Member Tony Teravainen commented to highlight on-going legislation to support the targeted constituency that can come up or find something VA San Diego get an award letter to Sacramento, a position to one of these so that Council's voice could be heard a little more. Chair Jack Harkins will make recommendations for the Supervisors to get support.

Member Danny Jackson appreciate sending members out, as a group need to go forward, need some discussion with some representative if there's something on there that's hot, would like to discuss with them and will just have to educate him a little bit.

12. Information Item: SD County Office of Military and Veterans Affairs (OMVA) Update.

Submitted by Ex-Officio Wil Quintong.

- Despite the surge in Covid cases due to the Omicron variant, OMVA lobbies remain open and non-profit Veteran Support Organizations can still utilize their assigned workspaces at the MVRC's.
- Vet-Connect station expansion to the Bunker in Tijuana is currently on hold due to the need for the Deported Veterans Support House to relocate to another facility. We will not be moving forward with the installation until a new facility is identified and a pre-visit by the contractor is completed.
- OMVA will be conducting an event with the Live Well on Wheels mobile unit at the Campo VFW on Jan 31, 2022. We are also planning another event at the Ramona Library on Feb 7, 2022. Attached flyers for the Campo and Ramona events.
- HHSa will be holding a meeting with all Advisory Council Chairs and possibly Vice Chairs on February 1, 2022. Invites should be sent shortly. I did update the SDMVAC contact information.

13. Information Item: Council Members activity reports

Chair Jack Harkins ask for any activities to share, opportunities to consider, recommendations for on-going targeted actions by committee process by establishing some committees, specific recommendations, another means to identify priorities on on-going issues for open discussion.

Vice Chair Griselda suggests to email the idea that will be interesting and get the listed suggested activities to discuss in the February meeting. Members can volunteer to participate, reach-out in 1-educating veteran and 2-do outreach for student vet who are starting a career.

Member Jude Litzenberger commends reform an asset mapping committee, reach out and find out what every organization is working on, check on the priorities and decide where the holes are. A lot of opportunities on these groups to be more connectors and unitors rather than another competitor organization.

Chair Jack stated that the Council don't need to form another group to try to help out veteran homelessness. He's not opposing in the idea of environmental scan, but express interest in specific area they would like in the committee for this council.

14. **Discussion Item: Priorities for Council attention and initiative.**

Chair Jack announces the next meeting schedule date of the Council.
Motion by Secretary Mia Roseberry for new meeting date **Wed-Feb 23rd at 6:00pm via ZOOM**
Seconded by Griselda.
Chair Jack motion for new meeting date changed to **Wed-Feb 23rd at 6pm.**
Oppose – none
Abstain – none.
Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED:

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