

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
SAN DIEGO MILITARY AND VETERANS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL (SDMVAC)**

**Held In Person  
North Central Live Well Center  
5055 Ruffin Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, San Diego CA 92123  
Phone (858) 694-3222**

**Public Video Viewing/Comment Option:**

<https://sdcounty-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/86384272303>

**SDMVAC Meeting Minutes  
April 16, 2026**

**Members Present**

Jude Litzenberger  
John Paul Sullivan  
Robyn Nolin  
David McCulloh  
Philip Kendro  
Michael Kerr

**Staff Present**

Amy Klock, OMVA  
Ray Flores, OMVA  
Alberto Garcia, Deputy Director of Self-Sufficiency Services

**Guests**

Kenneth A G Vallesteros  
Brad Redtke  
Anaya Rodriguez, U.S House of Reps- Scott Peters  
Andrew Weatherspoon - EDD  
Todd Yates  
Ivan Martinez  
Pedro Cruz  
Taryn  
Rae Russel – Veteran Chamber SD Chapter

**Members Absent**

Paula Jansen

1. Meeting called order at 1:02 pm by Jude Litzenberger, Chair
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
  - SDMVAC present members noted above.
4. The minutes of February 19, 2026, meeting were approved by five Council members, with one abstention.

5. Public Comments:
  - No public comment
  
6. **Discussion Item:** New Community Connections: SDMVAC Council members share community events they have recently attended. **Robyn Nolin** shared that she attended an event at the Orange Elks Lodge honoring Vietnam Veterans, as well as the Vietnam Veterans Sport Fishing event. **Phil Kendro** reported on the April 26 Concours d'Elegance car show at La Jolla Cove, which offered special admission opportunities for military members. He also mentioned the May 1 ceremony at Mount Soledad honoring Royce Williams and updating his plaque to reflect his receipt of the Medal of Honor. Phil further noted the 10th Anniversary celebration of Veterans Beer Club (VBC) and its BICEP program. **Vice Chair David McCulloh** shared three events that he recently attended. He attended a professional MMA event at Camp Pendleton, which provided an opportunity to engage with and support Marines. He also attended a performance by the Marine Corps West Coast Composite Band in Escondido. Lastly, he participated in the Veterans Oral History Project at the California State University San Marcos Veterans Center. **Michael Kerr** shared his involvement with the American Water Works Association (AWWA), supporting veterans interested in water industry careers. **John Paul Sullivan** reported attending the Jennifer Moreno plaque dedication at Mount Soledad National Veterans Memorial, as well as events aboard the USS Midway Museum, including the Royce Williams ceremony with Congressman Darrell Issa. He also attended a press conference announcing SB 1407 regarding tax exemptions for military retirees and participated in a Veterans legislative trip to Washington, D.C., along with meetings related to veteran support programs. **Chair Jude Litzenberger** provided an update on Guide Dogs of America | Tender Loving Canines and its new veteran-related initiatives. She also shared updates on Veteran legal and support issues, including discussion of veterans awaiting trial and sentence review processes. Additionally, she noted that the VA provides transportation services, including bus access for veterans attending medical appointments. **Ray Flores** updated the Council that San Diego is a finalist to host the 2029 Invictus Games for wounded, injured, and sick service members and veterans.
  
7. **Discussion Item:** Working group reports and scheduled future working group meetings, All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members
  - Food Security – Robyn Nolin and David McCulloh
  - Housing – Paula Jansen
  - Education – Philip Kendro and John Paul Sullivan
  - Employment – Philip Kendro and David McCulloh
  - Healthcare – Robin Nolin
  - Legislation – John Paul Sullivan

Members discussed the importance of consistent engagement from working groups to ensure timely identification of issues and coordination of responses. Working groups will continue to schedule meetings as needed and report updates, findings, and recommendations at future Council meetings. Council members emphasized continued collaboration across groups to address overlapping issues and support comprehensive solutions for the community
  
8. **Presentation Item:** Courage to Call update: James Callaghan Jr., Chief Encouragement Officer Mental Health System. James Callaghan Jr., Chief Encouragement Officer, provided an update on the Courage to Call Mental Health System. The update included an overview of current services, outreach efforts, and ongoing support provided to military members, veterans, and their families.

9. **Discussion Item:** Veterans Town Hall. Could facilitated convening help us more effectively achieve our mission? Chair Jude Litzenberger. Chair Jude Litzenberger presented the item on a Veterans Town Hall and whether a facilitated convening could more effectively support the Council's mission. Members briefly discussed the potential benefits of a structured, facilitated format to improve engagement and communication with the community. The possibility of further elaboration on this topic at a future meeting was noted for additional consideration.
10. **Discussion Item:** Nonprofit board training update, Chair Jude Litzenberger. Chair Jude Litzenberger provided an update on nonprofit board training, sharing general information on available training opportunities and ongoing efforts to support Council members' development in nonprofit governance and board service, with additional details to be provided as they become available.
11. **Discussion Item:** Upcoming events in support of Armed Forces Day 2026, Ray Flores, Military and Veterans Affairs Officer, OMVA. Ray Flores, Military and Veterans Affairs Officer, OMVA, provided an overview of upcoming events planned in support of Armed Forces Day 2026. The update highlighted planned community activities and opportunities for engagement to honor and recognize service members, with additional details to be shared as event planning continues.
12. **Discussion Item:** Suggested topic for future meetings: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council. Members of the San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council suggested potential topics for future meetings to support continued discussion and planning on matters relevant to military members, veterans, and their families. Additional items will be considered and scheduled for inclusion in upcoming agendas as appropriate.

**ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on June 18, 2026.