



## VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

222 W. Hospitality Ln., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0470

### Minutes of the Meeting

March 25, 2019, 3:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE** – Members present: Frank Guevara (Board Liaison), Chair Jeff Allen, James Willingham, and Kelly Maxwell. Also present: recording secretary Sally Gibson. Members absent: Danny Marquez, Dave Soto, Terry Porter, Matthew Knox, Joseph Mena and Jim Frost.

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Jeff Allen called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING** – Members reviewed minutes of the meeting held January 28, 2019. Motion was made and seconded to approve minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATE** – Frank Guevara gave an overview of recent County VA activities:

- Frank and Veteran Services Manager Misty Solvang went to a week-long California Association of County Veteran Service Organizations (CACVSO) training conference in Sacramento last month. Copies of the current CACVSO legislative platform were distributed to members present (copy attached to original minutes). While at the Capitol, Frank and Misty met with Assemblymembers Eloise Reyes and James Ramos.
- Members present received a copy of 2 pages from the CACVSO Annual Report, which is presented to State legislators, showing California counties and the amount of benefit dollars they have earned for veterans. (Copy of table is attached to original minutes.) San Bernardino County VA once again out-performed all other California counties in regards to the amount of new monetary awards received by our veterans for fiscal year 17-18, at more than \$50 million. This amount is more than 10% of all new awards in the State, and was reported on in the San Bernardino Sun (copy of article attached to original minutes).
- The Hesperia County VA office will be expanding to occupy the adjacent office space that was once occupied by Congressman Obernolte. The space will be used to create a conference room, one VSO office and an expanded lobby for the Hesperia office.
- Frank was presented with an award at last week's Veterans' Court graduation ceremony. County VA supports the Veterans' Court project by providing Omnitrans bus passes to participants who do not have transportation to get to court.
- Members present were given copies of Riverside County's VAC agenda for information purposes. (Copy attached to original minutes.)
- Supervisor Lovingood's office is planning their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual High Desert Veterans Resource Fair for Thursday, May 30. County VA will be on hand to issue Veteran ID cards and to help veterans with benefit claims. (Flyer attached to original minutes.)
- County VA will have an Expungement Clinic for veterans on April 15, with help from attorneys representing the Law Offices of the Public Defender.

#### FROM THE MEMBERS

**Kelly Maxwell** – Kelly brought up the issue of homeless veterans who own pets. Shelters sometimes do not accept pets and veterans are reluctant to give them up. Frank informed the group that San Bernardino County will pay a pet security deposit for VASH veterans; also, homeless vets with pets can call 2-1-1 and tell them they have a pet.

**Jeff Allen** – Jeff informed those present of an extended and expanded Choice program for medical care; he will be finding out more about the Choice program and will report back. Jeff also observed that veterans paid by the VA at the 100% disabled rate receive too much money to qualify for a full property tax exemption, and questions how the income limits for the property tax exemption are calculated. Lastly, Jeff the the Stop the Bleed program has been embraced by the Ontario and Rancho Cucamonga Fire Departments, and every classroom in Rancho has a Trauma Kit to stop bleeding. More government buildings should be equipped with Trauma Kits.

#### FROM THE FLOOR

Supervisor Hagman's Special Projects Coordinator, Chad Schnitger, introduced himself and informed those present that the Supervisor is always interested in helping veterans, and to contact him if there is something they can help with. One of Chad's areas of interest is veteran employment and he is working on planning some employment events with America's Job Corps, like Hire a Hero-Hire a Vet. He will keep the VAC informed of upcoming events.

**DATE/TIME/LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

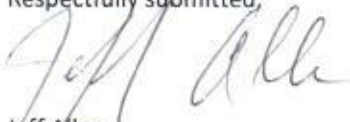
The May VAC meeting is usually scheduled for the week before the Monday Memorial Day holiday, however, a motion was made and seconded to hold the next VAC meeting on Monday, 3/13/19 at 3:00 p.m. in the County VA conference room, to accommodate members unable to attend on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The motion passed unanimously.

The next VAC meeting will be held Monday, May 13, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the County VA conference room at 222 W. Hospitality Ln., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, San Bernardino.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Allen  
Chairman

/sg