

SAN DIEGO MILITARY & VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

April 13, 2019

Meeting held at County Operations Center (COC) 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Helen Horvath, Chair, Member at Large; Anthony “Tony” Stewart, District 1; Jack Harkins, District 4; Nancy Owen, Member at Large; Karolyn Smith, Member at Large.

EXCUSED MEMBERS:

Ted Kagan, Co-chair, District 2; District Tony Teravainen, District 3

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wil Quintong, OMVA Director; Lance Lunker, Cal-vet – LINC; Jennie Reza, OMVA secretary

1. Call to Order

The Military & Veterans Advisory Council (MVAC) meeting was called to order by Helen Horvath, Chair at 9:32 am.

2. Pledge of Allegiance Led by Karolyn Smith

3. Introductions.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

There was a motion by Jack Harkins to approve March’s meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Karolyn Smith and passed by all.

5. Chair’s comments and Council discussion (old business)

The Chair reminded all Council members of the requirement to stay within compliance of By-Laws, AB1234, and the Brown Act along with recognition of potential organizational conflicts of interest in each member’s professional life.

The Chair is required by ethical standards to report violations of the above requirements. During the discussion the following actions were discussed and responded to:

- a. Jack Harkins confirmed he received copies of By-Laws, Brown Act Training and the AB1234 Training. As part of the overall Council discussion regarding training and legal requirements the Chair requested that all Council members review AB1234 Training, Brown Act, and organizational conflict of interest requirements. During the discussion the Council was reminded that all Council business must be conducted during normal public sessions that has a quorum. The Chair reminded all Council members to complete

the Incompatible Form, as required, for presentation to the OMVA and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

- b. The Chair recommended that all members provide to OMVA a list regarding all boards and committees that each Council member is involved with in order to preclude any conflict of interest.
- c. **Procedures Manual.** Nancy Owen composed the Procedure Manual's Table of Contents page. She is planning to begin the process of creating a prototype with content. The Council agreed that the Procedures Manual will not repeat the By-Laws; rather, the information will augment the By-Laws. Additional procedures will be agreed upon after the draft is written and scheduled for discussion.
- d. **Attendance Policy.** The Chair discussed the attendance policy with the Council. The question was put forth that asked, "What constitutes an excused absence?" For 2018, the average number of excused absences was 3 and as high as 5 in 2018. The discussion centered around the revised by-laws and the fact that the Council will meet bi-monthly with special meetings as called by the Chair. This reduces the number of excused absences as outlined in the proposed bi-laws pending approval by the board of supervisors. Tony Stewart made a motion to table the discussion relating to attendance until the by-laws are approved by the Board of Supervisors. Nancy Owen seconded the motion; motion passed by all.
- e. **Proposed working groups' efforts.** Helen Horvath has received two out of the three outlines for 2019 SDMVAC Project. Wil Quintong will send outline to the Board once received.
 - (1) Alzheimer's Care & Other Memory Care - Helen Horvath and Nancy Owen have completed an outline.
 - (2) Military & Veteran's Behavioral Health & Suicide – Tony Stewart, Ted Kagan and Karolyn Smith have completed informational outline.
 - (3) Military Spousal Employment - Tony Teravainen is working with Jack Harkins and has yet to submit the informational outline.

6. Reports

a. Legislative

Tony Stewart is working to complete the Legislative report. Once completed he will provide email copies to the Council for publication.

b. One VA CAB

Helen Horvath attended the meeting on March 20, 2019. The VA Co-Chairs discussed the OneVA CAB charter and requirements for attendance. Helen Horvath provided the most recent copy of the OneVA CAB charter to the Council members. She reiterated that the OneVA CAB meetings are a confidential format for community discussion and information. During the meeting, Helen Horvath discussed the general factors associated with Choice provider prescriptions on the weekend. Dr. Smith stated that he had changed procedures. Helen Horvath recommended that the VA newsletter provide the locations

that will accept Choice prescriptions when the VA pharmacy is closed. Helen Horvath asked Dr. Smith if he or his staff would be available to attend SDMVEC meeting quarterly or as available to provide VA updates. The Chair and Secretary, Nancy Owen, discussed the move of the Mission Valley Clinic to Aero Drive. The facility is contracted for remodeling and should be completed by late 2020. The San Diego VA Regional Office will take over the entire clinic areas once the new clinic is completed.

c. Veterans Home

Nancy Owen sent a revised flyer of the Golf Tournament, May 9th with the correct zip code. Tony Stewart stated that US4Warriors is working on a project to renovate the horse shoe pit at the Veterans Home.

d. STEP

Tony Teravainen did a presentation at the CalVet Summit that summarized the services available to the veteran population.

e. Office of Military & Veterans Affairs (OMVA)

- (1) **By-Laws.** The by-laws have been approved by County Counsel. The by-laws should be docketed for review by the BOS.
- (2) Pathway to Citizenship in Partnership with CalVet will have a seminar at the Escondido Military Veterans Resource Center (MVRC). Nick Macchione, Director of San Diego Health and Human Services, would like to see the program and related event(s) in the South Region.
- (3) **District 4.** Wil Quintong discussed the increased interest in providing assistance to incarcerated veterans.
- (4) Tim Mathues has retired with the County. Within six months it is anticipated that he will return to the County in some capacity.
- (5) Congressman Levin has taken interest in collaborating with the Oceanside MVRC to support veterans.
- (6) Veteran's Forum will take place November 2019. This year the forum will take place in North Inland Live Well Center.
- (7) Wil Quintong discussed various options for the Council to provide better public access for the meetings.

7. New Business.

- a. Nancy Owen inquired regarding vacancies in the Council. The Chair noted that a request was sent to the BOS staff regarding Chaplain Lee's potential membership as a member at large. The application is before Supervisor Dianne Jacobs' staff under review. The other vacancy is for District 5, Supervisor Desmond's district. If any Council member has a recommendation for District 5 it was requested that the recommendation be passed on to Shaina Richardson. Wil Quintong stated he will follow up with Taylor Dupont regarding the status of Member at Large Seat 6.
- b. Helen Horvath, Nancy Owen and Jennie Reza will update the email distribution list to expand the public and partner participation within Council activities.
- c. Helen Horvath would like to invite BOS staff to the meeting, as available, over the next few months. The BOS staff is welcome at every meeting without invitation.

- d. Jack Harkins provided an update on the Veterans Museum. In May 2019, after renovations are completed, there will be a grand re-opening of the Veterans Museum.
- e. Navy Bay Bridge Run/Walk coming May 19, 2019.
- f. Jack Harkins announces United Veteran Council meets the fourth Saturday of the month. This month's meeting will be to honor Gold Star spouses and families.
- g. Tony Stewart was given a task from Supervisor Cox for flag disposal. Metal containers will be placed in the 81 libraries in the County to properly discard flags. This is also accomplished in coordination with the Boy Scouts and America Legions.

8. Meeting adjourned at 11:02 am