



**County of El Dorado  
Meeting Minutes  
Veteran Affairs Commission**

Department of Veteran Affairs  
130 Placerville Drive, Suite B  
Placerville CA 95667  
[www.edcgov.us/veterans](http://www.edcgov.us/veterans)  
Telephone: 530-621-5892  
Fax: 530-621-2218

Todd Smith, District I – Alternate John Poimiroo  
Chris Cockrell, District II – Alternate Roger Reynolds  
Kurt Raffetto, District III – Alternate Josh Castro  
Ken Welch, District IV – Alternate Tim Thompson  
Daniel Browne, Jr., District V – Alternate Phillip Houseworth  
Lance Poinsett, Acting Secretary Ex-Officio

Lauren Odell, Acting Recording Clerk of Veteran Affairs Commission

**Thursday, May 13, 2021 @ 1200 hours**

**NOTICE OF VIRTUAL MEETING -- ACCESS VIA ZOOM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94103137431?pwd=WmlMTkl4b2RvRVZ2UThHbjE3VnBoUT09>

**By Telephone: 669 900 6833**

**Meeting ID: 941 0313 7431 Password: 386662**

**Public Participation Instructions: To comply with social distancing requirements, participation will be handled remotely.**

**If you are joining the meeting via zoom and wish to make a comment on an item, press the "raise a hand" button. If you are joining the meeting by phone, press \*9 to indicate a desire to make a comment. The meeting coordinator will call you by the last three digits of your phone number when it is your turn to speak. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes.**

Veteran Affairs Commission Agendas and Minutes are available for viewing in the Veteran Memorial Building lobby at 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville CA 95667 and online [www.edcgov.us/Government/Veterans/Pages/](http://www.edcgov.us/Government/Veterans/Pages/)

**I. CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Meeting called to order 12:00pm

**II. ROLL CALL**

District	Present	Alternates	Absent
I	Todd Smith	John Poimiroo	
II	Chris Cockrell	Roger Reynolds	
III	Kurt Raffetto	Joshua Castro	
IV	Ken Welch	Tim Thompson	
V	Daniel Browne	Phillip Houseworth	

**III. INTRODUCTION OF HHSA STAFF**

*Don Semon, Director of Health and Human Services Agency; Ranell Brown, HHSA Deputy Director, Community Services; Yasmin Hichborn, HHSA Administrative Analyst II; Lauren Odell, Veterans Services Administrative Tech; Lance Poinsett, Sr. Veteran Services Officer, Maki*

*Ganno, Accountant; Cindy Munt, Assistant to Supervisor John Hidahl, David Zelinsky; Veterans Advocate; Michelle Ward, Attorney, HHSA Senior Legal Services Program;*

**V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

(All items on the Consent Calendar are to be approved by one motion unless a Commission member requests separate action on a specific item including moving items to or from the Consent Calendar and adopt the Agenda and the Consent Calendar for discussion. At the appropriate time as called by the Chair, members of the public may make a comment on matters on the Consent Calendar prior to action.

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

A motion was made by Roger Reynolds and seconded by Dan Browne to approve the April 8, 2021 Minutes. The motion was approved 5-0.

**VII. CONSENT CALENDAR**

No action items.

**END OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

**VIII. GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**EMMA NEVILLE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES TAHOE COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS**

Ms. Neville presented information on the programs and services provided by the Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless. Additional information can be found on their website: [www.tahoehomeless.org](http://www.tahoehomeless.org)

**VETERAN SPOTLIGHT – MIKE MARRENO, USMC-VET MOTORPOOL, CAMINO**

Mr. Marreno was unable to join the meeting.

**IX. ACTION ITEMS**

None

**X. EX-OFFICIO REPORT – RECEIVE AND FILE (Poinsett)**

Lance Poinsett provided the Ex-Officio Report.

**XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS – RECEIVE AND FILE**

- **TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax)** (Raffetto/Houseworth)  
The 5% Administration Fee charged by the El Dorado Community Foundation was discussed. Kurt Raffetto made a motion that the 5% Fee for the Mini-Grants be deducted from the balance of the funds held in the account and not the individual mini-grants. Ken Welch seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.
- **RULES** (Poimiroo/Houseworth) – No Report
  - **SPECIAL COMMITTEE – HOUSING** (Welch/Castro) —Josh Castro is working with the Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless
- **LEGISLATIVE** (Smith/Raffetto)—No Report.
- **TRANSPORTATION** (Browne/Thompson) —No Report
- **BUDGET** (Houseworth/Reynolds)—No Report.

- **EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT** (Cockrell/Browne)  
Chris Cockrell is in contact with the school districts to try to expand ROTC in the high schools. Dan Browne reported that Lake Tahoe Community College will hire a permanent staff member to work with students who are veterans.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA** (Reynolds/Poimiroo)  
The \$500 needed for boosts to specific social media posts will come from the donation made to the Veterans Affairs Commission.

## XII. COMMUNICATIONS' REPORTS – RECEIVE AND FILE

- **VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING – VETERANS HOUSE COUNCIL** (Reynolds)  
The Flag and pole will be purchased through the Capital Improvements Fund.
- **AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE OFFICER** (Zelinsky)  
David Zelinsky provided the report.
- **EDC VETERANS ALLIANCE** (Poimiroo) – No Report
- **EL DORADO VETERAN RESOURCES**  
David Zelinsky provided the report.
- **REGIONAL VETERAN EVENTS** (Smith)  
Todd Smith provided the report.

## XIII. OLD BUSINESS.

### A. VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESS STICKER (Cockrell)

Chris Cockrell reported he is developing a process for verifying Veteran Owned status. John Poimiroo suggested that requirements should be that they are a licensed business in the county and owned by a honorably discharged veteran. Dan Browne suggested having events that encouraged supporting Veteran Owned businesses. The Veteran Service Office can assist with verification of Veteran status. Businesses can also be highlighted at future Stand Down events and on the website.

### B. ETHICS AND IMPLICIT BIAS TRAININGS (Poimiroo)

John Poimiroo reminded everyone who has not attended the required trainings to sign up as soon as possible.

## XIV. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Increase in Maximum Mini-Grants from \$3,500 to \$5,000 (Raffetto)

A motion was made by Kurt Raffetto to increase the maximum of the mini-grants to \$5,000; The motion was seconded by Dan Browne; The motion was approved 5-0

### B. \$500 for Social Media Boosts (Raffetto)

This item was discussed under Committee Reports.

### C. El Dorado Community Foundation Administrative Fees (Raffetto/R. Brown)

This item was discussed under Committee Reports.

### D. SB 661 Revisions to the CalVet Loan Program (Poimiroo)

This item will be moved to the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### E. Public Records Act Request (Poimiroo)

John Poimiroo reminded Commissions to provide the information requested in the recent Public Records Act Request.

### F. Recommendation to Double CVSO Funding (Poimiroo)

CSAC requesting an increase in the statewide amount of funding provided to Veteran Service Offices from \$5.6M to \$11M per year; Lance Poinsett to distribute information prior to the next meeting. The information will be discussed at the June meeting.

- XV. GOOD OF THE ORDER** (Additional Commission and HHSA Staff Comments)
- A. Dan Browne and Chris Cockrell discussed a local Eagle Scout project to build rescue boxes for retiring flags. Chris Cockrell will follow up with local Boy Scout Troops to learn more about ongoing Eagle Scout projects.
  - B. Ken Welch suggested that if in person meetings are allowed, the June meeting could be held in Georgetown. There are both indoor and outdoor locations available.
  - C. Lance Poinsett reported that AB1026 allows for a 50% fee reduction of business licenses for Veteran Owned businesses
  - D. Dan Browne requested signage for South Lake Tahoe County offices include Veteran Services and HHSA. Ranell Brown will discuss with appropriate groups to determine how to request this and whether there is funding for it.
  - E. John Poiriroo discussed Memorial Day events will be virtual. Captain Paul Jacobs will be honored. A taping is taking place on May 22. After the taping, there is a gathering at Wally's in Cameron Park at noon honoring LCDR Dan Lucero.

- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT** (Public Comment is limited to three minutes per person.)  
*J. Connolly*

**XVI. NEXT MEETING LOCATION, DATE & TIME**

Thursday, June 10, 2021 @ 1200 Hours; Location TBD pending Public Health determinations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1317 Hours.