



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

Department of Veteran Affairs  
130 Placerville Drive, Suite B  
Placerville CA 95667  
ww.edcgov.us/veterans  
Telephone: 530-621-5892  
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Todd Smith, District I – Alternate John Poimiroo  
Chris Cockrell, District II – Alternate Roger Reynolds  
Kurt Raffetto, District III – Alternate VACANT  
Ken Welch, District IV – Alternate Tim Thompson  
Daniel Browne, Jr., District V – Alternate Phillip Houseworth  
Chele Beretz, Secretary Ex-Officio

Lindsay Machado, Recording Clerk of Veteran Affairs Commission

**Thursday, February 11, 2021 @ 1200 hours**

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 <http://www.edcgov.us/veterans/commission>

**I. CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG occurred 1202 hours (meeting held virtually via Zoom and in-person at the Veterans Memorial Building)**

**II. ROLL CALL**

District	Commissioners Present	Alternates Present	Absent
I	Smith, Todd	Poimiroo, John	
II	Cockrell, Chris	Reynolds, Roger	
III	Raffetto, Kurt	Vacant	
IV	Welch, Ken	Thompson, Tim	
V	Browne, Jr., Daniel	Houseworth, Phillip	

**III. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS**

*Patty Moley, HHSA, Asst. Director of Self-Sufficiency and Community Services; Ranell Brown, HHSA Deputy Director, Community Services, Richard Todd, HHSA Program Manager; Yasmin Hichborn, HHSA Administrative Analyst II; Maki Gano, HHSA Administrative Analyst II, Fiscal, Chele Beretz, Veterans Services Officer, Julie Limbaugh and Joshua Castro, Veterans Services Representatives, David Zelinsky; Veterans Advocate, Ruth Michaelson, Kathleen Newell, Leo Bennett Cauchon*

**IV. 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.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Agenda. The motion was approved. John Poimiroo the new chair for 2021 welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed the new District II appointee, Chris Cockrell.

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

Kurt Raffetto noted an error in the year on the January minutes. It should be 2021. A motion was made by Kurt Raffetto to approve the January Minutes with the revision. The motion was seconded by Ken Welch. The motion was approved.

**VI. CONSENT CALENDAR****END OF CONSENT CALENDAR****VII. ACTION ITEMS**

None

**VIII. EX-OFFICIO REPORT**

Chele Beretz provided the Ex-Officio Report. A recent audit for the time period of July 2020 through December 31, 2020 resulted in zero errors. Great news for the team. A new Admin Tech and Temporary General Trainee have been hired. Travel claims for healthcare should be submitted on-line. John Poimiroo requested that Chele send out information on what services the VA is providing to veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS – RECEIVE AND FILE****A. TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax)**

Kurt Raffetto reported that the Committee did not meet in February. They are between funding cycles.

**B. RULES – No Report****C. LEGISLATIVE – No Report****D. TRANSPORTATION – David Zelinsky provided the report. A van with a wheelchair lift has been secured. All Veterans who requested transportation services have been accommodated. David will discuss transportation options in the Tahoe area with Dan Browne.****E. BUDGET – No Report****F. EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT – No Report.****G. SOCIAL MEDIA – John Poimiroo reported that the social media site is very active.****X. COMMUNICATIONS' REPORTS – RECEIVE AND FILE****A. AD HOC (Veterans Memorial Building – Veterans House Council)**

Meetings are on hold due to COVID-19.

**B. AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE OFFICER**

David Zelinsky provided his report. He had the opportunity to work with Todd Smith and the El Dorado County Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). They were able to get the veteran to Mather for the medical help she needed. Todd would like a letter sent to everyone involved thanking them for their help. John Poimiroo will write the letter.

**C. FRIENDS OF THE VETERANS MONUMENT**

John Poimiroo reported that no decisions had been made whether future events will be in person or virtual. It will depend upon the situation with COVID-19.

**D. EL DORADO VETERANS RESOURCES – PERMANENT STAND DOWN**

David Zelinsky provided a report. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 10:00am to 12:00pm. They provide food, clothing, sleeping bags and tents.

**E. REGIONAL VETERAN EVENTS**

No Report.

**XI. OLD BUSINESS****A. Subscription to EDC Veteran Affairs Commission Website for Meeting Information**

Patty Moley provided an overview of the features of the Veteran Affairs Commission website. If someone subscribes to the webpage, they will be notified any time there is a change such as a new posting of minutes and agendas. The public is encouraged to visit the website and the County's Facebook page.

**NEW BUSINESS****A. EDC Resolution No. 013-202 and Bylaws (Poimiroo)**

John Poimiroo provided an overview of the bylaws. The Veteran Affairs Commission has five voting members and five non-voting alternates. Their purpose is to advocate for and support veterans.

**B. Reappoint Committee Assignments**

The following committee assignments were made:

**TOT:** Kurt Raffetto, Roger Reynolds, Dan Browne, Phillip Houseworth

**Budget:** Roger Reynolds and Phillip Houseworth

**Education:** Chris Cockrell and Dan Browne

**Legislative:** Todd Smith and Kurt Raffetto

**Transportation:** Dan Browne and Tim Thompson

**Social Media:** Roger Reynolds and John Poimiroo

**Rules:** John Poimiroo, Phillip Houseworth, Chris Cockrell, Ken Welch, Roger Reynolds and Todd Smith.

**C. Review and Approve Proposed 2021 Calendar**

The proposed 2021 Calendar was reviewed. November 11, 2021 is the Veterans Day Holiday and the meeting will need to be moved. A suggestion was made by John Poimiroo to hold the meeting on Thursday, November 18, 2021. Chris Cockrell made a motion to hold the November meeting on Thursday, November 18, 2021. The motion was seconded by Dan Browne. The motion was approved.

**XII. PUBLIC FORUM – GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- Public comment was received.
- Chris Cockrell would like to spotlight a local veteran at each meeting. The veteran would be invited to the meeting to introduce themselves.
- Todd Smith is available to meet with anyone who had questions about the Commission.
- Patty Moley announced, that if the Commission is interested, a 10 minutes presentation regarding efforts to homeless veterans is available
- David Zelinsky requested Dan Brown be invited to the Tahoe Coalition meetings. Dan has completed the required documentation. Patty Moley will follow up on his status.
- Phillip Houseworth requested the VSO send out the Mission Statement and Org Chart of the Veteran Services Office.

**NEXT MEETING LOCATION, DATE & TIME**

Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 1200 hours. (Virtual Meeting)

**ADJOURNMENT 1303 hours.**

**Acronyms:**

*TOT=Transient Occupancy Tax*  
*CAO=Chief Administrative Office*  
*BOS=Board of Supervisors*  
*EDC=El Dorado County*  
*HHSA=Health and Human Services Agency*  
*VAC=Veteran Affairs Commission*  
*VSO=Veteran Services Office*  
*SrVSR=Senior Veterans Service Representative*