



# County of El Dorado Veteran Affairs Commission

130 Placerville Drive  
Placerville CA 95667

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 14, 2016 @ 1200 hours**  
Veteran Memorial Building  
130 Placerville Drive  
Placerville CA 95667

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**      1200 hours

### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** – (Present) (Absent) (Excused Absence)

- (EA) I – Commissioner Todd Smith
- (P) I - Alternate Jack Winhall
- (P) II – Commissioner Tim Thompson
- (P) II – Alternate Edgar “Bud” Brown
- (P) III - Commissioner Kurt Raffetto
- (EA) III - Alternate Richard Buchanan
- (P) IV – Commissioner Bill Scrivani
- (-) IV – Alternate Vacant
- (P) V – Commissioner Robert Sweatt
- (P) V – Alternate Phillip Houseworth
- (EA) William E. Schultz, Interim Director, El Dorado County Department of Veteran Affairs
- (P) Edward Swanson, Secretary Ex-Officio

Public Testimony will be received on each agenda item as it is called. Principal party on each side of an issue (where applicable) is allocated 10 minutes to speak, individual comments are limited to 3 minutes, and individuals speaking for a group are allocated 5 minutes. Matters not on the agenda may be addressed by the general public during the Open Forum. Public comments during Open Forum are limited to three minutes per person. The Commission reserves the right to waive said rules by a majority vote.

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the El Dorado County Veteran Affairs Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for inspection during normal business hours in the public viewing packet located in the foyer of the Veterans Memorial Building, 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville or in the Secretary Ex-Officio (County Veteran Services Officer) El Dorado County Department of Veteran Affairs located at the same address. Such documents are also available on the El Dorado County Department of Veteran Affairs website at [www.edcgov.us/veterans](http://www.edcgov.us/veterans) subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

The Commission is concerned that written information submitted to the Commission the day of the Commission meeting may not receive the attention it deserves. The Secretary Ex-Officio cannot guarantee that any FAX, email, or mail received the day of the meeting will be delivered to the Commission prior to action on the subject matter.

### **INTRODUCTION & WELCOME:**

Julie LeConte, Military Family Support Group  
Mike Sproull, Food Bank of El Dorado County  
David Zelinsky, Service Officer American Legion  
Creighton Avila, CAO

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

El Dorado County Food Bank, Executive Director - Mike Sproull expressed thanks for the mini-grant funding of the “No Vet Goes Hungry” program which identified 30 veterans who used the program. We hope to continue working with the Veterans Memorial Building and the South Lake Tahoe American Legion site and we will support this program from now on. We get funding for South Lake Tahoe basin and we hope to build a new food kitchen in Cameron Park. We also collaborate with a veteran, Leo Cooper who prepares and provides precooked ready-made meals that are made at the American Legion Hall for distribution to veterans.

*“Representing the Interests of El Dorado County’s Veterans, their Dependents, and Survivors.”*

Military Family Support Group - Julie LeConte expressed thanks for the mini-grant funding and are currently working on the final report. Briefly, we worked with homeless veterans and encountered three veterans with young children. Unfortunately resources are very limited, some families have veterans who are in serious crisis and we hope to engage other interested individuals and groups to identify the needs and gaps to help find solutions.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** December, 10, 2015; and correct prior approved November 12, 2015. Requesting the Commission make correction to the Minutes for November 12, 2015 based on the discussion and motion that took place at the meeting and to recognize there was a clerical error.

MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> MINUTES: Bill Scrivani  
SECOND: Bud Brown

MOTION TO APPROVE AND CORRECT THE NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> MINUTES: Bill Scrivani  
SECOND: Jack Winhall

**SECRETARY EX-OFFICIO REPORT:**

- VA Regional Office: Oakland 12,800 claims. National 350,000 claims, up about 10,000; NOD's 7,037 – over 2 years old 700. Form 9 1,021 – over 2 years old 223. We are seeing veterans going to other counties to file their NOD's.
- County Department Veteran Affairs: We are working with Cal-Vet on application of future office intern position. To date we have issued over 1,200 county Veteran I.D. Cards. We are processing many DMV certifications.
- Commission Fund Balance: \$4,770.15

**COMMISSION MATTERS:**

- **TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) Committee**
  - El Dorado Community Foundation – discussion.
  - Folsom Lake College – funding discussion of how often the school receives funds, Chair will report next month.
  - Creighton Avila, CAO will gather feedback by the September meeting regarding the El Dorado Community Foundation.
- **AD HOC** (Veteran Memorial Building – Veterans Building House Council): Building Manager Update Storage space continued to be an issue. Working with county facilities for storage unit, weather permitting within the next two months, upcoming breakfast on the 23<sup>rd</sup> sponsored by area realtors funds raised goes to mail veterans packages oversees they do a good job. All organizations are lagging in membership; we are not seeing younger veterans who want to join. Is there a resource list with contact names and phone number to assist homeless veterans with shelters especially on Tuesdays, since the shelter is closed on that night?
- David Zelinsky, American Legion Service Officer: Update Veteran Court  
Eight veterans on docket today, one graduated, one may transfer to Sacramento, one violated probation with medical marijuana and was terminated from the program, one not eligible for the program. The Public Defender is concerned that he has only four veterans left in Veterans Court as his clients. There are a few that may be eligible for Conflicts Counsel. Judge Wagoner was happy to hear that having veterans in court attending the hearings in a supportive role led to a grant of \$500 each to two graduates of Veterans Court. Next month February 8<sup>th</sup>, the judge is opening the court at 1:00 to discuss being mentors into Veterans Court. It will require some funding to cover live scan, etc. It is possible that there will be a small mini-grant application made to support the mentor program next funding cycle

A group is considering setting up homeless veteran permanent housing in El Dorado County, potential site under consideration. A consortium veteran groups, churches and non-profits are looking at the feasibility. Two-thirds of veterans seeking assistance from this Service Officer have homelessness or risk of these issues, close to ninety veterans in the last 18 months. The State Veterans Homes are among the available solutions, unfortunately; all solutions to ending homelessness involve the Veteran making choices involving letting go of something that they are not willing to let go of.

- Alternate Vacancy: Update District IV, still under consideration.
- Social Media Facebook page for the Commission: Scrivani – Update.

El Dorado Veterans Facebook Page	Last Week	Previous Week	Trend
Page Visits	38	41	-7.3%
Weekly Total Reach	231	105	120.0%
People Engaged	27	14	92.9%
Total Page Likes	153	152	0.7%

**COMMISSION REPORTS:** (Committees reminded to call Secretary ex-officio **two weeks** prior meeting to place items on Commission meeting calendar)

**Rules Committee** (C-Smith; VC-Winhall) – In progress

**Legislative Committee** (C-Raffetto; VC-Smith) – No report

**Transportation Committee** (C-Sweatt; VC-Thompson) – Tahoe Transportation District if offering specialized transportation service with priority for older adults and individuals with disabilities, veterans over 60 or with a service connected disability automatically qualify.

**Budget Committee** (C-Buchanan; VC-Scrivani) – No report

**Education and Employment Committee** (C-Sweatt; VC-Houseworth) – No report

**Real Property Committee** (C-Buchanan; VC-Scrivani) – No report

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

- *Receive and approve travel claims for January 2016, approved. Mileage rate for 2016 is now .54 per mile.*

Bud Brown	13.18
Phillip Houseworth	15.49
Bill Scrivani	17.50
Bob Sweatt	66.53
Jack Winhall	10.37
<i>Total</i>	123.07

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- Phillip Houseworth distributed magazine article:  
Aiello, Tom. "Collateral Damage: Effects of the Current Narrative on Veterans" Purple Heart Magazine November/December 2015.
- Julie LeConte comment about the article, when we are given free quilts for veterans we always ask for permission for photograph and acknowledge all for generosity and appreciation. However, one bad experience was that a local company wanted a "photo-op" of their sponsorship to "adopt" a family during the holidays and when they didn't get permission for a "photo-op" they withdrew their offer!

**TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:**

- Meeting date: February 11, 2016, 12:00 pm at the Veterans Memorial Building, 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville CA 95667.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 1307 hours:

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. Swanson, Ex-Officio