



County of El Dorado Veteran Affairs Commission

130 Placerville Drive
Placerville CA 95667

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

July 14, 2016 @ 1200 hours

Veteran's Memorial Building
130 Placerville Drive, Placerville CA 95667

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 1203 hours

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

- (P) I – Commissioner Todd Smith
- (P) I - Alternate Jack Winhall
- (EA) 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
- (P) IV – Alternate Amanda Williams
- (P) V – Commissioner Robert Sweatt
- (EA) V – Alternate Phillip Houseworth
- (P) William E. Schultz, Interim Director, El Dorado County Department of Veteran Affairs arrived 12:08
- (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 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:

PUBLIC FORUM:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 14, 2016, edit with changes Good of the Order item 5, add Rich Buchanan reports on, review, approved.

SECRETARY EX-OFFICIO REPORT:

- CAL-VET: Received latest edition of Cal-Vet resource book, copies available.
- VA Regional Office Oakland: 11,063 claims pending. National: 371,153 claims outstanding, NOD's 7,121, VA Form 9 (appeals) 980, national claims 371,153.
- County Department Veteran Affairs: Intern is attending Vet Rep Academy this week.
- Commission Fund Balance: \$4,781.54

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

COMMISSION MATTERS:

• **TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) Committee**

Mini Grant Cycle #1: July to review four applications received by the deadline; and to be forwarded to the entire commission for an August award vote. The following applications are considered as follows: Big Brothers/Big Sisters, no award consideration; Military Family Support Group \$3,500; Only Kindness \$3,800, Remember-A-Vet, no award consideration. Next Mini-Grant Cycle begins in September. The El Dorado Community Foundation will be changing the on-line fillable application. Kurt Raffetto will report on that progress.

- **AD HOC** (Veteran Memorial Building – Veterans Building House Council): Building Manager Update
Bill Schultz reports a homeless veteran has been using the parking lot as “temporary housing” however he has been there for three weeks, David Zelinsky has worked with this veteran to obtain a more permanent living situation. We may consider adding signs “No Trespassing Without Prior of Consent of Owner”. Homeless veteran continues to challenge El Dorado County placements. The Eagle Scout project, design and development of the rock path and garden area under the flagpoles are coming along nicely.

- David Zelinsky, American Legion Service Officer: Update (not present, handout)
Veterans Court: Kimberly Higgins, is the new Veteran Justice Outreach Specialist at Mather and Robin McMillan, the new Probation Officer assigned to these cases have both done a very good job at being team players in Vet Court and are a pleasure to work with. Five veterans were schedule to appear and only two of those were represented by Matt Johnson the Deputy Public Defender. One was no show, resulting in a bench warrant. One violated probation but stayed on program. One set to graduate but faces charges in Placer County. On is dealing with mental issues, very impressed by Robin McMillan and Bill Scrivani being present for him. There are three veterans who do not meet the eligibility criteria.

State Veterans Homes: Ventura, the same as Lancaster, both are small, built at the same time, and essentially for assisted living entry. Waiting list for Ventura, it is usually for a long time, until death, the waiting list is estimated at three years. Redding is about a six month waiting time, Fresno may be shorter.

State Veterans Collaborative for Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and El Dorado counties: I attended the meeting in Jackson on 06/16/16. The presentation by Karen Flowers of the Oakland VA was very informative, in that I learned the Oakland satellite office on Old Placerville Drive near Mather, is open five days a week. What was missing was a balanced presentation of what the county VSO offices can provide. I have asked Victory Village, the facilitator, to invite Lance Poinsett to present to the monthly meeting at the American Legion Hall in Placerville on 09/08/16.

Over the last two years, I have now served 236 veterans, about two thirds were either homeless, or at risk of homelessness. There are many other homeless or at risk, Veterans, served by other agencies, or still not yet documented. Lately, one of the main pushes is to get veterans to sign up with the county department and VA healthcare.

Our community has been outstanding to work with, including, APS, Mental Health, Publish Guardian, the Sheriff’s department/jail, City of Placerville Police, Marshall Hospital Social Workers, our County of Department of Veterans Affairs, etc., I would like to give a shout out to Mike, the manager at Strawberry, who has been a huge help with housing homeless Veterans.

- Social Media Facebook page for the Commission: Scrivani – Update

Facebook Page	Last Week	Previous Week	Trend
Page Visits	15	30	-50%
Weekly Total Reach	993	1,675	-40.7%
People Engaged	75	162	-53.7%
Message Response Rate	0.0%	100.0%	-100.0%
Message Response Time	N/A	273 minutes	N/A
Total Like Pages	322	319	.09%

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) – Continued review of by-laws for updating, review of Veterans Coordinating Council history. By-Laws draft will be available at next meeting for full commission review and recommendation. The Coordinating Council no longer exists and the Real Property Committee purpose will be review, references on both will be removed for the draft approval.

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

Transportation Committee (C-Sweatt; VC-Thompson) – No report.

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 July 20, 2016, approved.*

<i>Bud Brown</i>	<i>5.23</i>
<i>Bill Scrivani</i>	<i>26.77</i>
<i>Todd Smith</i>	<i>16.79</i>
<i>Bob Sweatt</i>	<i>66.53</i>
<i>Jack Winhall</i>	<i>5.12</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>120.44</i>

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Kurt Raffetto commented on the recent Mountain Democrat article “Art Patterson honored as Veteran of the Year” the recognition was from 6th Assembly District Assemblywoman Beth Gaines.
- Todd Smith announced the golf tournament at Serrano Country Club on September 9, 2016, last year this phenomenal event raised \$52,000 and distributed locally and sponsorships available!
- Bill Scrivani and Phil Houseworth are looking into the possibility of providing TOT funds to assist veterans in Local 3 Operating Engineers Union in the reduction of the initiation fee membership.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: August 11, 2016 at 12:00 p.m., TOT Committee at 11:30 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville CA 95667

ADJOURNMENT:

Respectfully Submitted:

Edward L. Swanson, Ex-Officio