



County of El Dorado Veteran Affairs Commission

130 Placerville Drive
Placerville CA 95667

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2015 @ 1200 hours
Veterans Memorial Building
130 Placerville Drive
Placerville CA 95667**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE @ 1202 HRS.

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

- (P) I – Commissioner Todd Smith
- (A) I - Alternate Jack Winhall
- (A) II – Commissioner Tim Thompson
- (P) II – Alternate Eric Rasbold
- (P) III - Commissioner Kurt Raffetto
- (P) III - Alternate Richard Buchanan
- (-) IV – Commissioner VACANT
- (-) IV – Alternate VACANT
- (P) V – Commissioner Bob Sweatt
- (-) V – Alternate VACANT
- (P) 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 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.

1. Revisit nomination and elect of the Chair and Vice-Chair for two year term (2017) and Committees (Cont. 02/12/15). Nomination for Kurt Raffetto as Chair and Bob Sweatt as Vice-Chair, approved. Retain existing Committee member positions serving as Chair/Vice Chair and continue to next month to fill outstanding vacant positions. Approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Julie LeConte reports that the Military Family Support Group is supporting veteran Gerald Holderman, by waving American Flags to honor Mr. Holderman's passing during his funeral procession, led by the Patriot Guard Motorcycle Group, on March 16th along Placerville Drive in front of the Veteran's Memorial Building around 10:00 a.m. There will be a flyover "The Missing Man Formation" above the church around 1:00. Bronze plaque placement in his honor will be at the Veteran's Memorial Monument.

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

PUBLIC FORUM (continued)

David Zelinsky, Service Officer for American Legion Post 119, many people do not believe there are homeless vets in El Dorado County. I have personally served 16 homeless vets in the last 8 ½ months and there are names associated with these faces. The Dean of El Dorado Center, Dale Van Dan reports there is about \$500-600 in financial aid available to each El Dorado County veteran, Christine Wurzer is the Veteran liaison at the Folsom campus. Met with District IV assistant, Brenda Bailey and discussed possible contenders to represent that District. County Jail, working to establish protocol regarding LPS Conservatorship for better coordination verifying information to provide service and eligibility. Vet Court, one successful "graduation", the judge was pleased with the good results.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 12, 2015 minutes not approved.

SECRETARY EX-OFFICIO REPORT:

- Veteran's Court: Continuing to receive referrals
- CAL-VET: Acting Secretary Debbie Ensley. State Financial Committee AB101 Hearing moved to May 12th.
- VA Regional Office: Nationwide 477,835 claims pending, NOD's 6,300. Oakland Regional Office 17,050 claims pending, 395 claims over 1,365 days, 247 appeal claims over 1,606 days.
- County Department Veteran Affairs: Eric Rasbold is leaving county service effective March 20th. Due to staff reduction, we are temporarily reducing the number of ID card issue days to the 2nd Friday of month, Veteran Benefit Overview Outreach events are scheduled on the 3rd Friday of the month and the staffing of the South Lake Tahoe office will be available on the 1st Tuesday of the month. On Thursday, April 30th, at the South Lake Tahoe Library we will issue ID cards in the morning (9:00 – 12 noon) and offer the Veteran Benefit Overview presentation in the afternoon (2:00 – 3:00). The active client caseload per the 3 full time Service Representatives is at 700+.
- Veteran Memorial Building: Facilities Management has installed a new propane tank that will work with the HVAC, a necessary and major replacement to service the Veteran Affairs office. The propane tank for the Veteran Memorial Building has been repainted and the gauge replaced. Installation of the donated chair lift is a more difficult project than anticipated; it's a work in process, unknown installation date.
- Commission Fund Balance: \$4,755.92.

COMMISSION MATTERS:

TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) Committee:

- Kurt Raffetto reports no quorum. For information only, no grant applications received as of today. One of the grant recipients Partners in Care is closing their business effective March 31st. Request to edit the agenda because Bob Sweatt name was left out. Request to add to the April agenda to amend awarding the grants to twice a year.

AD HOC (Veteran Memorial Building – Veterans Building Council):

- Building Manager, Dave Davidson reports that the donated chair lift is still in the planning stage. The propane tank has a new gauge and paint job. The security fence is due for a replacement, but probably not until it can be coordinated with the reconstruction of the ramp and repaving of the upper parking lot as well as the flag pole project headed by the Master Gardners. Concrete floors need to be re-finished and we are working with facilities to coordinate the work in several phases estimated to be \$50,000.

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

- Retention of existing member positions and fill the vacancies when the new voting and non-voting members have been referred from District IV and V.

Rules Committee (C-Smith-; VC-Winhall) – Defer report to next month.

Legislative Committee (C-; VC-Raffetto) – Defer report to next month.

Transportation Committee (C-Sweatt; VC-Thompson) – Defer report to next month.

Budget Committee (C-Buchanan; VC-Vacant) – Defer report to next month.

COMMISSION REPORTS: (continued)

Education and Employment Committee (C-Rasbold; VC-Sweatt) – Defer report to next month.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

- *Approved travel claims for March 2015, Todd Smith for February and March \$37.26, Bob Sweatt \$70.84 for a total of \$108.10.*

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Eric Rasbold says his departure is a good thing; he is leaving to pursue other business matters and has offered to fill in as temporary extra help in the Veteran Affairs office. Most likely will resign as the non-voting member of District II. It has been an honor and privilege to work under Ed Swanson and appreciates everything.
- Rich Buchanan suggestion to eliminate the annual meeting in Georgetown and supplant that with El Dorado Hills. Discussion that the By-Laws need to be changed to accommodate that and request to add to next month agenda to discuss this process.
- District IV and V Commission Member and Alternate positions still vacant. Chair will contact Supervisors Ranaelli and Novasel to discuss these vacancies and will report next month.
- Discussion to schedule a Commission meeting in El Dorado Hills, Todd Smith to follow up with tentative location at the Fire Station for June 11, 2015 meeting.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

- April 9, 2015 meeting to be held in Georgetown, Veteran Affairs will coordinate with Frank Clark, VFW 9241 Commander.

ADJOURNMENT: 1248 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward Swanson, Ex-Officio