



County of El Dorado Veteran Affairs Commission

130 Placerville Drive
Placerville CA 95667

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2016 @ 1200 hours
Veteran Memorial Building
130 Placerville Drive
Placerville CA 95667

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE 1201 hours

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

- (EA) I – Commissioner Todd Smith
- (EA) I - Alternate Jack Winhall
- (P) II – Commissioner Tim Thompson
- (P) II – Alternate Edgar “Bud” Brown
- (P) III - Commissioner Kurt Raffetto
- (P) III - Alternate Richard Buchanan
- (P) IV – Commissioner Bill Scrivani
- (P) IV – Alternate Amanda Williams
- (P) V – Commissioner Robert Sweatt
- (P) V – Alternate Phillip Houseworth
- (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.

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME:

Welcome to newly appointed Alternate District IV Commissioner Amanda Williams.
David Zelinsky, Service Officer American Legion

PUBLIC FORUM:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 14, 2016, approved.

SECRETARY EX-OFFICIO REPORT:

- Cal-Vet: Submitted the Semi Annual Report for July-December 2015; Total Non-public assistance retroactive \$839,249.05; Total Non-public assistance monthly benefit \$134,648.11; Total lump sum \$40,308.90; Total prior year awards verified \$3,935.20; Total Medi-cal retroactive \$4,988.82; Total Medi-Cal monthly 836.13, Total Medi-Cal verified 9,801.69, prior year awards.
- VA Regional Office: Oakland 12,075, 1,049 over two years old. National 352,666 claims, NOD's 7,053, 227– over 2 years old. Appeals/Form 9 – 1,051 - 235 over 2 years old. Recently spoke with Regional Office Director and they will be reducing their overtime

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

program soon and Regional Office will be contracting out C&P exams as opposed to using VA Mather this move may not be positive for veterans diagnosis, we'll wait and see.

- County Department Veteran Affairs: Minimum staffing during the week of February 22-26, 2016 due the annual training conference in Sacramento. We are planning for future remodel of the current reception area to bring current ADA compliance.
- Commission Fund Balance: \$4,771.92

COMMISSION MATTERS:

- **TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) Committee**
 - Review final reports for the 2014 Mini Grants: Reviewed and accepted reports.
 - El Dorado Community Foundation and the allotment of Funds to Folsom Lake College, verified they receive funds once per year.
 - No TOT Committee meeting for March.
- **AD HOC** (Veteran Memorial Building – Veterans Building House Council): Building Manager not available, Bill Schultz reports on the newly installed shed, the service organizations who utilize the building are experiencing growing pains and the shed is a welcome addition. The Veterans Memorial Building is now designated as part of the “Quilt Trail Project” and a patriotic quilt was attached the back of the building, the photograph will be in the local paper soon.
- David Zelinsky, American Legion Service Officer: Update
Thanks to the Department of Veteran Affairs for assisting a south county veteran who needed a ride to Mather as his thanks for the gesture he has offered room and board for one month to a deserving and eligible veteran.

Veterans Court, seven matters heard, two will transfer to Sacramento. Three were homeless before arrest and will probably be homeless again when released. A local feed store referred a homeless vet, when released this veteran wants to camp, he will need transportation, food, clothes, gear and camping fees. One veteran has limited family support, another has no family support. Two veterans are not homeless but are hard to connect with. Remember, all these veterans are honorably discharged veterans who are eligible for some benefits.

State Veteran Homes, Redding and Fresno are both wait listed, their hiring requirements that CNA's have prior experience, so there are beds but not enough qualified staff. Barstow is short staffed, but has openings. Chula Vista and Lancaster is full and has six month wait list. Yountville has wait list but gives no available time. Unique placement hang ups often occur due to the “No Pets Policy” and unfortunately refusal to take non-disabled residents under 55. West Los Angeles is emphasizing their service mission to homeless Veterans; they are an extreme urban environment in comparison to our rural Veterans.

The Friends of the Veterans Memorial Monument is currently processing IRS reporting documents. Request to invite the president of this group to the next meeting

Bill Schultz gives accolades for David's dedication and service given to the veteran community.

- Alternate Vacancy: Update District IV. On February 9, 2016, Board of Supervisors agenda item 16-0103 approved Supervisor Ranalli recommendation to the appointment of Amanda Williams as the Alternate District IV commission representative for term to expire on January 1, 2019.
- Social Media Facebook page for the Commission: Scrivani – 30 day Milestones:
In January we were added to the role of a Government Agency and are now a permanent Facebook Page. On February 4, 2016, the Veterans Affairs Commission was added to the Facebook page. “El Dorado County Commission Veterans Affairs Commission: Your Veterans Affairs Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors in the following way: a) Promoting, aiding and encouraging public support for veterans affairs; b) Promoting, aiding and encouraging public support to and recruitment for the National Guard and the Armed Forces of the United States of America; c) Reviewing policies and programs affecting veterans;

and d) Providing appropriate and timely information and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the public concerning veterans affairs and the National Guard.

Membership consists of five members and alternates appointed by each Supervisor. Commissioners serve a Four-year term. The Term coincides with the term of the office of the Supervisor who nominated the member for appointment. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon at the Veterans Memorial Building, which is located at 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville CA.”

<http://www.edcgov.us/commissiondetail.aspx?BoardNumber=71>

We will be rotating the “Pin to Top” position of Facebook between Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Affairs Commission. The change will be approximately every two weeks with the Commission on top till the monthly meeting and the Veterans Affairs Office moving to the top prior to the Veterans Benefits Overview.

We are also in the process of moving Veterans Content from the County Web pages to our Facebook page.

The Numbers this week as of 02/09/2016 are great!
180 Page “Likes” —10 this week; with a 1,404 “Post Reach”

If Commissioners would like to reach out to folks in their District—we can do that for you. Please submit to us a text paragraph and a photo, with your Cooperation we would like to post one District a week. Amanda Williams invited to join this group, meeting tomorrow in the Veterans Memorial Building Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

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) – No report
- 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 February 2016, approved.*

Bud Brown	13.18
Bill Scrivani	17.50
Bob Sweatt	66.53
<i>Total</i>	84.03

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Rich Buchanan offered congratulations to Kurt Raffetto on his appointment to the Marshall Medical Foundation Board of Directors and also to Jake Parsons, both these men are distinguished Senior Veteran Officers who can bring focus to our veteran health issues.
- Bill Scrivani working on collaboration of proposed mentor within the Veteran Court system similar to Sacramento County.
- Received new information from the Department of Defense on Herbicide Tests and Storage outside of Vietnam.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

- Meeting date: March 10, 2016, 12:00 pm at the Veterans Memorial Building, 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville CA 95667.

ADJOURNMENT: 1255 hours:

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. Swanson, Ex-Officio