



County of El Dorado Veteran Affairs Commission

130 Placerville Drive
Placerville CA 95667

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2016 @ 1200 hours

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 1201 hours.

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

- (P) 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
- (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 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: August 11, 2016. Approved.

SECRETARY EX-OFFICIO REPORT:

- CAL-VET: October annual conference and training, handout of 2015-2016 Legislative Session ends; vet bill on governor's desk.
- VA Regional Office: Oakland Regional Office, 11,356 claims – NOD and Form 9 no data available. National 377,189 claims – 76,500 over 125 days old.
- County Department Veteran Affairs: Ed Swanson retirement end of October.
- Commission Fund Balance: \$4,785.77
- Intern Update: CalVet testing end of September.

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

COMMISSION MATTERS:

• TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) Committee

- El Dorado Community Foundation has opened the applications for Mini-Grants, you can view and download them on their websites, due at the end of the month. These grants will be reviewed at the October T.O.T. Committee meeting. Adding Amanda Williams to the committee, removing Jack Winhall.
- **AD HOC** (Veteran Memorial Building – Veterans Building House Council): Bill Scrivani reported on the City of Placerville Vietnam Veterans Memorial downtown across from the court house, the House Council committed to donate \$14,000 toward this project in collaboration as Eagle Scout project. Apparently, the estimate cost is \$70,000 over and above what the Scout might do. The center piece would be the restoration to a more fitting resting place of the Vietnam Killed In Action bricks that used to be on Main Street. Bud Brown reports that the House Council will financially support a portion of the cost for the re-setting of the bricks.

- David Zelinsky, American Legion Service Officer: Rich Buchanan, for the record, stated that David Zelinsky represents the American Legion.

ACT Collaborative: This collaborative is set up by the Cal-Vet, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties, El Dorado is now part of this organization. The American Legion Post 119 is the host site, meeting is 09/08/2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Victory Village: Over the last several months Victory Village has accepted three El Dorado County homeless veterans. Their “yes” has been whole hearted. All three were relatively free of substance issues and mental health issues. I have had only good reports so far.

State Veterans Homes: Redding has six empty beds in its memory unit waiting for CAN staffing. Unfortunately, the state still seems to want the CNAs to have worked somewhere else first, which is really screwing up the process. Redding is working with Shasta College to provide CNA training, and HOPES to be allowed to hire the graduates. Filling six beds would make a huge difference in the waiting list. Right now they estimate the wait time for skilled nursing is two years. For the first time they now are full and starting a wait list for RCFE (Residential Care Facility for the Elderly, sort of like Assisted Living).

Mather Homeless Primary Care: There has been a huge turnover of staff, which is frustrating. The appointment scheduler is doing a good job of communicating; he let me know that a homeless veteran that I was following failed to get housed because the veteran failed to appear for his TB test, which is a same day chest X-ray. Hopefully, the veteran will be housed by the time of the commission meeting. The new homelessness drug and alcohol worker did a good job getting a homeless female, meth addict, into recovery. Things are on the upswing.

El Dorado County Jail: The staff is awesome to work with, they bend over backwards to accommodate access to the veterans. One inmate said he was very pleased with his chaplain. Officer Even of Inmate Services helped an inmate connect to Bible classes, drug and alcohol classes and other behavioral health classes.

El Dorado County Veteran Affairs: The staff is supportive in helping connect veterans to local services. The local connection is part of why every veteran needs to connect with their local VSO.

Veterans Treatment Court: Once again due to meeting schedule, this report will not reflect the September hearing. A new participant, a female will be sentenced. Connecting her to the VTC staff was a huge win. She will bring up to seven the number of participants. Other incarcerated veterans, hopefully a new protocol will be introduced into our county. It is my hope at the time of arraignment a new form is reviewed with every defendant. Catching the incarcerated veterans in jail, when they are sober and grateful for the attention, is essential.

Folsom Lake College Veterans Center Programs: Encouraged the Commission to reconsider funding of this program because other veteran programs could give us more bang for the buck.

- Social Media Facebook page for the Commission: Scrivani – Legal Disclaimer for Facebook page, will be forwarded to appropriate county departments for review and comment. New link under construction which will represent all things that happen in the Department of Veteran Affairs Office.

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 draft by-laws, Patricia will process in a useable format and send to committee.

Legislative Committee (C-Raffetto; VC-Smith) – Prop. 61 review and action, motion oppose approved. Patricia will draft letter for Chair signature to forward to Board of Supervisors.

Transportation Committee (C-Sweatt; VC-Thompson) – VFW and MFSG offers rides to veterans if they do not meet the El Dorado Transit Sacramento Medical operation schedule. The House Council provides funds to purchase transit bus vouchers that the Veteran Affairs Department oversees and distributes. South Lake Tahoe transportation collaboration offer once a month bus to Reno but the start and end time is limited.

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

Education and Employment Committee (C-Sweatt; VC-Houseworth) – Employment flyer distributed by Phillip Houseworth from Teichert Construction and Operating Engineers Local 3, unfortunately no openings for placement, will not take apprentices unless they have a job.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

- *Receive and approve travel claims for September 2016, approved.*

Bud Brown	13.20
Phillip Houseworth	15.50
Bill Scrivani	12.95
Todd Smith	16.79
Robert Sweatt	66.55
Total	124.99

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- VA publishes various news announcements on their website.
- International Gold Panning Championship starts September 11-18 at the Fairgrounds.
- Aging population growing, many are left alone don't have the capabilities of reaching out to attend social events.
- Tim Thompson received word about a World War II who was hospitalized, bringing much needed comfort.
- Rich Buchanan requests committee reports in writing.
- Rich Buchanan requests Commission members participate in upcoming fundraiser golf tournaments and will keep everyone informed and participation. The Friends of Veterans Memorial Monument is a recipient of a fundraiser for its scholarship.
- Veteran Amanda Williams will share information on kick starter events.

DATE-TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING:

- October 13, 2016, T.O.T. Committee starts at 11:00 a.m. and the Commission meeting at 12 noon, at the South Lake Tahoe Airport, City Council Chambers, 1901 Airport Road, South Lake Tahoe CA 96150

ADJOURNMENT: 1304 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. Swanson, Secretary Ex-Officio