



ALAMEDA COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

General Meeting Agenda

Monday, June 16, 2025

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

In-Person Attendance:

St. Vincent De Paul 2272 San Pablo Ave. Oakland

Street Parking Available

Tentatively Available Via Zoom Video Conference Call, use link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99526750740?pwd=YlpjQ1JsRm5FM2VsNndTL3FZRmg0Zz09>

For Dial-in Option, use the number below:

+1 669 900 6833 (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 995 2675 0740 | Passcode: 995735

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99526750740?pwd=YlpjQ1JsRm5FM2VsNndTL3FZRmg0Zz09>

Public participation at Commission meetings is encouraged. Individual public comments per agenda item shall be no more than two minutes.

10:00 – 10:02

CALL TO ORDER:

- Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum
- Review and Approval of May 2025 General Meeting Minutes

10:02 – 10:03

SALUTE COLORS-IN-PLACE

10:03 – 10:04

RECITE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

10:04 – 10:05

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR POW/MIA & VETERANS LOST BY SUICIDE

10:05 – 10:10

PUBLIC COMMENT

10:10 – 10:20

Welcome Commissioners Josh Jones (IAVA) & David Bitner! (MOAA)

10:20 – 10:30

STAFF UPDATE: New VSO space

Guest Speaker/s:

10:30 – 11:05

Vet Boats Presentation (tentative) [20 min Presentation & 15 min Q&A]

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

11:05 – 11:15

- Outreach (Owens): VAC Logo, Santa Rita Jail Visit [10 min]

11:15 – 11:25

- Executive (Owens) [10 min]

11:25 – 11:35

- Veteran Observance Days (Williamson/Farmer) [10 min]

11:35 – 11:40

- Veteran Memorial Buildings. (Brunner/Farmer) [5 min]

11:40 – 11:45

- Stand Down. (Farmer) [10 min]

11:45 – 11:55

Andrea Ford, Agency Director

Faith M. Battles, Assistant Agency Director

11:55
12 PM

NEW BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS. [5 min]
ADJOURNMENT

THE COMMISSIONS' PURPOSE

[Article 3 §§ 1 and 2] [CA admin code § 2.92.040 - Duties]

The commission **SHALL ADVISE & ASSIST the BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** on matters relating to veterans & their families as may pertain to meeting their basic needs for veterans' benefits, housing, food, shelter, & employment:

1. Assist in all **VETERANS' OBSERVANCE DAYS** during the year;
[***SUGGESTED** - ¹Armed Forces Day (3rd Saturday **May**), ²Memorial Day (Last Monday **May**), ³Patriot Day (Annually **September** 11), ⁴Veterans Day (11th **November** Annually).]*
2. Promote, develop, & identify the needs of the veterans and their families.
3. Submit recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding programs, plans, goals, policy, & procedures dealing with veteran services.
4. Review annually the status of veterans' benefits.
5. Study, investigate & research veterans' matters in Alameda County so that services to veterans can be coordinated and maximized.

The Commission's purpose & objectives to **ADVISE & ASSIST the Board of Supervisors** are accomplished through:

- Attending and speaking at civic/community activities.
- Membership in Veterans' Organizations.
- Individual contacts within the Community.
- Membership in Civic Organizations.
- Membership in Honor and Color Guard Units.
- Personal Commitment.
- Participation in Eastbay Stand-Downs.
- Lobbying (Any attempt by individuals or private interest groups to influence the decisions of a politician or public official on an issue), etc.

[Reference: Outlined in the 5/24/2021, 7/22/2019, 11/26/2018, and 9/26/2016 Annual Veterans Affairs Commission Report to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors]



Alameda County
Veterans Affairs Commission
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 19, 2025

Alameda County
**Social Services
Agency**
6955 Foothill Blvd – Ste. 300
Oakland, CA 94605
<http://alamedasocialservices.org>

CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 10:08 am
- Roll Call, Quorum Achieved.

<u>In Attendance:</u> <i>(P=Present, E=Excused, A=Absent, O=Online Attendance)</i>	County Staff Present:
O. Farmer (Vice Chair) = P G. Owens (Chair) = P R. Forbes = A J. Phair = P S. Dolgin = A K. Warner = P M. Gilmore = P D. Williamson = P N. Harrison = P J. McLvain = P F. Jaffin = P S. Yohannes = P L. Brunner = A A. Gordillo = P I. LoParo = P D. Reed = E D. Boldt = P M. Reed = P R. Cole = E J. Jones = P	Jonathan Montero-Flores Anthony Simpson Rhoda Turner

AGENDA/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Item	Discussion/Recommendations
Adopt Agenda	Meeting agenda adopted by Commission as read.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	Motion to accept meeting minutes from 4/21/2025: Motion to approve: Commissioner Phair (M) Commissioner McLvain (S) Motion Passed
Public Comment	None.
Staff Updates:	Anthony Simpson, Veterans Service Officer discussed the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ It was reported last month that two staff members were out. The good news is that one has since returned, giving them additional support to help facilitate the upcoming outreach programs.○ One of the upcoming outreach programs will be a Fremont Claims Clinic scheduled for May 31st.○ It was noted that the Commission may not have received the data reflecting revenue generated from services provided to clients seen in March and April.

	<p>Action: <i>Veterans Service Offer Anthony Simpson emailed the data to Commissioner Farmer.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are personnel on standby to participate in the Stand Down event scheduled for June." ○ There is still no update regarding the relocation of the VSO office. The Commission will be notified as soon as information becomes available."
<p>Guest Speaker: John Reiscenweber</p> <p>Topic: PGA Hope Reach Foundation</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Luis Hernandez, Director</p> <p>Topic: Cal Veterans Service Center</p>	<p>It was noted that staff from the ROTC Program were unable to attend or present at this meeting.</p> <p>John Reiscenweber, representing the PGA HOPE Reach Foundation, delivered a presentation to the commission.</p> <p>Luis Hernandez, Director of the Cal Vet Center, spoke about the center's role, services offered, and its work supporting veterans. Mr. Hernandez noted that while the Cal Vet Center has a relationship with the ROTC, the two operate as separate departments.</p>
<p>Sub-Committee Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Owens noted that there are 22 seats on the Commission, with 19 currently filled. • It was mentioned that Josh Jones is scheduled to take the oath later today, which will bring the total to 20 filled seats. • There are currently two open seats: one for the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and one for the Marine Corps League. Once these positions are filled, the board will be at full capacity (100% representation). ➤ Outreach and VAC Logo: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following an online vote by the commission members, Option 3 (Combat Uni & Flag) was selected with the majority of votes (15) as the official logo for the Veterans Advisory Committee for Alameda County." <p>The following outreach opportunities were mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Golf Tournament – Held in Castro Valley at the Redwood Canyon Golf Course on June 7, 2025. ▪ Santa Rita Jail Tour - Commissioner Farmer informed the Commission that the tour of the Santa Rita Jail, originally scheduled for this Friday, would need to be rescheduled. The proposed new dates are Monday, June 2 or Wednesday, June 4 from 9 am to 10:30 am. Commissioners were asked to confirm their availability for these alternative dates. ▪ Swords to Plowshares Mentorship Program: A continuing initiative offering peer mentorship and transitional support for veterans reintegrating into civilian life. ▪ Spring 2025 Job and Resource Fair: Held on May 28, 2025, at the Castro Valley Library from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. ➤ Executive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Executive Committee met on May 9th.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Items discussed included the budget, Women Veterans Recognition Day, and the Stand Down event. <p>➤ Women Veterans Recognition Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Williamson reported that she, along with Commissioners Brunner and Yohannes, has been diligently working to complete the items outlined in the timeline checklist. Commissioner Williamson provided an update on the progress of items from the checklist. The flyer is still being updated to include the QR code and the new logo. It was noted that the only remaining task is to create the program guide. The Commission discussed potential awards that can be given, including the Quilts of Valor, as well as the possibility of presenting a slideshow during the event. <p>➤ Veterans Observance Days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information was shared about various Memorial Day events taking place in Alameda, Castro Valley, Livermore, Lone Tree, and other local communities. Commissioner Farmer provided a Flag Day update, noting that Flag Day is observed annually on June 14th. The committee met at the Alameda Veterans Memorial Building on Saturday and identified 23 flags in various sizes that can be distributed to organizations in need. Commissioner Farmer stated that he has already been in contact with several organizations that have expressed a need for a flag. The next steps for the committee include creating a list of organizations that need flags, confirming the required sizes, and coordinating delivery. <p>➤ Stand Down:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Farmer stated that one of the biggest additions to this year's Stand Down event is the inclusion of Criminal Court Clean Slate Relief. It was noted that 29 organizations will be in attendance on Friday, and 24 organizations will participate on Saturday. Commissioner Farmer discussed the use of professional advertising services to promote the event on AC Transit or BART. The group engaged in a discussion regarding the upcoming Stand Down event.
ORAL COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS	Veteran Service Officer Anthony Simpson clarified the amount of compensation for incarcerated veterans.
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.