

Andrea Ford, Agency Director

**Alameda County Veteran Affairs Commission**  
**Commission Meeting**  
**April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 9:30am**  
**Via Zoom Conference Call**  
**EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES**

**ACVAC Commissioner Present:**

- O. Farmer (Chair)
- G. Owens
- M. Gilmore
- D. Williamson
- F. Jaffin (virtually)
- R. Forbes
- J. LoParo

**County Staff Present:**

- Mariana Austin
- Esperanza Contreras
- Sonya Frost
- Kareem Hazard

**ACVAC Commissioners Absent:**

- J. Phair

Item	Discussion/ Recommendations
A. CALL TO ORDER Welcome & Introductions Adopt agenda	Meeting Chaired by O. Farmer called to order at 10:06am Roll Call of Commissioners Quorum achieved.  Commission approve agenda 04/17/2023: <b>Motion to Approve:</b> (M) Owens (S) Gilmore <b>Motion Passed:</b> Meeting agenda adopted by Commission
B. MEETING MINUTES	Commission approve Commission meeting minutes – 03/20/2023: <b>Motion to Approve:</b> (M) Owens (S) Gilmore The minutes need to be amended to reflect the presence of Commissioner Forbes. <b>Motion Passed:</b> Meeting minutes adopted by Commission as amended.
C. VETERANS OBSERVANCE DAY(S) EVENTS	1. Armed Forces Day (05/13-20) 2. Memorial Day (05/29)

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	<p>3. Recap of National Vietnam Veteran War Day</p> <p>a. Commissioner Farmer spoke on Behalf of late Supervisor Valle's staff.</p> <p>4. 4<sup>TH</sup> of July Parade</p> <p>Commissioner Owens would like to invite the Commissioners to join the American Legion at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade at the City of Alameda.</p>
D. AGENDA ITEMS	<p>a. <b>Legislation – Review of PAL Forms Submitted.</b></p> <p>i. AB 531, AB 46,</p> <p>b. <b>By-laws approval status</b></p> <p>i. The original date for the by-laws approval by the BOS got pushed until 04/18.</p> <p>c. <b>Veterans Day Event Committee</b></p> <p>i. The Commission would like to push for Oakland to have a Veterans Day Event</p>
E. COMISSION REPORTS	<p>a. Membership:</p> <p>b. Budget:</p>
F. OTHER ITEMS	<p>No announcements</p> <p><b>Next Meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Committee: April 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am.</li> </ul>
G. ADJOURNMENT	<p>Meeting adjourned at 10:07am.</p>

## Alameda County Veteran Affairs Commission

### Commission Meeting April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10:00am Via Zoom Conference Call GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

#### ACVAC Commissioner Present:

- O. Farmer (Chair)
- D. Williamson (Vice Chair)
- G. Owens
- J. LoParo
- F. Jaffin
- N. Harrison
- M. Gilmore
- B. Rizvir
- R. Forbes
- K. Warner

#### County Staff Present:

- Sonya Frost
- Esperanza Contreras
- Mariana Austin
- Kareem Hazard

#### ACVAC Commissioners Absent:

- E. Gilmore
- J. Phair
- L. Diaz
- J. LoParo

Item	Discussion/ Recommendations
1. CALL TO ORDER Welcome & Introductions Adopt agenda	Meeting Chaired by O. Farmer called to order at 10:06am Roll Call of Commissioners Quorum achieved.  Commission approve agenda 04/17/2023: <b>Motion to Approve:</b> (M) Owens (S) Gilmore <b>Motion Passed:</b> Meeting agenda adopted by Commission
2. MEETING MINUTES	Commission approve Commission meeting minutes – 03/20/2023: <b>Motion to Approve:</b> (M) Harrison (S) LoParo The minutes need to be amended to reflect the presence of Commissioner Forbes. The minutes need to be amended to reflect the correct date on 4.a. as May 5 <sup>th</sup> . <b>Motion Passed:</b> Meeting minutes adopted by Commission as amended.

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3. PUBLIC COMMENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eleni Spiru – Swords to Plowshare</li> <li>2. Lashelle Burch – VA Palo Alto</li> <li>3. Mark Walker – Sword to Plowshares</li> <li>4. Darlene Escalante – Santa Clara Veterans Office</li> </ol>
4. VSO Concerns	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On 03/31 Ms. Escalante visited the Veteran Services Office. She has several concerns regarding the Alameda County Veteran Services office, and the following were brought up to the Commission. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. No signage pointing to the Office.</li> <li>b. No dedicated personnel to greet and direct Veterans once in the office.</li> <li>c. Not enough personnel for Veterans be seen in a timely manner.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. ACVSO Replies to the concerns: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ACVSO is working with Eastmont Mall to add signage to the offices</li> <li>b. ACVSO is currently working with Ohlone College and CSU East Bay to encourage clients to schedule appointments.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. The position of the Commission is that the ACVSO needs to have a dedicated, standalone office.</li> </ol> <p>Motion to create a VSO Concern Committee: (M) M. Gilmore (S) R. Forbes Approved .</p>
5. VETERANS OBSERVANCE DAY(S) EVENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Armed Forces Day (05/13-20)</li> <li>2. Memorial Day (05/29)</li> <li>3. Recap of National Vietnam Veteran War Day <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Commissioner Farmer spoke on Behalf of late Supervisor Valle's staff.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. 4<sup>TH</sup> of July Parade <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Commissioner Owens would like to invite the Commissioners to join the American Legion at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade at the City of Alameda.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

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<p>6. COMMITTEE REPORTS</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Executive: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. None</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Membership <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 19 voting positions,</li> <li>b. Current Vacancies with the Commission: American Legion (1); Veterans of Foreign Wars (1); American Vets (1); Women Vets (1); Marine Corps League (1); Disabled American Veterans (1), Widows of Veterans (1)</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Budget: None</li> <li>4. Outreach: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Commissioner Williamson would like to extend a standing invitation to the Commission to come to their Veteran Town Hall to talk about the Commission and do some outreach work. The meetings are bi-monthly, and the next one is on May 5<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Bylaws <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A Letter of Explanation was added to the bylaws for submission with the BOS. It will go before the BOS tomorrow, 4/18.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. NBVC-COL C. Young Campaign Initiative <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Commissioner Harrison is joining the Committee.</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. Legislative <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Refer to agenda items.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p>7. AGENDA ITEMS</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Motion to create a Veterans Day Committee <p>(M) Harrison</p> <p>(S) Williamson</p> <p>Approved.</p> </li> <li>2. Absent Commissioners <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Commissioners Remoaldo, E. Gilmore, Diaz, and Parshall.</li> </ol> <p>ACTION ITEM: ACVSO to email current list of Commissioners and appointment dates to the Commission.</p> <p>ACTION ITEM: Add "Absent Commissioners" discussion from the ACVAC to the May Executive Meeting.</p> </li> </ol>

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8. ACVSO REPORT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Currently interviewing to backfill vacancies;</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3. Veteran Legislation               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. AB 46 – Tax exemption</li> <li>b. AB 531 – State funding to address veteran homelessness.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. CALVET audit is coming up.</li> <li>5. AAA to order name plates for all Commissioners.</li> </ol>
9. OTHER ITEMS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All Services Retiree Seminar, Saturday: 22 April 2023   Gresham Hall - Coast Guard Island, Alameda (Military ID Card Required at the Gate).</li> <li>2. <a href="http://ncpgafoundation.org">Find A Program (ncpgafoundation.org)</a> PGA HOPE is a seven-week introductory golf program FREE to military veterans taught by PGA &amp; LPGA Professionals. PGA HOPE is the flagship program of the Northern California PGA Foundation.</li> </ol> <p><b>Next Meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Meeting: May 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am.</li> </ul>
10. ADJOURNMENT	Meeting adjourned at 12:03am.