



# Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission



**Department of Adult & Aging Services**  
6955 Foothill Boulevard, Suite 300  
Oakland, CA 94605  
<http://alamedasocialservices.org>

## Executive Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 23, 2023

### I. CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 10:00 am
- Roll Call, Quorum Achieved.

**Commission Members:** (P=Present, E=Excused, A=Absent, O=Online Attendance)

#### In Attendance:

O. Farmer (Chair) = P	D. Williamson (Vice Chair) = E
G. Owens = A	N. Harrison = P
J. Phair = P	M. Gilmore = P
F. Jaffin = P	K. Warner = A
J. LoParo = P	R. Forbes = A

**County Staff Present:** Esperanza Contreras, Malisa Davis, & Rhoda Turner

- Pledge of Allegiance

### II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF October 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Not available

### III. OPENING REMARKS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Moment of Silence for POW/MIA Veterans.

Veterans with a Smile – Free dental services next month for Veterans.

### IV. AGENDA/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item	Discussion/Recommendations
1. Sub-Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Nomination Committee:</u> Nate Harrison made a motion to ratify O. Farmer as Chair, and M. Gilmore as Vice-Chair, Passed unanimously.</li> <li>• <u>Membership:</u> J. McIvein was interviewed in January, S. Yohannes no updates, L. Brunner-need clarification for the letter of recommendation that the BOS is requesting, G. Wilson-application has not been confirmed. <b>Action:</b> Luna will follow up with Board of Supervisors. O. Farmer will follow up with G. Wilson to see if an application was submitted.</li> <li>• <u>Budget:</u> Omar will follow up with Jennifer or Sonya to see if budget was approved. Wreath was not included in budget. Who pays for the wreath? Catering for VAC meetings-is this to be paid with commission's budget? <b>Action:</b> Luna to get more information on who paid for the Memorial Day Wreath</li> <li>• <u>PAL Legislation Recommendations:</u> AB298-Blind Veterans Act passed but no funding. SB82 Property taxation: disabled veterans' exemption bill passed. AB-531 The Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act was passed by the Governor. Support bill to increase the Survivors/Spouse benefits.</li> <li>• <u>Outreach:</u> Add Veterans Connections Newsletter to next month's agenda. Need to discuss when will the newsletter start circulating again.</li> <li>• <u>Veterans Day:</u> S. Phair motioned to create a subcommittee for Veterans' Observance</li> </ul>

## All Managers Huddle Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 24, 2024

	<p>Events for 2024. Seconded by F. Jaffin. Passed unanimously. Subcommittee members to include: Omar, Joe, Nate, and Fred.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Stand Down Event</u>: Scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 2pm or 3pm at Laney College. Confirmation from Laney still pending.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> O. Farmer will contact Supervisor Miley's staff to confirm support from Miley. Commission requested data that provides the highest # of Veterans per district.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> M. Davis will provide data to Commission.</p>
<b>2. Staff Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mariana Austin has departed from SSA will no longer be supporting the VAC.</li> <li>• VSO William Orecchia has departed from the County and SSA is currently seeking to replace his position.</li> <li>• Jennifer out on FMLA Leave and expected to return next month.</li> <li>• Welcome new Secretary Rhoda Turner, who is replacing Mariana's position.</li> <li>• SSA is currently Interviewing for 2 new VSRs.</li> </ul>

### V. ADJOURNMENT

11:35 am