



Alameda County
Veterans Affairs Commission
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 21, 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 10:02 am
- Roll Call, Quorum Achieved.
Motion to accept Commissioners Reed and Gordillo to be online per AB2449 of the Brown Act.
(M) Commissioner Farmer
(S) Commissioner McLvain
Motion Passed.

<u>In Attendance:</u> (P=Present, E=Excused, A=Absent, O=Online Attendance)	County Staff Present:
<div>O. Farmer (Vice Chair) = P R. Forbes = P S. Dolgin = P M. Gilmore = P N. Harrison = P F. Jaffin = P L. Brunner = P I. LoParo = A D. Boldt = P R. Cole = P</div> <div>G. Owens (Chair) = P J. Phair = P K. Warner = P D. Williamson = P J. McLvain = P S. Yohannes = P A. Gordillo = Online D. Reed = P M. Reed = Online</div>	Jennifer Stephens-Pierre Anthony Simpson Jonathan Montero-Flores 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 2/18/2025: Motion to approve: Commissioner Reed (M) Commissioner Harrison (S) Motion Passed
Public Comment	None.
Staff Updates:	Anthony Simpson, Veterans Service Officer discussed the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The stand-alone CVSO office in Hayward is in a prime location, just minutes from Bart and the freeway, making it easily accessible for meetings.○ The accommodations are aligned with the type of service that is aimed to assist the veterans.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A top priority is launching a PSA campaign to ensure the County is well-informed about the upcoming relocation. ○ In addition to relocating to Hayward, they are committed to maintaining an active presence at the Eastmont and Fremont locations despite their staffing troubles. ○ Statistics from the CVSO office were discussed.
<p>Guest Speaker: Samantha Stonework-Hand, Assistant County Council</p> <p>Topic: Brown Act & Robert Rules of Order Training</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Santos L. Carter, Veterans Benefits Coordinator</p> <p>Topic: CSUEB Veteran Resource Center</p>	<p>Samantha Stonework-Hand, Assistant County Council conducted the Brown Act & Robert Rules of Order Training, providing an overview of its history and explaining its relevance and application to the Commission.</p> <p>Santos L. Carter, Veteran Benefits Coordinator, spoke on the veteran student population. He highlighted some of the programs they offer to veterans, dependents of veterans, and spouses.</p>
<p>Sub-Committee Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Veterans Affairs Commission comprises a total of 22 positions, of which 21 are designated as voting positions. As of the date of this meeting, 19 voting positions are currently filled. • Mr. Josh Jones has applied to become a commissioner, he will represent the Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans of America. This application is scheduled to be considered for a vote at the BOS meeting on April 29th. ➤ Outreach and VAC Logo: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following an online vote by the commission members, Option 3 was selected with the majority of votes (15) as the official logo for the Veterans Affairs Commission." • The observance of National Vietnam Veterans Day on the Hornet was conducted successfully. Commissioner LoParo served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event, and the proceedings went off very well." • Commissioner Farmer acknowledged and gave a heartfelt shout-out to the ACVAC Vietnam Veterans—Commissioners: James “Skip” Phair, Fred Jaffin, Robert Cole, Alfred Gordillo, Nate Harrison, Joe LoParo, and Jack McIlvain—recognizing their service and sacrifice. • A poll regarding the 2025 Santa Rita Veterans POD Tour was shared with the Commission and discussed. • Swords to Plowshares Mentorship Program. • VA Palo Alto Health Care Medical Outreach Team will be at the Hayward Veterans Memorial Hall May 8th from 10 am – 1:00 pm. • Charity golf tournament at Las Positas Golf Course on Saturday, April 26

- All Services Retiree Seminar on Saturday, April 26th in Alameda on Coast Guard Island.
- Veterans Claims Clinic at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Fremont will be held on Saturday, May 31st, from 10 am – 3 pm.

➤ **Executive:**

- The Executive Committee meeting was held on April 4th.
- The Committee reviewed and discussed key items for the General ACVAC meeting on April 21.
- The subcommittee discussed the division of responsibilities related to agenda items.
- The subcommittee also discussed the Woman Veterans Recognition Day, the upcoming Stand Down event, and the ACVAC logo.

➤ **Women Veterans Recognition Day:**

- The Commission was informed that two flyer designs have been created; however, only one was available for review at the time of the meeting.
- The Commission will need to vote at a future meeting to determine whether to move forward with one flyer design or to distribute both.
- The Committee is actively working to secure a keynote speaker for the upcoming event.
- Two candidates are currently under consideration: Deputy Secretary of Women's Affairs Mayumi Kimura and Evelyn Andrews.

➤ **Veterans Observance Days:**

- Women Veterans Day on June 12th. Event will take place at the Alameda Naval Air Museum.
- Memorial Day Wreath Request – A request was made to obtain a wreath for the Memorial Day event at the Alameda Veterans Memorial Park.
- The commission discussed various Memorial Day events scheduled throughout Alameda County. Specific events mentioned included ceremonies at the Castro Valley Community Center and City of San Leandro City Hall. Members shared information about the planned activities at each location and discussed potential commission representation and support.

➤ **Stand Down:**

- The flyer for the Stand Down has been finalized.
- The biggest change implemented was the addition of criminal court slate relief.
- Commissioner Farmer will reach out to the Assessor's Office, which has agreed to help spread the word about the upcoming Stand Down event.
- The County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) confirmed that they will be present at the upcoming event. Their

	<p>participation will provide additional support and resources for attendees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was confirmed that a medical mobile unit will be present at the event to provide on-site services and support for attendees. • The event will feature music and free parking for attendees.
ORAL COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS	The next Veterans Advisory Commission meeting will take place at UC Berkeley on May 19 th .
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.