Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 21st, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Locations: via Zoom

Meeting Called to order at 10:54 by Chair Steven Johnson.

Salute Colors-in-Place

Minute of Silence for MIA POW

Commissioner's Role Call: Eugene Cota (absent), Raymond Will (Excused), Baqar Rizvi, Steven Johnson, Diane Williamson, Fred Jaffin, Luis Diaz, Ethel Gilmore (absent), Felix Guillory (absent), Ronald Parshall, Kasey Warner

Staff Present: Yolanda Newton, Bruce Choy, Mariana Austin, Gerardo Carr

Approval of Minutes 05/17/2021 as Read:

- (M) Diaz
- (S) Williamson
  Approved.

Correspondence: None

Guest Speaker: None

Subcommittee Reports

1. Membership: Steven Johnson, Ronald Parshall & Luis Diaz
    a. Raymond Will stated he's resigning, creating a second opening within the Vietnam Veterans of America.
    b. Yolanda Newton has sent out applications to fill out the positions on District 1 and Board of Supervisors.
    c. Chair Johnson has a prospect for the vacant Disable American Veterans position.
    d. VSR has forwarded two applications for new commission members.
    e. Action Item: Chair Johnson to call Commissioner Parshall regarding the American Legion Vacancy.
    f. Action Item: Commissioners to reach out to their District Supervisor and update them regarding vacancies and prospects to fill the positions.
2. Finance Sub-committee – Commissioner Guillory **(2 vacancies)**

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   a. No report
3. Bylaws Sub-committee – Anthony Marchante, **(2 vacancies)**
   a. No Reports
4. Outreach Sub-committee – Diane Williamson **(1 vacancy)**
   a. Commissioner Williamson has sent out an announcement in her newsletter advertising the open positions for the Commission.
5. Staff – Gerardo Carr
   a. Reach out to Yolanda or Jennifer Stephens-Pierre if they need support of have specific request, as ACVSO is out of office until further notice
   b. Ms. Stephens-Pierre to reach out Board of Supervisors regarding the status of the Bylaws
   c. Webinars: Advise them that the CVSO will soon launch benefits webinars and will continue to provide updates on the proposed dates.
   d. Veterans Treatment Court/mentorship: Advise the commission that were continuing to meet with our VTC partners and that were excited to announce that we currently have 4 mentors onboarded.

Event Report – Presentation to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, May 24th, 2021.

1. Commissioner Williamson gave a presentation to the Board of Supervisors about the Commission and the services offered to Veterans by the County. Presentation is attached at the end of the minutes.
2. Action Item: VSR to reach out to Swords to Plowshares regarding the reimbursement process for the fees associated with the Live Scan process for volunteer mentors for the Veterans Treatment Court.

Announcements

1. PTSD Presentations
   a. April 17th presentation rescheduled for May– Speakers will share stories of their PTSD
   b. June - History and Treatment PTSD panel of experts

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c. September – Theater of War re: Mental Health Professional Actors focus on the impact of service combat on PTSD issues on Hornet
d. November – Grand Finally around Veterans (Day details to come)
e. No moneys needed from commission. Would like us to get people within our organization to participate by attendance or being involve with the events.

Agenda Items:

a. July 2021 – PTSD Presentations
   i. Action Item: Chair Johnson to reach out to Mark regarding the details or the July Presentation.
b. Hornet Veterans Day – Still waiting for Board of Supervisor approval.

Announcements

1. **Commissioner Jaffin**
   a. Funeral for CHESTER L. WARD MD, MPH Brigadier General, MC, MFS, USA. General Ward will be laid to rest with military honors in his home state of California at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, California on Monday, June 28, 2021.
2. PTSD Presentation – July, September, and November 2021
   a. PTS Resource Center - USS Hornet Museum (uss-hornet.org)

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 am.

Next Meeting August 16th at 10:00am via Zoom