

The United Veterans Council of San Diego (UVC)
"2007 VETERANS ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR"

An Ad-hoc Alliance of Veteran's Organizations
"The Voice of the San Diego Veteran's Community"

www.sduvc.org

Minutes
27 September 2008

Call to order by the Chairman at 9:30 A.M.

Patriotic Moment: Patriotic reading by Lt. Col. Tom Richards

Pledge of Allegiance:

Invocation: Chaplain Babs Meairs

Administrative Remarks

- In the interest of capturing the voice recording for the minutes, I ask everyone to use the microphone. Unamplified voices don't record well in this room.
- All hands please turn off all mobile phones and pagers, or put them on vibrate.
- Please limit your comments to issues and items pertaining to veterans and their concerns.

Introductions

- Veteran of the Year: Nancy Owen
- Past Veterans of the Year: John Smith
- Previous Chairpersons of the United Veterans' Council: John Smith, Joe Brunner
- General Introductions:

Guest Speakers:

- JP Tremblay, CDVA Deputy Secretary for Communications and Ted Puntillo, (New) CDVA Deputy Secretary for Veterans Services – California Department of Veterans' Affairs Update:
 - > Presentation of award: To SDUVC for helping pass the HEART legislation
 - > H.E.A.R.T. Bill: Veterans bill, qualifying for home loans
 - > Steve Arends: Award for working to get H.E.A.R.T. Act passed.
 - > Proposition 12: On ballot: Bond bill for new loans for veterans for California – Never uses general funds. Since 1922 has been good for Californians. Bill gets veterans an education and a home.
- State Assembly Member Mary Salas – CA Veterans Employment Update
 - > Chair of CA. Veterans Affairs Committee
 - > Dad served in WWII with 3 brothers
 - > 11% of CA prison population is veterans

- > SD is model for delivery of veteran services.
- > Highlights and preview of her work in the CA Assembly:
 - 5% of VA caseload is for injured veterans
 - PTSD assistance and mental health care for veterans and the National Guard
 - She has Veteran bills on Governor's desk: Addressing veteran's issues.
 - Restructuring budget because of financial crisis.
 - Will work for funding of CVSOs
 - Identifying veterans on State programs that should be in federal programs: Will save at least 25 million dollars.
 - Post 9/11 GI Bill for those who served after 9/11: 36 months of assistance.
 - Veterans do not pay out of state college tuitions in CA: Bill she is proposing.
 - Voted reluctantly for current State budget because it needed to get passed for non-profit veteran organizations.
 - CA requires 2/3 vote to pass bills: One of only 3 states with this requirement. She proposes 55% to pass.
 - Proposition 12: SD Union Tribune opposes bond. But it will get paid back and will be a boost to the economy.
- Robert Summers – San Diego County Veterans Video
 - > SD County offering grants (\$10,000) to make videos of services that benefit SD County.
 - > Veterans Museum Video: Preparing grant proposal
 - > Video to be used to educate about US wars and veterans.
 - > Looking for Matching FUNDS.

Approval of the Minutes of 23 August 2008

Motion to approve and seconded.

Chairman's Comments: Tom Richards

- > SDUVC brings Veterans together to inform veterans about issues of interest to them. Keep these things in mind:
 - > Veterans Health Care
 - > Veterans Employment
 - > Veterans Education
 - > Veterans Homelessness
 - > Veterans Communications
 - > Biggest Issue: Declining membership in veteran associations
 - > Cal-Vet home loan program
 - > 20th anniversary of veterans' memorial in San Diego, coming up.
 - > Contact your network of contacts about SDUVC.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Brunner

- > Expenditures for September 2008: \$63.46 (printing)
- > Total balance of savings & checking: \$3975.97
- > Mighty Veterans of Foreign Wars

1st Vice Chairman Comments: Alan Millefsky

- Board member Veterans Museum
- WWII Pilot
- Jewish War Veterans
- Chairman of Veterans Memorial parade
- Collects stories from veterans: knap607@yahoo.com
- Jewish Medal of Honor recipients at Vet. Museum on Sunday Sept. 26.
 - Ted Rubin: Holocaust survivor and Korean War Vet.
 - Prisoner of war in Korea: Saved lives of 40 P.O.W.S in camp.

2nd Vice Chairman Comments: Betty Nimits

- Navy Nurse Corp Association
- Flyers for Women veterans: November 1, 2008 event.

GOOD OF THE ORDER (Maximum of 2 Minutes Each) (Correspondence for Good of the Order)

- > Wade Sanders: CA LT. Governor Office
Ca. Governor endorses Prop. 12
Got benefits for 80yr old veteran
Online educational benefits for veterans
Gold Star, Legion of Valor license plates
PTSD Court for veterans convicted of crimes: Alternative sentencing
- > Don Christensen: Cal Vet program: Opposes UT editorial against Prop. 12
- > Bob Zimmerman: WTOT: NASCAR races in Fontana a success. He has movie tickets on WTOT website: www.WeThankOURTroops.com
- > Ralph Husky: American Legion Commander: \$100 for Lalo Rodriguez and 82nd Airborne Honor Guard Airborne.
- > Lalo Rodriguez: Holds burial services at Rosecrans Memorial Cemetery
- > JP Trombley: Cal Vets Program: Only 16 houses in program have defaulted. Vote for Prop 12.
- > Tuesday, 10:30 am Chula Vista Vets home: Discussing of Vets legislation.
- > Al Padilla: Memorial for veterans of all wars has doubled in costs since beginning of fund raising. Donate \$100 will receive statue.
- > Steve Arends Fun Walk sat. Nov. * 9am starts at Vets Home of Chula Vista. Contact Steve for sponsorship. VFW will meet after walk.

REPORTS: (We respectfully request that reports be limited to **three minutes** each unless previously coordinated with Chairperson):

Eagles Wings: Will Hays

Legislative:

U.S. House of Representatives Bills: John Smith

- > Met with Senators Feinstein and Boxer and Filner: All are supportive of veterans.
- > Development of software programs for veteran organizations to better serve vets.

U.S. Senate Bills: SVO

- > Lower age to collect retirement for reservist.
- > More funding for Reserves for medical care not offered by VA.

California Senate/Assembly Bills: Steve Arends

- > Vote Yes on Proposition 12
- > The VAC regularly meets the 2nd Saturday of every month, at 9:30 AM, at the Veterans Memorial Center & Museum in Balboa Park. Next meeting will be on October 11th. On the agenda is a discussion about PTSD, and the County's effort to allot \$1M toward veterans' mental health from Prop 63 funds. Dr. Elizabeth Twamley, PhD, from the VA Center of Excellence for Stress and Mental Health will be a guest speaker
- > Please see Steve's Legislative notes in the attachment to these Minutes.

UVC Communications Committee: Bob Phillips

- Clint: Great job.
- Concerned about those that is being reached through the Internet.
- Trying to get more Vets visiting SDUVC.org

UVC Employment Committee: Mike Sloan

- Outreach program in Oceanside
- Beginning program in Encinitas
- Picnic at Balboa at 11:30 am
- Symptoms of PTSD: Fear of driving, things on side of road, overpasses, impulsive behavior, lack of morale compass and belief in God, substance abuse, homelessness, divorce, power authorities

UVC Combat Stress Committee – ACVOW – Mike Sloan

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- Symptoms of PTSD: Fear of driving, things on side of road, overpasses, impulsive behavior, lack of morale compass and belief in God, substance abuse, homelessness, divorce, dislike of power authorities...

Student Veterans Committee: Evo Morales

Veterans Museum and Memorial Center: Will Hays

VA Health Care System: Gary Rossio

- > Added several new excellent employees that will better assist veterans' health care.
- > 1700 new vets being served than last year. Six times the growth, nationwide.
- > Patient complaints down 29%.
- > 58,000 bed days of care.
- > Seamless transition program
- > Focus groups about the services the VA Health Care: Always trying to improve.
- > Good relationship with VA and UCSD.

VA Regional Office: Lily Fetzer

- > See attached New Release
- > Average claim is processed in 90 days.
- > 22,000 claims processed

VA National Cemetery at Ft. Rosecrans: Gen. Cardenas/ Kurt Leopard

- > West Nile Virus: We dump flower vases after a week. Work will stop after the season.

Naval Medical Center San Diego:

- > Handles complaints and inquiries.
- > Late Policy: Patients offered another time slot on same day.
- > Steve Arends praises them

California State Veterans Home, Chula Vista: Jane Bergman

- > Introductions of new employees and Directors.
- > "Sisters of War" Peg Trout author: Includes 9 women vets from SD.

CALVET Board Representative:

County Veteran's Service Office: Tom Splitgerber

- > Public comment still open
- > 1 million set aside for veteran families.

Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD)/ "One VA" Committee: John Smith

- > Tore down old hotel to build new facility.
- > We cooperate well with federal level.
- > Building new facilities.

San Diego County Veterans Advisory Council: John Weaver/ Steve Arends

- > Held at Vet Museum October 11: PTSD & Prop 63 for mental outreaches for veterans
- > VFW Post 111 Chula Vista, Saturday: VAC meeting

San Diego United Veterans Association (Veterans Day Parade): Joe

Brunner/ John Weaver

- > Ready to go.
 - > Needs volunteers
 - > Parade to honor Veterans and veteran organizations.
 - > Information on SDUVC.org
 - > Parade on October 11.
- Needs contribution!

Mt. Soledad Memorial Association: Bob Phillips

- > In parade on October 11
- > Honoring Jimmy Stewart
- > Stratcom: Keynote speaker
- > MIA/ POW events
- > Completion of Mt. Soledad Memorial: Things going well.

Midway Museum: Tim Verhoef

- > 1 million visitors this year.
- > Weddings will be performed on Mid way
- > Needs new volunteers

OLD BUSINESS: (Tabled from previous meeting) (Correspondence for Old Business)

- SDUVC Plaque on Mt Soledad: Bill Paxton

NEW BUSINESS: (Correspondence for New Business)

- SDUVC Veteran of the Year Nominations at this meeting: Requires completion of form on SDUVC website.
- > Alan Millefsky: Wins nomination of SDUVC for Veteran of the Year.

** Send Tom Richards your nomination for SD City Veteran of the Year.
Mt. Soledad
Dist 22 American Foreign Legion

Nomination for profit Old Town Trolley: Wins SDUVC nomination
Nomination for non-profit: 82nd Airborne: Wins SDUVC nomination
SDUVC Endorses nomination of the Navy Nurse Corp Association of Southern California for non-profit Organization of the Year.

- SDUVC Officer Elections for 2009 – We will accept nominations for all officer billets at the October and November meetings. The elections will occur at the November meeting.

Final Comments:

- If your veterans' organization is conducting an event, please consider submitting an announcement to us so we can send it out to the UVC membership list and also put it on the events page of the UVC web site, which is <http://www.sduvc.org>.
- Please recruit your friends to the UVC. If they can't attend, ask them to send a message to the Secretary to get their names on the e-mail roster so they receive minutes and updates. Please **bring a friend to UVC next meeting**.
- When you attend the next meeting of your respective organizations, please pass the word about the UVC and the business that was conducted here today.

Adjourn Meeting: 11:55

The next meeting of the United Veterans Council of San Diego County will be on **Saturday, 25 October 2008 at 9:30 A.M.** at the Martin Luther King Convention Center in National City.