

UNITED VETERANS COUNCIL
“2007 VETERANS ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR”
An Ad-Hoc Alliance of Veterans Service Organizations in San Diego County
“The Voice of the Veterans Community in San Diego”
WWW.SDUVC.ORG

Veterans Museum and Memorial Center
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Summary of Meeting

Saturday, November 17th, 2007

The Chairman: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:36 A.M. at the North Chapel of the historic NTC Promenade in Liberty Station, with John Smith leading the Pledge of Allegiance, and Will Hays offering the Invocation. All Council Officers were present, along with forty-four members of the Council and Guests.

Appropriate introductions were conducted, and The Chairman recognized and lauded the Past Chairmen of the Council and past, as well as present Veterans of the Year who were present.

The Chairman introduced MaryAnn Grayson of the NTC Foundation, who spoke about the NTC Promenade and North Chapel at Liberty Station. She commented on the Chapel's history and its original Rogers pipe organ, and that the Chapel is available for weddings, funerals, viewing and memorial service needs, along with the many other event venues at the Promenade for a variety of needs. For additional information on the Chapel and NTC Promenade, call (619) 573-9300 or visit www.ntcpromenade.org

The Chairman then introduced Judith Paixao, Co-Founder of the Wounded Marine Careers Foundation, and the Wounded Warrior Center for Media Careers in San Diego. She gave a brief history of her Husband and Co-Founder, Kev Lombard, and how the Foundation evolved and the Center, formed with Film Producer Stu Segal, developed in San Diego as a Training Center to help Wounded Warriors learn a new skill and make a smooth transition to a civilian career in the Media Arts. They now have twelve faculty members, and will begin their first class of twenty-five wounded Marines and Navy Corpsman who will start their first classes of a ten-week course of instruction on January 14th, 2008. The Facility is located at 4705 Ruffin Road, and can be reached at (858) 974-8134. To learn more about the Foundation, visit www.woundedwarriorcareers.org Several members posed questions about future plans to expand the program, which Judith addressed.

The Minutes: The Chairman called for a review of the Minutes of the October 27th, 2007 Council meeting. The Secretary indicated that due to his preparations for the recent Veterans Day Parade and bout with a cold, he was unable to transcribe the Minutes in time for today's' meeting. The Chairman indicated the October Minutes would be reviewed during the January 2008 Council meeting.

Treasurer's report: The Chairman called for the Treasurer's report. The Treasurer, Joe Brunner, described the ledger, to include receipts and expenditures since the October 27th, 2007 meeting, and reported an ending balance of \$3,323.08 in the checking account and \$100.31 in the savings account, for a total of \$3,423.39. The Chairman called for any comment or discussion, and heard none. He entertained a Motion to approve the Treasurer's report, which was made, and seconded. The Chairman called for the question, and the Motion to approve the Treasurer's report as published passed on a voice vote.

Chairman's comments: The Chairman, Tom Richards, indicated that he had met with a number of the UVC Committees in the past month, and commented on his recent trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the National Veterans Day Ceremony as National Commander of the Legion of Valor, as well as representing the San Diego County United Veterans Council.

1st Vice Chairman's comments: Allen Miliefsky, the 1st Vice Chairman, reported that the Council received several awards at the recent San Diego County Veteran of the Year Luncheon, to include the "Allegiance Award" from the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center. The Chairman denoted the various awards the Council received, to include Certificates of Appreciation from Congresswoman Susan Davis, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the California Department of Veterans Affairs, State Senator Mark Wyland, and State Assembly Member Lori Saldana. Allen also commented on the success of the recent Veterans Day Parade.

2nd Vice Chairperson's comments: The 2nd Vice Chairperson, Betty Nimits, also commented on the success of the Veterans Day Parade, and urged those who own convertibles to volunteer to drive a Dignitary in the Parade next year, as it always seems we need more convertibles each year.

Treasurer's comments: The Treasurer, Joe Brunner, indicated he had no additional comments.

Secretary's comments: The Secretary, Scott Langhoff, indicated he had no additional comment.

Good of the Order: The Chairman called for issues pertinent to the Good of the Order, to include upcoming events and General Notices.

Upcoming Events:

Andrea Graves, Department Head for Patient Relations at Naval Medical Center San Diego reported electronically that all San Diego military personnel, Ombudsmen and TRICARE beneficiaries are invited to a Health Care Consumer Council to be held on Wednesday, November 28th, 2007 at 4:00 P.M. in the Building 5 Auditorium at Naval Medical Center San Diego. This is an opportunity to meet Rear Admiral Christine Hunter, MC, USN, Commander of the Center and discuss any questions and concerns regarding health care services at the Center and Clinics.

Bob Zimmerman of We Thank Our Troops reported electronically that the 3rd Annual "Christmas Party Dinner Cruise" for Wounded Warriors from Naval Medical Center San Diego will take place aboard a San Diego Harbor Excursion yacht on Thursday, November 29th, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. You may participate by providing door prizes, purchasing dinners at \$65.00 per Wounded Warrior, or provide gifts for the Gift Bags that each Wounded Warrior will receive. For more information, visit www.wtot.org or contact Bob at (619) 838-4544 or by email to Bzsandiego@aol.com If you wish to send a check, make it payable to WTOT, earmarked for WTOT/Dinner Cruise and send it 3545 Midway Drive, Suite P, San Diego, CA 92110.

JoAnna McDonald, Education Specialist at the MCRD Command Museum reported electronically that they will host "The War on Terrorism", a lecture by 1st Sergeant Patrick Tracy, USMC, at the MCRD Command Theater on Friday, November 30th, 2007 from 12:30 to 2:00 P.M. 1st Sergeant Tracy will discuss his experiences in Iraq with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines. For more information, contact JoAnna at (619) 524-6038 or my email to joanna.mcdonald@usmc.mil

John Smith indicated that departing Director Gil Acevedo of the State Veterans Home in Chula Vista would be lauded for his dedicated Service in a Farewell Tribute on Saturday, December 1st, 2007 from 2:00 to 4:00

P.M. at the State Veteran's Home, 700 East Naples Court, Chula Vista. For more information, contact John at (619) 571-3022 or by email to John.Smith@cdva.ca.gov

Denise Sanchez of the Student Veterans Organization at San Diego State University announced their 1st Anniversary Dinner at the Harbor House in Seaport Village in San Diego on Saturday, December 1st, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. Major General Michael Lehnert, Commander of Marine Corps Installations West will be one of the Keynote Speakers. Tickets are \$35.00 per guest, which will include choice of salad, entrée, dessert and non-alcoholic beverage. Please RSVP by November 26th. Checks should be made payable to "SVO at SDSU". For more information, call the SDSU Veterans Office at (619) 594-5813.

Bridget Wear of the NTC Promenade announced that the North Chapel at Liberty Station will Celebrate Christmas in a Musical Salute to San Diego's Military Families with two Christmas Concerts on Friday, December 7th, 2007 from 4:00 to 9:00 P.M. and Saturday, December 8th, 2007 from 11:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Martha Jane Howe, a world renowned Opera singer will kick off the North Chapel's Holiday Concert at 6:00 P.M. on Friday, and will be followed by the Cabrillo Singers, an outstanding San Diego Choir singing new and beloved Christmas songs at 7:00 P.M. The Choir is led by Myron Tweed, a distinguished musical director who has led musical tours nationally for many years.

On Saturday, a beginning at 11:00 A.M., a children's choir, Cherubs & Joyful Praise, will sing holiday tunes. They will be followed by Bells ReJOYce, an adult bell ensemble of four, and a half octave of bells led by Director Ann Simoneau. Members of the American Guild of Organist, Alicia McMillin, who plays at 5:00 P.M., and George Butterfield at 8:00 P.M. will present Christmas melodies on the original Rogers pipe organ. Local soloist Sarah Suhonen will perform Christmas Jazz selections in a one-woman show at 6:30 P.M. For more information about the North Chapel, call Bridget at (619) 335-0221 or email her at bridgetwear@cox.net To learn more about the North Chapel and Liberty Station, visit www.northchapel.com or www.ntcpromenade.org

The California Department of Veterans Affairs reported electronically that a RecruitMilitary Career Fair would be held on Thursday, December 13th, 2007 from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the California Center for the Arts, 340 North Escondido Boulevard, in Escondido. For more information, visit www.recruitmilitary.com

The Chairman reported electronically that volunteers are sought to participate in the "Wreaths across America" Ceremony to be held at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on Saturday, December 15th, 2007 beginning at 9:00 A.M. This event is being led by the DeAnza Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. For more information visit www.wreaths-across-america.org/FtRosecrans or contact Joanne Murphy at (760) 481-4434.

General Notices:

Bea Waggett mentioned that there were still souvenir caps and t-shirts available from the Veterans Day Parade.

Clint Steed indicated that photos of the Veterans Day Parade have been posted to both the UVC website at www.sdvc.org and the Parade website at www.sdvvetparade.org

Legislative reports: The Chairman called for the Legislative reports.

U.S. House Legislation: John Smith asked Todd Gloria to speak on the status of H.R. 551. Todd indicated the Bill, which would affect the CALVET Qualified Veteran Mortgage Bond program, was amended to H.R. 3997, which passed the House last week, and was forwarded to the Senate yesterday. John Smith also commented on Congressman Filner's recent activity.

U. S. Senate Legislation: Denise Sanchez reported on S. 423, a Bill to increase disability compensation for Veterans, which was replaced by H.R. 1284, which passed the House and Senate and was signed into law this month. The same fate befell S.479, a bill to reduce the incidence of suicide among OIF/OEF Veterans, which H.R. 327, which was also passed into law this month. She commented on S. 1233, which would provide additional treatment for victims of Traumatic Brain Injury.

State Legislation: Steve Arends gave brief comments on recent events involving State Legislators, who are currently in recess, and holding various meetings in their respective Districts.

UVC Communications Committee: Bob Phillips gave a short report. The Chairman provided additional comment.

UVC Employment Committee: Robert Bowen reported on behalf of the Committee Chairperson.

UVC Combat Stress/PTSD Mentoring Committee: Mike Sloan provided his report. The Chariman and various members provided additional comment.

Veteran's Museum and Memorial: Will Hays reported on behalf of RADM Rod Melendez, Director of the Center, and congratulated the Veterans Day Parade Committee for a wonderful Parade. He indicated that the plaques for the Veterans Memorial Garden were also exhibited on Veterans Day, and will be installed in the near future.

VA San Diego Healthcare System: Cindy Abair, Associate Director, reported on behalf of Gary Rossio, Director of the VA Healthcare System in San Diego, and indicated that they expect a sixteen percent increase in their operating budget in the next year, which will allow them to expand their services and meet the needs of Veterans in the Community. She also commented on several other items.

VA San Diego Regional Office: Jenny Sisk, Assistant Director, reported on behalf of Lily Fetzer, Director of the San Diego VA Regional Office. Jenny, who recently reported to the Office, spoke about her background and her impression of the San Diego Office, and then commented that their average processing time for a claim is 110 day. They are also continuing to hire additional Staff in a variety of positions. She also reported on their activity during the recent San Diego firestorm. She also complimented the Veterans Day Parade Committee for the Parade, in which approximately sixty of their employees participated.

VA National Cemetery at Ft. Rosecrans: John Smith and Steve Arends provided various comment on the selection of a new Director for the Cemetery, who should be on station in the beginning of December.

California State Veteran's Home – Chula Vista: Jane Bergman reported on behalf of Gil Acevedo, Administrator of the of the State Veteran's Home in Chula Vista, and indicated that the Home currently has 367 residents of their total capacity of 400. She also thanked the Veterans Day Parade Committee for their efforts.

San Diego County Veterans Service Office: Tom Splitgerber, Director of the San Diego County Veterans Service Office, reported that they have had their final meeting on the Request For Proposal for contracting an organization to provide Veterans Service Representatives, and this will develop in the near future.

Veterans Village of San Diego: John Smith reported on behalf of Phil Landis, Acting Director of Veterans Village. He thanked everyone for their participation in the Ceremony lauding Director Emeritus Al Pavich. He also commented on the current status of the construction project.

“One VA” Report: The Co-Chairman of the “One VA” Committee, John Smith, indicated that the “One VA” meeting for December would be cancelled, as so many individuals would be out of town for the Holiday.

San Diego County Veterans Advisory Council: Steve Arends Chairman of the Council reported that they had no meeting this month because it coincided with the Veterans Day Parade. Their next meeting will be Saturday, December 8th at 9:30 A.M. in the lower hall of the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center.

San Diego County Veterans Day Parade Committee: John Weaver, Co-Chairman of the Committee, reported on the Parade. Joe Brunner provided additional comment.

Mt. Soledad Memorial Association: Bob Phillips reported on behalf of Bill Kellogg, President of the Association, and indicated they had a successful program at the Memorial on Veterans Day. He also commented on the current status of their agreement with Navy Region Southwest on the operation of the Memorial.

USS Midway Museum/CNRSW: Joe Ciokon reported for the USS MIDWAY Museum and Commander, Naval Region Southwest, and provided various comments.

Old business: The Chairman called for Old Business or Correspondence, and raised the issue of Election of Officers of the Council for the 2008 Calendar Year. He detailed the nominees from the last meeting.

He opened the Floor for nominations for Chairman, and hearing none, Joe Brunner made a Motion to cast a white ballot on behalf of Tom Richards, which was seconded by John Weaver, and passed on a voice vote.

He opened the Floor for nominations for 1st Vice Chairman, and hearing none, Joe Brunner made a Motion to cast a white ballot on behalf of Allen Miliefsky, which was seconded by John Weaver, and passed on a voice vote.

He opened the Floor for nominations for 2nd Vice Chairman, and hearing none, Joe Brunner made a Motion to cast a white ballot on behalf of Betty Nimits, which was seconded by John Weaver, and passed on a voice vote.

He opened the Floor for nominations for Treasurer, and hearing none, Joe Brunner made a Motion to cast a white ballot on behalf of himself, which was seconded by John Weaver, and passed on a voice vote.

He opened the Floor for nominations for Secretary, and John Smith was nominated and declined. John Smith nominated Bea Waggett, who declined.

Joe Brunner made a Motion to discontinue with the election of a Secretary for the Council, and instead task the Chairman to appoint a person or persons necessary to perform the Secretarial duties, to include transcription and distribution of the Minutes, addressing correspondence to the Council, maintaining the UVC Roster and email communications. The Motion received numerous seconds, and passed on a voice vote.

Bea Waggett gave additional comments.

Stuart Hedley commented on the upcoming Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony on December 7th.

New business: The Chairman called for any other Motions or New Business that needed to be brought before the Council. Hearing none, the Chairman indicated that there would not be a meeting of the Council in December due to the Holiday, and admonished all present to take the information disseminated today back to the members of their organizations, and bring a Veteran to the next meeting! The Meeting was adjourned at 11:03 A. M.

The next Meeting of the United Veterans Council of San Diego County will be at 9:30 A.M. on Saturday, January 26th, 2008 in the Lower Hall of the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park.

Recorded by:

Approved by:

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