

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 - 24 April 2010

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

Invocation: Will Hayes

Pledge of Allegiance: Charisma De Los Reyes

Administrative Remarks:

- Coffee is being sponsored by Ashford University
- In the interest of capturing the voice recording for the minutes, please use the microphone.
- When using the microphone always state your name.
- Please turn off or silence cell phones and pagers.
- Please limit comments to issues and items pertaining to Veterans and their concerns.
- Please provide the Secretary with a copy of your reports to our Secretary by email.
- Board and committee list so that all organizations can be represented at our meetings.
- Please take your flier from the table when leaving the meeting

Introductions:

- Veteran of the Year: Virgil Whitehead
- Past Veterans of the Year: Nancy Owen, Allen Miliefsky, General Robert Cardenas, Pete Houben
- Previous Chairpersons of the United Veterans' Council: General Robert Cardenas, Tom Richards, Joe Brunner, Pete Houben, and Joe Ciokon
- Introduction of the Board of Directors of the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center.
- Veteran Community Elder Statesman: General Bob Cardenas
- General Introductions.

Guest Speakers:

Charisma De Los Reyes: USC. Advocating for the Dignity of Women (ADWV) is a University of Southern California student-operated organization that raises awareness about female veteran issues. Currently, ADWV is advocating for a full-time permanent housing facility with wrap-around services for women veterans and their dependent children as there is not one in San Diego county.

San Diego county has the second largest female veteran population behind Los Angeles. ADWV has discovered there are gaps in services (reunification services, child care, and gender-specific care as well as case management services) when it comes to providing services for female veterans and their families. ADWV recognizes that the VA cannot do it alone. It will be necessary to develop coalition and establish collaborative efforts to protect and support the female veteran community with their families. ADWV is looking into developing a blueprint for filling in those identified gaps.

ADWV has been talking with different organizations such as Regional Task Force for the Homeless, the VA, Father Joe's Villages that work with the homeless to get more information about how to develop and create such a program and facility. ADWV has talked with women who are participating in VVSD's homeless women program to get their input on needs and services. ADWV has also been talking with different legislators about options and funding opportunities.

ADWV is requesting the support of the UVC as ADWV continues to raise awareness about female veteran issues.

John Culea: Media and Communications Director and policy advisor on Military and Veterans affairs for Fifth District County Supervisor Bill Horn announced that Supervisor Horn has allocated \$103,300 from his district's Neighborhood Reinvestment Fund to the Support Foundation for Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery at Miramar to cover the entire cost of construction, installation, equipment, flag poles and flags for the Avenue of Flags at Miramar National Cemetery.

Steve P. Clark: Candidate for Judge of the Superior Court -- Office No. 20. Following graduation from the United States Naval Academy, Steve served as a Marine infantry officer, including one combat tour in Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. He left active duty with the Marine Corps to attend the University of Texas School of Law in Austin, Texas, remaining in the Marine Corps Reserve until 1992, leaving with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After graduating from law school and a year of clerking for the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Steve began a legal career with the United States Department of Justice in 1974. With a short interruption of three years in private practice, he worked for the Department of Justice until September 2007. A nationally recognized prosecutor during his career with the Justice Department, he served for eighteen years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of California (San Diego). While an Assistant U.S. Attorney in San Diego, Steve held supervisory positions including First Assistant United States Attorney (second-in-command for the office) and Chief of the Major Frauds Section. As First Assistant for more than five years, Steve was responsible to the United States Attorney for all phases of federal prosecutions in San Diego and Imperial Counties, for all civil litigation in which the United States was a party, and for administration of the 120-plus attorney office. Before becoming the First Assistant, Steve personally prosecuted political corruption, corrupt judges, Medicare fraud, tax fraud, Ponzi schemes, bank robberies, murder conspiracy, violent crimes, human trafficking, involuntary servitude, and drug offenses. At the Justice Department, Steve served as a trial attorney and supervising attorney in the Civil Rights Division in Washington, D.C. He also served as a Special Assistant U. S. Attorney in the District of Columbia, and in the District of Puerto Rico (San Juan) where he was appointed by the Attorney General to lead a federal criminal civil rights prosecution. Steve also served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Tennessee (Knoxville) where he was Chief of the Criminal Division. Beginning in June 2008 Steve served a one-year term as a member of the San Diego County Grand Jury, devoting thirty-five to forty hours per week to work on oversight investigations of political and taxpayer-supported entities in the County. In 2009 Steve began working as a voluntary literacy tutor for READ/San Diego -- an effort that he is enthusiastically pursuing. In the past Steve was a mentor to a disadvantaged student at Mission Bay High School in San Diego for three years. Earlier, for ten years he was in charge of a program to provide pro bono legal services to junior Marines in the Washington, D.C. area. Steve's distinguished career, including thirty years of law enforcement experience, demonstrates his abiding commitment to public service and to the rule of law. Throughout that career his goal has been to litigate fairly and to seek justice, treating all persons with dignity and respect. Steve has been married for more than twenty-five years, and has one son.

Approval of the Minutes: 27 March 2010 Meeting. No motion to approve.

Treasurer's Report: David Moran

The UVC checking and savings account balances were \$2877.89 and \$1050.91 on 27 March 2010. We received two donations totaling \$190.00 for the John Smith Memorial Fund. A check for \$47.81 was issued to Waldo Brunner for office supplies and a check for \$21.75 was issued to the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center for printing services. The UVC received a \$50.00 check from Ashford University.

The checking and savings account balances as of 24 April 2010 are \$2858.33 and \$1050.91 for a total balance of \$3909.24. There is \$810.00 in the John Smith Memorial Fund.

No motion to approve.

Chairman's Comments: Joe Brunner

Padres' Discounted Identity Cards for Veterans. Jack Ensich gave us 13,000 distributed already. Use hopefully at Gas lamp, Little Italy and seaport village. DAV, CDVA, Regional Office, Amvets, American Legion, VFW, Paralyzed Vets all have the cards now. Distribution will be set up soon and listed on our website. Discounts for Veterans Week will be on our parade site.

1st Vice Chairman's Comments: Nathaniel Donnelly

Signing of the key healthcare plan. Senator Akaka's Post-9/11 G.I. Bill revisions. Refers details to Steve Arends report attached.

2nd Vice Chairman's Comments: John Stryker Meyer: Excused

Women's Advocate Comments: Kathy Bruyere:

Reminded everyone about the VA research project on women Vietnam veterans. Spoke about the "Care Giver Bill" who are caring for veterans. Expects more bills for other needs of care givers. New VA Study of Women Veterans during the Vietnam Era. Seeking women who served in any way during this period. VA is trying to locate all 250,000 who were in active duty invited to participate in this research. The Department of Veterans Affairs is launching a comprehensive study of women veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War to explore the effects of their military service upon their mental and physical health. The four-year study, which began in November, will contact approximately 10,000 women in a mailed survey, telephone interview and a review of their medical records. As women Vietnam veterans approach their mid-sixties, it is important to understand the impact of wartime deployment on health and mental outcomes nearly 40 years later. The study will assess the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental and physical health conditions for women Vietnam veterans, and explore the relationship between PTSD and other conditions. The study will focus on women Vietnam veterans who may have had direct exposure to traumatic events, and for the first time, study those who served in facilities near Vietnam. These women may have had similar, but less direct exposures. Both women veterans who receive their health care from VA and those who receive health care from other providers will be contacted to determine the prevalence of a variety of health conditions. About 250,000 women veterans served in the military during the Vietnam War and about 7,000 were in or near Vietnam. Those who were in Vietnam, those who served elsewhere in Southeast Asia and those who served in the United States are potential study participants. Look at website: <http://www.dav.org/news/NewsArticle.aspx?ID=209>

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Reports:

- Eagles Wings: no report
- Legislative:
 - Senate – Nathaniel Donnelly:
 - House – John Stryker Meyer
 - State – Steve Arends

- **UVC Communications Committee:** Meeting set for May 3rd. Eleven members getting together. Key agenda items as follows: Clear resolution as to how/when future information emails are disseminated to the UVC Roster. Updates/enhancements to the web site. Update on Social Networking.
- **Student Veterans Committee:** Nathaniel Donnelly: San Diego State Student Veterans Office gets \$50,000, from a former ambassador and his wife to complete the center.
- **Veterans Museum and Memorial Center:** Museum had the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall. Thousands of people visited during the weekend of April 9-11. It was a great event here which will increase awareness of our treasured Museum. In the north east corner here on this floor will be a dedication to the memory of the Korean War Exhibit that we are opening called "Hold at all Costs: the Battle for Outpost Harry", which is the last battle in the Korean war where the Chinese fought the Americans and Greeks in order to decide where the dividing line would be between North and South Korea. Each side was told to hold the line at all costs, a very bloody conflict. There is a movie being released in November and we will have a lot of items from the set so it will prove to be a very interactive exhibit. Another gallery will be built here and will be traveling around the USA. The US, UN and South Koreans and on the other side will be the Chinese and North Koreans. Interviews can be conducted on both sides. This construction has started. Grant is available for matching funds up to \$15,000 from Bob Baker. Urge all to attend today's Veterans Memorial Service today at 1230 recognizing those who served with honors. One veteran will be honored this afternoon. Will thanked Dignity Memorial and Glen Abbey for their consistent support during the past 10 years. Attend the United Veteran Memorial Church service today and every 4th Saturday following our meeting at 1230. Great Library planned by taking the meeting space in the lower floor. Become a member and volunteer freely. We cannot continue to support our Veterans without your support too. Dan DeMarco urged all attendees to drive events to the VMMC. This is a primary source of income which we all can help to increase simply by word of mouth. ||| Join us for a Pasta & Meatball Dinner & Dance Benefitting The Veterans Museum & Memorial Center. Break out your old uniforms or 40's style attire and celebrate Memorial Day. Dance to "The Elktones" and Listen to the Elk's Men's Choir and the Oak Grove Middle School Youth Choir. Only \$15/person. Get your tickets at The Elks Lodge of El Cajon / 1400 East Washington / El Cajon, CA 92019, The Veterans Museum. Checks payable to: BPOE 1812, Visa & MasterCard accepted. Call 619-444-1812 today! Tickets will be sold at the door; buy now before they sell out!
- **VA National Cemetery at Ft. Rosecrans and Miramar National Cemetery:** Kirk Leopard: Busy month. Another expansion: 15,000 niches to be added. Immediate construction. Under Secretary affirms that the first burial will be September 2010 as scheduled. There will be the annual memorial service at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Memorial Day.
- **VA Regional Office:** DES System. Tristan Heaton. Hosting Leadership Development Program here this week OEF/OIF Manager / Public Affairs Officer Department of Veterans Affairs 8810 Rio San Diego Drive San Diego, Ca. 92108
- **VA Healthcare System:** Stan Johnson. Oceanside, Sea Rock Clinic, Vista will be moving to Oceanside. Tristan Heath will be the contact to participate in the Summer National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic, 18-25 September, Tristan Heaton is the contact person for athletes to compete. DVA rolled out a new website to analyze the quality of healthcare to others. Several categories. Hospital can be compared to all other hospitals. Website is

www.Hospitalcompare.VA.gov. Recently received a grant for marriage enrichment retreats. Warrior Soul Mate, Weekend program; registration May 17th. Call VA Chaplain to get a room for 20 to 30 couples. Wonderful setting for new OEF OIF only. Special funding dictates the intent of this venue. Tribune article this morning shows 200 on a wait list. "This means that we were not able to get them in within 30 days. We are addressing this issue." 30 new patients every day which is a 7.5% increase in patient load as compared to last year. In the process of hiring 2 physicians in Oceanside; recruiting occurring daily. Scheduling will be modified in the coming weeks. Each full time provider/practitioner tracks 1200 patients. Nurse practitioner follows 900 patients.

- **Naval Medical Center San Diego:** no report
- **California State Veterans Home Chula Vista:** Mr. Miller says there's 90% completion of showers. Pulled veterans off the waiting list for Independent living. 5th Annual Founders Day is on May 13th.
- **CALVET Board Representative:** Tom Richards. Secretary's conference is first week in May. Will report next month. Employers are not hiring veterans due to fear of potential PTSD which is grossly unfair to our veterans and needs to be changed.
- **County Veterans Service Office (CVSO):** Tom Splitgerber says his main office will be highly active. They have the Padre Veteran Cards at their office. Office will be a real moving target through next Feb. Mike will move to Oceanside. Working on Interfaith Community Services. Main office moving to the new County Operations Center. Communication may be inconvenient. Last week we had 62 applicants for assistance with fee waiver. 59 served.
- **Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD):** no report
- **One VA Committee:** no report
- **San Diego County Veterans Advisory Council:** Working on hiring policy. Meets every 2nd Saturday. Todd Gloria continues to work on hiring policy.
- **San Diego Veterans Coalition:** May 7th meeting scheduled at VVSD second floor conference room. Volunteers needed for these groups. Sustainability for services is the focus for all veterans in SD County.
- **VMMC Veterans Week/Veterans Day Parade Committee:** Joe Brunner reported that all storage is now in a packing facility called Pack Rat. Promotion: One month rent will be credited to the Parade Committee for every contract written for storage at Pack Rat with our referral or recommendation. Parking lots will be turned into parks? He learned from their office staff that this is not to happen for five years due to budget. Tour of Petco Park to learn what kind of veteran event can be ventured at Petco when or if the staging area is predestinated for the park. Participants are reserving their positions. Volunteers needed.
- **Mt. Soledad Memorial Association:** Memorial Day is scheduled 1400 hrs. Col Bob Howard, Major Thomas Conant, Miramar. Continuing to work with City of San Diego and the Navy. John Smith will be recognized on Saturday 19-6, 1000 hrs.

Good of the Order:

Nancy Owen: WEDNESDAY – MAY 5, 2010 – East Lake Country Club 2375 Clubhouse Drive, Chula Vista, CA, 91915. Mulligans and raffle tickets. [Active duty foursomes](#) needed. [Wounded Warriors from Balboa](#) will be playing. Veterans Home Golf Classic presented by the Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation. Come support the residents of the Veterans Home in Chula Vista and enjoy a day of golf and camaraderie with your friends and fellow-supporters of

the San Diego military and veteran communities. The registration table and practice tee will open at 11:00 AM. There will be a Shotgun start at 12:30. A box lunch will be provided before the round, at 11:00 AM. There will also be a barbeque dinner and awards ceremony in the Clubhouse following the round. Prizes will include a 2010 car to the first player to make a "hole in one". Please mail this Registration form with your check payable to: The Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation or (CVVHSF). For more information contact: Dee Diaz (619) 205-1410 or email Dorothy.Diaz@cdva.ca.gov

Nancy Owen: [Navy Nurse Corps Association](#) will be holding their [2010 reunion](#) at the Marriot in Mission Valley . Navy Nurse Convention here in San Diego [April 28-May 1, 2010](#).

Military Order of the Purple Heart: Many troops sent to Haiti. First troop lost due to malaria. O. F. Garrett, WWII Veteran, will be recognized in Los Angeles. Anzio Landing, and Dragoon, an operation in the South of France. Website: www.purpleheart.com Get his information at their site.

Stu Hedley: May 31st Memorial Day at National Cemetery at Fort. Rosecrans at 10AM. Then a service at 2:PM, El Camino Memorial Park, Mac McLaughlin from USS Midway will be the guest speaker.

Rick Nathanson: 3rd career with the Art Institute. Provides opportunity to degrees. Will speak and attend any venue to drive veterans to the opportunities they can arrange and secure.

Sheila Jackson: Only Veteran running for the county board of supervisors. Member of District 4.

Richard West: National Naval Officers Association. We have 4 officers on the board. 34 Flag Officers. Now teaming up with Asian Latino Recruiting Command. Annual Convention at Chesapeake, VA this year. Holding their national convention here next year at the Sheraton Hotel, in July. Needs volunteers and raffle items. For information call Richard West. (cannot find telephone number in roster)

Ron Stark: Courage Call. Oceanside is celebrating support for Marines and Sailors May 15th. Goes to any organizations to get support guidance and referral. Family support for Veterans. "877-my-usvet" (not enough digits in this telephone number. No website found.)

Bea Brunner: Warrior Care products that they need. She has the Poppies which bloom in May. You all know the cause. Blooming bouquets were assembled at the VA Medical Center in Long Beach. There are now four VA facilities making these. These poppies cost \$.18 each. VA facilities have their quota to order. Campaign begins Memorial Day but should be distributed on all military calendar days. Darcy is also presenting for Stand Down.

Stan: VA 85 years of service. 50M in research funding. Projects

Justin Robinson for his company Maxim. Aid and Attendance. VA does not send anyone out. Low money.

Joe: Vets for Vets. Vets get website.

Gene Stevens: Veteran. American Vets is a name being selected for an organization he wants to organize. San Diego is full of homeless veterans who have a series of needs. Needs resources to help them. Needs to set up a 501 (c) (3).

Tom Tietmeyer: Fund raiser offered contingent sales of a Coupon Book as a potential fund raising offer. With veteran's groups coming from all over USA to visit San Diego, they will want to visit the VMMC and USS Midway. "On our merchant contract we provide a variety of statements on what you would like say. I recommend 2-1 coupon. Husband pays and wife get's in free or two veteran would split the cost for entry. This will help increase more visitor's to the Veteran Museum and they will tell there friend's." On our present 2010 book you can place a label on the front cover 2-1 coupon from Veteran Museum.

Spirit of 45: Dan DeMarco. The last day of WWII needs to be commemorated. We are working on this. New National Day of Remembrance will be voted on in Congress soon. 8 Congressmen support it now.

No tax cost. 300 to 500 cities set to celebrate this year on August 14th, Saturday. Event to be held here at the VMMC.

Kersten: Reviewed and supported positive values of VA in our Community. VA is strong in research nationwide. SD second to SF. Strong research here. PTSD a robust program here. Locate her organization at <http://www.vmr.org>.

Rick Rogers of the North County Times reported difficulties with Aid and Attendance Benefits. VA Veteran's Aid and Attendance Program. Outside companies charge too much to veterans? There is an income ceiling of \$80K to qualify for benefits. VA is supposed to help you sign up for any benefit that you legally qualify to get. Seems to be a disconnect. Aid and Attendance Program does not offer enough funds to your needs to hire a caregiver. Pays a portion. Commercial support is adequate here in San Diego. "Americans are living longer than ever, and San Diego County is seeing a corresponding uptick in veterans ages 65 to 84. Nearly 60,000 will fit this demographic niche in 2011, according to government figures. But here's a question: How can veterans and their spouses ensure their money lasts as long as they do to pay for assisted living? An answer might lie in the little-known Department Veterans Affairs program known as the Aid and Attendance benefit, allows for additional financial help for those who require the regular attendance of another person to assist in eating, bathing, dressing, taking medication, et cetera. It also applies to individuals who are blind or a patient in a nursing home because of mental or physical incapacity. Care in an assisted living facility also qualifies."

<http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/columnists/rogers/article> Urges all veterans to go to County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) Tom Splitgerber. For more information, contact your county veteran service office: San Diego County, 619-531-4545; Orange County 714-567-7450; Riverside County, 951-955-6050. To learn about Aid and Attendant classes run by Maddy, call (760) 434-8831. Rick Rogers is a longtime journalist covering San Diego military and defense. Contact him at: rick.rogers@defensetracker.com.

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 website at www.sduvc.org.
- Please recruit your friends to the UVC. If they cannot attend, ask them to send a message to the Secretary at powerplanner@sbcglobal.net to get their names on the email roster so they can receive the minutes and updates. Please bring a Veteran to the UVC's next meeting.
- Be sure to pass along to your respective organizations the information that you received here today.
- Please collect your flyers.
- Remember the Memorial Services following our meeting.

The next meeting of the United Veterans Council of San Diego County will be on **22 May 2010 at 9:30 A.M.** at the Veterans Museum & Memorial Center, 2115 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101.

The full UVC Strategic Plan is at: www.box.net/shared/g8y5kkill0

Our Advocacy & Legislative priorities are at: www.box.net/shared/8ne5nl5plm

Final Comments: Joe Brunner

- If your veteran’s 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 official UVC web site, which is <http://www.sduvc.org>.
- Please recruit your friends to the UVC and to assist veterans. 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.
- Pass the flyers you received here today to your respective organizations.

Adjourn Meeting: 11:31 A.M.

The next meeting of the United Veterans Council of San Diego County will be on **22 May 2010 at 9:30 A.M.** at the Veterans Museum & Memorial Center, 2115 Park Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101.

UVC Vision: To establish San Diego County as the premier locale for Veterans, as a nationwide model and showcase region, dedicated to respecting, honoring, and caring for its Veteran residents.

UVC Mission: To improve the climate for and condition of Veterans in San Diego County by providing: (1) channels of communications for the dissemination of information and recommendations pertaining to Veterans issues; (2) forums for the discussion of Veterans issues; (3) information regarding the legislative records of San Diego County municipalities and elective and appointed officials pertaining to the support of Veterans issues; (4) non-partisan leadership and action toward effecting change in the region in support of Veterans and their families.



Dan DeMarco
UVC Secretary 2008 - 2010
Mobile: (619) 569-6230
Email: powerplanner@sbcglobal.net