

**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](http://WWW.SDUVC.ORG)

**Veterans Museum and Memorial Center**  
**2115 Park Boulevard**  
**San Diego, CA. 92101-4753**  
**Phone: (619) 239-2300 or Email: [sdvmc@pacbellnet](mailto:sdvmc@pacbellnet)**

**Summary of Meeting**

**Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**The Chairman:** The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M., and the Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance, with Chaplain Darcy Pavich offering the Invocation. All Council Officers were present, except the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson, who was excused and absent, along with fifty-nine members of the Council and Guests.

The Chairman then opened a discussion of the second draft of the proposed United Veterans Council Mission, Vision & Objectives statement. Several members posed questions to the Chairman for clarification, or gave comments.

Bob White made a Motion that the Council approve the Mission, Vision & Objectives Statement as proposed, with any corrections or changes brought to the Chairman’s attention. Steve Campbell seconded the Motion. The Chairman called for discussion on the Motion.

Dick Rogers commented on the perceived necessity for the Council to have such a Statement. Joe Brunner commented on the intention to deem the Statement the “By-Laws” for the Council. John Smith and several other members gave additional comment on the issue, which the Chairman addressed.

Bob White then amended his previous Motion to withdraw the term “By-laws” from that Motion, and Steve Campbell seconded the amended Motion.

Will Hays called for the Question, and the Chairman called for a vote on the amendment, which passed by popular acclaim. The Chairman then called for a vote on the amended Motion, which also passed by popular acclaim.

**The Minutes:** The Chairman called for a review of the Minutes of the February 24<sup>th</sup> 2007, Council meeting. The Secretary apologized for the fact that he had overlooked transcription of the Minutes of that Meeting, and that they would be promulgated as soon as possible.

**Treasurer’s report:** The Treasurer, Joe Brunner, described the ledger, to include receipts and expenditures, and reported an ending balance of \$2,208.93 in the checking account and \$100.23 in the savings account, for a total of \$2,308.93.

**Chairman’s comments:** The Chairman, Tom Richards, commented that there would be a need for volunteers to assist him in implementing the principles of the newly adopted UVC Mission, Vision & Objectives Statement. He indicated he would have the Secretary send out an email soliciting for same.

The Chairman then indicated that the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson, Karyn Damian, was excused and absent on administrative leave until further notice. The Chairman then called a volunteer to serve as an Interim 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson, and Steve Campbell nominated Allen Miliefsky, who accepted. The called for any other volunteers and hearing none, called for the Question. Allen Miliefsky was accepted by popular acclaim as the Interim 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman of the Council.

The Chairman also commented on the past lengthy meetings of the Council, requested that attendees be more concise and precise in their comments in the future, and if possible, send their announcements to the Secretary in advance of the meeting for inclusion into the Minutes.

The Chairman also proposed that he would like to shift the November 24<sup>th</sup>, meeting of the Council to the third Saturday, that being the 17<sup>th</sup>, so it would not conflict with Thanksgiving. He would also like to hold a December meeting of the Council on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, as Christmas would be on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup>, and that he would call for a vote on the proposals at the April meeting.

He also announced that the UVC has collaborated with the State Economic Development Department and the County Veterans Employment Council and would host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veteran's Seminar, Job and Resource Fair at the Veterans Museum & Memorial Center on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. Volunteers are needed to assist in the event, as well as employers and resource providers. A flyer for the event will be distributed in the near future.

He also announced that the UVC is working with the County Veterans Advisory Council on a project to improve communications amongst the Veterans in the County, and more information would be provided in the near future.

He also reported that he had attended a meeting of the State Veterans Commanders Council in Sacramento, and that they have a website, [www.califveterans.com](http://www.califveterans.com) that contains a list of all current State and Federal legislation of interest to Veterans, and contact information for all of the State and Federal Legislators.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman's comments:** Allen Miliefsky, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman, commented on the Padres/Red Sox baseball game ticket raffle.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson's comments:** Betty Nimits, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson, commented on this week being Women Veterans Week.

**Eagles' Wings:** Chaplain Ritter reported that they would complete their March sessions tomorrow, with four widows and one widower attending this months' sessions. He also indicated they had an extremely successful 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday party on February 25<sup>th</sup>, with 110 Eagles' Wings members and guests attending. He and several other members gave additional comments about the Eagles' Wings program.

**Good of the Order:** The Chairman called for issues pertinent to the Good of the Order.

Sarah Young announced that a new Blue Star Mothers Group of Greater San Diego Chapter is being formed, and that their first meeting would be on Saturday, April 21, 2007 at 9:30 A.M. at 5440-A Claremont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92117. For more information, please contact Patricia Regan at (619) 962-2045 or (858) 201-6479.

She also announced that the City of San Diego Citizens Equal Opportunity Commission would be holding an open hearing on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 11:00 A.M. at the Veterans Museum & Memorial Center in Balboa Park to address the issues of employment and contracting with the City of San Diego. They also

have a vacancy for the position of Disabilities Services Coordinator. Additional information can be found on the City's website.

General Cardenas reported that the date of December 2009 for the opening of the Miramar Annex of the Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery, mentioned at the last meeting was incorrect, and the date is actually December of 2008.

John Weaver announced that the San Diego Shockwave, an indoor arena football team, would begin their season next weekend, and that they have given him a stack of 2 for 1 tickets to sell to Veterans and Military personnel.

Bob White gave comment on the upcoming Chula Vista State Veterans Home Support Foundation Golf Tournament to raise funds to benefit the well-being of the residents at the Home on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Eastlake Country Club in Chula Vista, and they will have a variety of prizes

Richard Farrand thanked several groups for their recent support of various issues.

John Smith commented on the recent Ft. Rosecrans and Mt. Soledad Memorial Day Events Committee meetings.

Robert Lewis indicated that the VA Medical Center will be establishing an "Internet Café" and they are in need of volunteers to staff the facility, which will be open eight hours a day. Interested parties can contact Lorelei Wynn at the Center, and when he receives more information, he will forward that to the Secretary for dissemination.

Scott Langhoff commented on the purpose of the San Diego United Veterans Association and the Veterans Day Parade Committee, and that the next meeting would be at the Veterans Museum & Memorial Center on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 6:00 P.M.

**Legislative reports:** The Chairman called for the Legislative reports.

**U.S. House Legislation:** John Smith commented on HR 1538, The Wounded Warrior's Assistance Act, and gave various other comments on HR 327, HR 797, and other issues. Lily Fetzer also commented on the Wounded Warrior's Assistance Act.

**U. S. Senate Legislation:** The Chairman indicated that he is still seeking a volunteer for the Senate Legislative Chair position, and that he was not aware of any pending legislation of interest.

**State Legislation:** Steve Arends commented on S. 604 that would prevent the tripling of Tricare premiums by DOD, as well as HR 551, HR 1490 and his recent visit to Washington, D.C. as a part of the VFW National Legislative Committee.

He also reported on AB 950 concerning in-State College tuition waivers for recently separated Veterans, introduced by Assemblymember Mary Salas of Chula Vista, AB 1485 concerning property tax exemptions for Veterans and Widows, AB 389 concerning County Veterans Service Office funding, SB 630 for State Veterans Home funding, and mentioned the Veterans Quality of Life Fund donation on the California State Income Tax form. Dale Amorosio gave additional comment on AB 950.

**Veteran's Museum and Memorial Center:** Will Hays reported for RADM Rod Melendez, Director of the Center, and indicated that the second Veteran's Gala would be held on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the

Hilton Resort on Mission Bay. He also commented on the parking situation adjacent to the Museum. He also reported that the monthly Memorial Service would be held at 11:30 A.M. following this meeting.

**VA San Diego Healthcare System:** Gary Rossio, Director of the VA Healthcare System in San Diego, reported the have no current delays for OEF/OIF Veteran outpatient care, that they are experiencing some delays on inpatient care for elective surgeries, and are working with the Naval Medical Center to resolve those issues. He indicated the Center is now thirty-five years old, and are still holding about 1,600 appointments a day at their facilities. He indicated that they have about \$5 million dollars in recurring maintenance this year, along with \$5 million per year for the next five years. They are working on a variety of issues to maximize their space utilization. Various members gave comment on the media's recent stories concerning the quality of VA Healthcare.

**VA San Diego Regional Office:** Lily Fetzer, Director of the VA Regional Office, reported that the average age of a VA disability claim at the San Diego Regional Office is 109 days, with claims from seriously injured and very seriously injured OEF/OIF Veterans average 50 days, with their goal being 30 days on claims from these Veterans. They are currently adjudicating almost 3,000 claims a month.

She also reported that Matt Braiotta is taking over as the OEF/OIF Case Manager, particularly those from Reservists and Guardsmen, and any OEF/OIF Veteran having an issue with their claim can reach him at (619) 400-5411. She also commented on the Career Transition Center in Building 26 at the Naval Medical Center. She also indicated that Cheryl Deegan, Assistant Director of the VA Regional Office will be retiring June 1<sup>st</sup>, and a national search is in progress to identify her relief.

**VA National Cemetery at Ft. Rosecrans:** Delia Fernandez reported on behalf of Bill Livingston, Director of the National Cemetery at Ft. Rosecrans. She indicated that the Cemetery had 209 internments last month. They have also been having electrical problems at the Cemetery, and have been working from a generator. Repairs are expected to be completed soon. They are also preparing for the upcoming Memorial Day Ceremony.

**California State Veteran's Home – Chula Vista:** Kate Hawk, Skilled Nursing Administrator, reported on behalf of Gil Acevedo, Administrator of the of the State Veteran's Home in Chula Vista, is working with the VA Medical Center to establish a tele-medicine (videoconferencing) site at the Home, which will be less difficult and painful for some residents to obtain treatment from the VA. Gary Rossio provided additional comment.

**CALVET Board:** Colin "Jim" Shadell, Member of the CALVET Board and a Resident at the Chula Vista State Veterans Home reported on the next meeting of the Board would be in Fresno on April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, and that the June meeting would be in San Diego. He will advise when the date and location of that meeting are set.

**San Diego County Veterans Service Office:** Tom Splitgerber, Director of the San Diego County Veterans Service Office reported that the next College Tuition Fee Waiver season would start on April 15<sup>th</sup>, and that they are hoping to add two new Veterans Advocates by September.

**Veterans Village of San Diego:** Darcy Pavich reported on behalf of Al Pavich, Director of Veterans Village. She indicated that they have received final approval from the City Council of the \$8.5 million need to build Phase II of their project, the second 112 bed early treatment and the second counseling center. They believe they will start repertory work in May and begin building in June, depending on the closing of escrows for the different funding sources. They should be able to build this phase with only one loan, \$720 thousand at no interest to be paid back in 65 years.

She also reported that “Stand Down 2007” would be held on July 13<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>, again at San Diego High School. She will provide additional information at the next meeting, that the Winter Shelter will close on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, and that the VVSD Golf Tournament will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**“One VA” Report:** John Smith, Co-Chairman of the “One VA” Committee, gave various comments on the recent Committee meeting.

**San Diego County Veterans Advisory Council:** Steve Arends reported on behalf of Nancy Owen, Chairperson of the Council, and indicated that the Council is working on a Communication Plan to improve outreach to the County’s Veterans and military personnel, specifically not those who are a member of a Veterans Service Organization.

**San Diego County United Veterans Association:** Joe Brunner Chairman of the Parade reported on the status of the Veterans Day Parade, indicating that the Parade would be held on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 this year to accommodate transportation of the participating High School Bands, and stressed the importance of volunteers to work on the Parade and attend the next meeting as previously mentioned.

**Mt. Soledad Memorial Association:** Bob Phillips reported on behalf of Bill Kellogg, President of the Association, and reported on the status of the license agreement with the Navy, and ongoing negotiations continue. He also commented on the upcoming Memorial Day Ceremony, plaque sales, and the Veteran’s Day event planning.

**Old business:** The Chairman called for Old Business or Correspondence, and the Secretary indicated that effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, those on his “Minimize” email list will only receive the meeting Agenda and Minutes, and Roster updates. Anyone that wishes to be switched to the “Main” list, which receives all emails of interest to Veterans in the Community, should contact him.

**New business:** The Chairman called for any other Motions or New Business that needed to be brought before the Council, and hearing none, the Chairman 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 11:23 A. M.

The next Meeting of the United Veterans Council of San Diego County will be at 9:30 A.M. on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in the Lower Hall of the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park.

Recorded by:

Approved by:

Scott H. Langhoff  
CPO USN (Retired)  
Secretary  
Work: (619) 400-5323  
Residence: (619) 470-7860  
Fax: (619) 434-2149  
Cellular: (619) 884-5917  
Email: [slanghoff@cox.net](mailto:slanghoff@cox.net)

Thomas A. Richards  
LT COL USMC (Retired)  
Chairman