

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
2115 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA. 92101-4753
Phone: (619) 239-2300 or Email: sdvmc@pacbellnet

Summary of Meeting

Saturday, August 25th, 2007

The Chairman: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M., with Stuart Hedley leading the Pledge of Allegiance, and Chaplain Babs Meairs offering the Invocation. All Council Officers except for the 1st Vice Chairman were present, along with fifty-six 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 Minutes: The Chairman called for a review of the Minutes of the July 28th, 2007 Council meeting. He called for corrections or additions, and heard none. He entertained a Motion to approve the Minutes, which was made, and seconded. The Chairman called for the question, and the Motion to approve the Minutes as published passed on voice vote.

Treasurer’s report: The Chairman called for the Treasurer’s report. The Treasurer, Joe Brunner, described the ledger, to include receipts and expenditures and reported an ending balance of \$3,018.54 in the checking account and \$100.23 in the savings account, for a total of \$3,118.77. The Treasurer indicated that he had received a donation of \$100.00 from John Smith on behalf of the Chula Vista State Veterans Home and CDVA, and \$3.00 in donations from the distribution of UVC bumper stickers. He reported no expenditures for the said period. He indicated that he had today received a donation from Veterans Village of San Diego of \$300.00, and a Bill in the amount of \$134.69 for the new UVC Banner, which will be reflected on next months’ report. 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 voice vote.

Chairman’s comments: The Chairman, Tom Richards, indicated he would reserve his comments for the “Good of the Order” and “Old Business”.

1st Vice Chairman’s comments: Allen Miliefsky, the 1st Vice Chairman, was absent.

2nd Vice Chairperson’s comments: The 2nd Vice Chairperson, Betty Nimits, indicated she had no significant comments.

Treasurer’s comments: The Treasurer, Joe Brunner, indicated he had no significant comments.

Secretary’s comments: The Secretary, Scott Langhoff, indicated he had no significant comments.

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:

Amanda McGrath of Cal-Diego Paralyzed Veterans of America announced their “Building a Better America”, a benefit Dinner and Concert event featuring Congressman Bob Filner as Guest Speaker, on Wednesday, August 29, 2007 from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at the House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Entertainment will be by “West of Memphis”. Seating is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible by calling (858) 450-1443.

Will Hays reported that the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center would host a Ceremony to Commemorate the Liberation of the Philippines in 1945 on Saturday, September 8th, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., with the Opening Ceremony at 10:00 A.M. The event will have related exhibits and special presentations, as well as various Guest Speakers.

2nd Vice Chairperson Betty Nimits announced that the Naval Medical Center will offer Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Blood tests on September 18th, 2007 from 1:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., and encouraged all male Military Retirees to participate.

The Chairman reported that on Sunday, September 30th, 2007, there would be a “Vietnam Veterans Memorial Paddle-Out” to honor those who died in Vietnam with a traditional Hawaiian “Paddle-Out” off the Oceanside Pier and Amphitheater, 300 North Pacific Street, Oceanside. The event will benefit organizations such as Freedom is not Free, Fisher House, Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, MCRD Museum Historical Society (Vietnam War Gallery), San Diego Veterans Memorial Association and Nice Guys of San Diego Victory Fund, amongst others.

All Veterans who served in any location or capacity during the Vietnam War are encouraged to participate in the event, and the Public is invited to witness this special event and partake in all other associated activities. Check-in is at 11:30 A.M. with the Ceremony beginning at 1:00 P.M. The event registration fee is \$50, with Children age 6-14 for \$15. For more information visit their website at www.VVMPaddleout.org or call (760) 707-6831. For sponsorship information, please call Jerry Anderson at (760) 436-0133.

Bea Waggett announced the upcoming 60th Annual California State Association of Parliamentarians Convention at the Handlery Hotel and Resort on October 18th-20th, 2007. This Convention will feature several Workshops of interest, and for more information, visit their website at www.ca-parliamentarian.org

Jerry Webb of the San Diego Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars announced their “52nd Annual Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance” to be held on Saturday, November 3rd, 2007 from 10:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at the Spreckel’s Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park. The event will feature Color Guards, the MCRD Marine Band, a Marine Rifle Squad, Marine Buglers, and Community Leaders. It is open to the Public, and there is no admission charge. Color Guards interested in participating should contact LTC Bill Jackowski at (858) 496- 8203 or 8204.

Bobby Price of VFW Post 2111 in Chula Vista announced their upcoming “Fun Walk”, to be held on Saturday, November 3rd, 2007, in support of the Chula Vista State Veterans Home Foundation. More information will be available at next month’s UVC meeting. Bob White added that 100% of the funds raised from the Walk go toward funding the Holiday Party for the residents at the State Veterans Home.

George Reed of the Association of the United States Army asked for the support of the Community for the International Symposium on Military Ethics Conference to be held at the University of San Diego on January 24th & 25th, 2008. More information will be provided at next months' meeting.

General Notices:

The Chairman announced the upcoming Annual "Globe & Anchor Salute", a fundraiser for the MCRD Command Museum, a Gala Affair with a live and silent auction, to be held on September 29th, 2007 at the Museum. Additional information will be distributed electronically to all Council members.

1st Vice Chairperson Betty Nimits also announced the upcoming Women Veterans Luncheon to be held at MCAS Miramar on November 3rd, 2007. Their Guest Speaker will be Janice Karpinski, U.S. Army Reserve. Additional information will be available at next month's meeting.

Secretary Scott Langhoff reminded all present that he offers a "Benefits-in-Brief" presentation about Veterans benefits, courtesy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to any group who would like to host one. He can be contacted via email to Scott.Langhoff@va.gov or by calling (619) 400-5323.

He also announced a UVC affiliation application form on the back of today's Agenda for any to attendees to complete and return at the end of the meeting. Other interested parties can visit the Councils' website at www.sduvc.org to affiliate.

Ralph Kling, Commander of the American Ex-POW's local Chapter, announced that they have a miniature model of a statue to be placed in the Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery Annex at MCAS Miramar on display at the back of the room.

Max Tadlock of the Military Order of the Purple Hearts indicated that the local "Sunny Jones" Chapter 49 has received formal approval to install a Monument dedicated to those who have earned the Purple Heart Medal adjacent to the Flagpole at the Veterans Museum & Memorial Center. The cost of the Monument is approximately \$10,000. Donations payable to "Chapter 49, Military Order of the Purple Heart" can be sent to Military Order of the Purple Heart, Sunny Jones Chapter 49, 8065 Caminito Del Oeste, San Diego, CA 92111-6974. Questions about the Monument can be directed to Max by phone at (858) 292-0319 or (760) 612-5121, or by email to mjt2win@san.rr.com

Robert Bowen of the Career Strategies for Veterans (CSV) Project announced the availability of a complimentary "Win from Within" Workshop available to any Veterans group that would like to host it. He can be contacted by telephone at (760) 271-6385 or by email to Robert@CareerCoachConnection.com

Jennifer Town, Representative to the Council for Naval Medical Center San Diego, announced a new telephone number that can be used to schedule an appointment with a Primary Care Physician or Sub-Specialist, trying to locate a Patient who is currently admitted, trying to call the Pharmacy, trying to call Patient Relations, or just trying to call for directions, further assistance or general information that is not related to your health care. Those numbers are (619) 532-7848 or toll-free (877) 262-6476.

Legislative reports: The Chairman called for the Legislative reports.

U.S. House and Senate Legislation: John Smith indicated he had nothing significant to report, and that several Bills of interest to the Council are still sitting the several House and Senate Committees.

State Legislation: Steve Arends gave brief comments on H.R. 551, *the Home Ownership for America's Veterans Act of 2007*, which affects the CALVET Home Loan Program, and that in an historic first, all of California's Congressional Delegation, excepting Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, as Speaker of the House,

have signed on to the Bill as co-sponsors. This was a team effort between many Veterans Service Organizations and the California Department of Veteran's Affairs.

He also gave brief comment about recent State Assembly and Senate actions, as well as that of the Governor's Office.

Veteran's Museum and Memorial Center: Will Hays reported on behalf of RADM Rod Melendez, Director of the Center, and commented that throughout the month of September, the Museum will have exhibits to commemorate the Liberation of the Philippines. They will host an Opening Ceremony on Saturday, September 8th, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., with the exhibits and special presentations.

He also commented on the "Veteran of the Year" program, and that organizational nominations for Veteran of the Year, Non-Profit Organization of the Year, and For-Profit Organization of the Year are due to the Museum by September 20th, 2007.

VA San Diego Healthcare System: Jane Sobczak, Assistant Director of the San Diego VA Healthcare System reported on behalf of Gary Rossio, Director of the VA Healthcare System in San Diego, and commented that the Center had recently been inspected by the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Hospitals, and that they did very well. The Center has expanded their Outreach efforts to Veterans in the Community with a goal of 1,700 new patients this fiscal year. Thus far, they have enrolled 1,229 new patients into the System. They have also identified the funding necessary to acquire a new, larger Outpatient Clinic in northern San Diego County, and that will be a nice addition to the System. They have also recently identified Cindy Abair as the new Associate Director for the System.

VA San Diego Regional Office: Tonia Damon reported on behalf of Lily Fetzer, Director of the San Diego VA Regional Office. She indicated had hosted the National Vocational Rehabilitation and Education (VR & E) Conference, with VR & E Officers from across the Nation in attendance. They will also host the National Area Directors Conference next week.

VA National Cemetery at Ft. Rosecrans: General Bob Cardenas reported on behalf of Bill Livingston, Director of the National Cemetery at Ft. Rosecrans. He indicated that the VA Undersecretary for Memorials and Cemeteries from Washington D.C. met with the Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery Miramar Annex Support Foundation Board of Directors on August 14th, and indicate that the \$19.5 million allocated for the Annex is secure, but that as a result of environmental concerns, a Public Hearing must be held before construction can proceed. Because of this delay, the anticipated opening of the Annex for internments will be approximately March of 2009.

Naval Medical Center, San Diego: Jennifer Town, Program Director for the Comprehensive Combat Casualty Care Center (C5), reported on behalf of the Commander, Naval Medical Center San Diego. She commented that the new Parking Garage with 1,200 parking spaces, wheelchair ramps and elevators is open. To access the lot, stay in the center lane after passing the gate, and go the second stop sign and turn right. At the next stop sign turn right and then right again into the Parking Garage entrance.

Additionally, the Medical Center is now accepting those retirees and their family members that are over sixty-five years of age and on Tricare-for-Life to shift their health care back to the Center. Letters are being sent to many prospective patients. They can call the aforementioned telephone numbers for additional information. She also indicated that the C5 had received their thirtieth amputee patient this week for rehabilitation, and their new rehabilitation facility should be completed and open during the second week of September.

Joe Brunner commented the Legislation that allows military health care facilities to bill Medicare for treatment of authorized patients over age 65 was initiated here in San Diego by the Council.

California State Veteran's Home – Chula Vista: Gil Acevedo, Administrator of the of the State Veteran's Home in Chula Vista, reported that the Home recently had their annual survey by the Department of Public Health, and it went very well, and their license will continue for another year. The Home currently has 369 residents. They will hold their monthly Memorial Service on Monday, August 27th at 10:00 A.M. in Building "F". They will also be hosting Mr. Daniel Contreras, the State Commander of the Disabled American Veterans at 8:30 A.M. that morning for a tour of the Home. CDVA Secretary Tom Johnson will be visiting the Home on August 30th.

On September 5th, Jerry Hansen, the former Inspector General for the CDVA, and also worked for the Department of the Army and the National Army Museum will visit the Home as a Guest of their American Legion Post 867, and giving a presentation about the Army National Museum.

CALVET Board: Colin "Jim" Shadell, Member of the CALVET Board and a Resident at the Chula Vista State Veterans Home, indicated that the next meeting of the CALVET Board would be held in Sacramento on September 18th.

San Diego County Veterans Service Office: Tom Splitgerber, Director of the San Diego County Veterans Service Office, reported that they had just hired a replacement for Ed Thomas, who retired, and that person should be in the office beginning in September. They also have received funding to be used to contract with the their office to provide Veterans benefits services, and are developing a Request for Proposal to facilitate this effort, and it will be released in the next three to four weeks, with a Contractor coming on board in December to augment their office Staff. They also received funding for their office to go "paperless" and are in the process of digitizing over 32,000 client records in their office. These records will be available on their website for access by their Veteran's Representative through a wireless Internet system practically anywhere in the County.

Veterans Village of San Diego: John Smith reported on behalf of Al Pavich, Director of Veterans Village. He commented that construction continues on Phase II of their rebuilding project, and things are progressing well.

"One VA" Report: The Co-Chairman of the "One VA" Committee, Pete Houben, gave various comments about the Joint Accreditation Inspection, and that 40% of the hospitals who had the inspection failed, to include four VA Medical Centers west of the Mississippi. The San Diego Healthcare System passed, and he lauded them for their efforts.

He indicated that it appears that approximately 25% of returning OIF/OEF Veterans are suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). He also gave comment on the issue of enrollment for those Veterans who are in Priority Group 8. He indicated that the next "One VA" Committee meeting would be September 19th at 9:30 A.M. at the VA Outpatient Clinic and Regional Office in Mission Valley. Scott Langhoff and the Chairman offered additional comment on the Moratorium on the Priority Group 8 healthcare enrollment issue.

San Diego County Veterans Advisory Council: Steve Arends, Chairman of the Council reported that there is a vacancy on the Council from Supervisor Bill Horn in the 5th District in northern San Diego County. Anyone Veteran interested in representing that District on the Council should contact Supervisor Horn's office.

San Diego County Veterans Day Parade Committee: John Weaver, Co-Chairman of the Committee, updated the Council on the status of plans for this year's Parade, to be held on Saturday, November 10th, 2007 at 11:00 A.M. on Pacific Coast Highway from Grape Street to approximately Harbor Drive, and that they meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 P.M. in the lower hall of the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center. Parade entry and donations forms, and information for those who would like to volunteer a convertible for the Parade for Dignitary Transportation can be found on the UVC website at www.sduvc.org

Joe Brunner, Scott Langhoff and Robert Lewis gave additional comments on the progress of their respective Subcommittees. The Chairman encouraged everyone to attend a meeting and volunteer to assist with the Parade.

Mt. Soledad Memorial Association: Bob Phillips reported on behalf of Bill Kellogg, President of the Association, and indicated that Navy Region Southwest is still working on the Memorandum of Understanding for the Memorial, and that once the Secretary of the Navy approves it, they hope to have it in place sometime in September. He also commented on the current status of the litigation on the Memorial. They have also completely paid off their loan, and plaques are continuing to sell very well. They are also starting a membership drive.

USS Midway Museum/CNRSW: Joe Ciokon, Public Affairs Officer of the USS MIDWAY Museum and Representative for the Commander, Naval Region Southwest, reported that RADM Arthur W. Price recently passed away in Coronado. He commanded the River Patrol Force in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969 under Admiral Zumwalt. Services will be held on September 18th at St. Paul's Memorial Church in Coronado.

He also commented on recent developments at the Museum, and Naval Unit activity, to include the homecoming of the USS STENNIS next Monday. She will drop off her Air Wing here and then return to her homeport of Everett, Washington. The South Pacific presentations on MIDWAY are sold out. The Miramar Air Show will be held on October 12th through the 14th, and the MIDWAY will have a booth there. They also have a vacant position for a Math & Science Teacher for their Education Program. Interested individuals can learn more about the position at www.midway.org

Old business: The Chairman called for Old Business or Correspondence, and the Secretary indicated he had no old correspondence or business.

The Chairman indicated that the Allen Miliefsky, Joe Brunner and Scott Langhoff had been nominated as candidates for the Council's "Veteran of the Year" at last month's meeting. A Committee had also been appointed to review the candidates. He opened the Floor for further nominations for candidates for the UVC "Veteran of the Year", and heard none. The Chairman moved that the nominations for "Veteran of the Year" candidates be closed, and Bob Phillips seconded the Motion, which passed on a voice vote.

He then opened the Floor for nominations "For-Profit" and "Non-Profit" "Organization of the Year" for the Council. Joe Brunner nominated Old Town Trolley as a "For-Profit" Organization of the Year for the Council. The Motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Joe Brunner then nominated the United Veterans Council of San Diego County as "Non-Profit" "Organization of the Year". The Motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

The Chairman indicated he still needed volunteers to staff the various Committees of the UVC's Strategic plan.

Terry Jensen volunteered to chair the Communications Committee, with John Culea as an Advisor, and Bob Phillips also volunteered to be on the Committee.

Ruth Deye volunteered the chair the Veteran's Employment Committee. Robert Bowen also volunteered to be on this Committee

The Chair indicated that the several members of American Combat Veterans of War (ACVOW) would staff the PTSD Mentor Committee.

Bobby Price and Nathan Fletcher volunteered to be on the Veteran's Service Organization Membership Committee.

New business: The Chairman called for any other Motions or New Business that needed to be brought before the Council. The Secretary indicated he had no new correspondence or business to be brought before the Council.

The Chairman reported the Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation would hold a Golf Tournament on Sunday, September 23rd at the Admiral Baker Golf Course, and that the information would be distributed electronically and available on the Council website.

The Chairman gave his closing comments 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 10:50 A. M.

The next Meeting of the United Veterans Council of San Diego County will be at 9:30 A.M. on Saturday, September 22nd, 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

Thomas A. Richards
LT COL USMC (Retired)
Chairman