



## VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

175 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0470

### Minutes of the Meeting

March 27, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

The American Legion Post 299, 13759 Central Ave., Chino, CA

**ATTENDANCE** – Members present: John Pi (4<sup>th</sup> Dist.), Frank Guevara (Board Liaison), Kelly Maxwell (1<sup>st</sup> Dist), James Willingham, Vice Chair Jim Frost, Chair Jeff Allen (3<sup>rd</sup> Dist.) and Danny Marquez. Also present: recording secretary Sally Gibson. Members excused: Terry Porter. Members absent: Dave Soto, Darlene Toole and Joseph Mena.

**CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeff Allen at 6:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING** – Minutes of the meeting held January 30, 2017 were unavailable for review and will be discussed at the next meeting.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATE** – Frank Guevara gave an overview of recent County VA activities:

- To date, 935 homeless veterans have been housed. Another 22 veterans have been identified as unsheltered. Overall homeless number have stabilized according to Supervisor Gonzales. Lessons learned housing homeless veterans will now be used to address homeless children.
- The Department will expand its incarcerated veteran program, with Frank visiting the Chino Institute for Men quarterly. He will also be visiting Adelanto and West Valley Detention Center.

#### FROM THE MEMBERS

**Jeff Allen** - Jeff discussed the difference between a 100% disability rating with Individual Unemployability vs. the scheduled 100% rating. Benefits are quite different and can affect retired military pay.

**Danny Marquez** – Danny reported on a number of topics:

- Public Counsel pro bono legal help; if you know a vet that may need legal help, contact Danny.
- Suicide Prevention event 4/22/17 @ Bass Pro Shop (flyer attached to original minutes)
- Veterans Memorial Corridor (flyer attached to original minutes) along Route 66
- Remember to refer vets to 2-1-1 to make sure they get access/information about all available County benefits
- A National Day of Service is being planned in the Fontana for September 11

See Danny for more information about any of these items.

**James Willingham** – James visited the veteran services offices at Cal State University San Bernardino and Cal Poly Pomona. The Claremont Colleges do not have a veteran service office. On a different subject, the Water of Life church has counseling and a ministry for veterans and military members. If you would like more information, see James.

**Kelly Maxwell** – Habitat for Humanity has a volunteer-built house available for a veteran to purchase at market price. Materials for the home are donated and labor is provided by volunteers. (House is being sold at market rather than cost-plus price.)

**John Pi** – John was recently reappointed to serve another term on the VAC. He and Kelly Maxwell attended the Homeless Summit. He also mentioned that in Riverside, when a hospital patient identifies as a veteran, they are referred to County VA.

**Jim Frost** – Jim mentioned that all at-large seats on the Veterans Advisory Committee have been filled.

#### DATE/TIME/LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next VAC meeting will be held Monday, July 24 at 6:30 p.m. at a location to be determined.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Allen".

Jeff Allen, Chairman

/sg