



# The Communicator

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The COMMUNICATOR is the official publication of the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO). Opinions expressed are those of contributing writers and do not necessarily reflect opinions or policies of CACVSO officers, members, or the editorial staff. The newsletter reserves the right to edit, amend, or reject any contribution submitted for publication.

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## President's message

(Solano CVSO Ted Puntillo, President)

Recently we had a strategic planning meeting with Cal Vet and your executive board was in attendance. Numerous topics were discussed.

The College Fee Waiver (CFW) was the first topic. It was decided that there is no time limit on the proof of disability from the VA. Old letters showing a disability rating will be good in perpetuity. Also the wording of the CFW manual is still being revised by the legal department of CalVet prior to releasing it for review. We have our consultant Jack Kirwan submitting language and we will get to review the proposed language prior to submission to the legislature. CalVet is also working on funding for the 1-800 number for CVSO's and increasing Vet Pro Maintenance Fees. This money will come out of the VSOF or license plate money. The fund is in good shape due to increased sales and a fee increase. Discussion was held regarding changing the Vet Plates back to the inscription of veteran rather than honoring veterans. CalVet is looking into it.

CalVet got to hire new positions to process MC-5's. This person will get thousands of them and do some outreach to the veterans. If you want the MC-5's sent directly to your office instead of CalVet working them, please let Angela know. If you do get them, then CalVet would expect a serious outreach effort and not simply a verification of benefits. Decision Ready Claims (DRC) was discussed and if you are interested in this process, you should contact your district office and sign up for training. You would have to have VBMS access to use this process. CalVet is still working on the language for the procedure manual and medical cost avoidance manual. It should be out soon.

The mentoring process was discussed and several offices have asked for mentoring. This process has started already and anyone wanting another set of eyes on their operation can call Tom Splitgerber, our executive director and he will set up a visit from an experienced CVSO. This program is all positive and meant to help new CVSO's and people who want help with any type of problems they may have. CalVet and our association will work to get the February conference in Sacramento to include two levels of training, one level for experienced CVSO's and one for new vet reps and CVSO's. New people are sometimes lost in the jargon and acronyms. I remember the first two years of my career where I did not understand anything that was being talked about at the conference.

A discussion was held about including National Guard and Reserve 20 year career service members as veterans in the License Plate Program. No resolution was made regarding this topic. Bergman and Moore law firm will give us all training at the Riverside Conference on how to appeal BVA decisions that are denied or not fully granted. This will give another avenue of appeal when the decision is not to our liking. See you all in Riverside. We will have elections as the first order of business at 10:00 on Monday. Please plan to be there and have some ideas on who you want to nominate. We have vacancies in President, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Sgt. at Arms and several trustee positions. We need new blood on the executive board with a mixture of experienced members.

Ted

## This Month's Featured County

**Mendocino County** is a county located on the north coast of the U.S. state of California. As of the 2010 census, the population was 87,841. The county seat is Ukiah. Mendocino County comprises the Ukiah, CA Micro-politan Statistical Area. It is located north of the San Francisco Bay Area and west of the Central Valley. The county is noted for its distinctive Pacific Ocean coastline, Redwood forests, wine production, microbrews, and liberal views about the use of cannabis and support for its legalization. It is estimated that roughly one-third of the economy is based on the cultivation of marijuana. The notable historic and recreational attraction of the "Skunk Train" connects Fort Bragg with Willits in Mendocino County via a steam-locomotive engine, along with other vehicles.





# TIME & PLACE COMMITTEE

*(Kern County—CVSO Dick Taylor, Chair)*

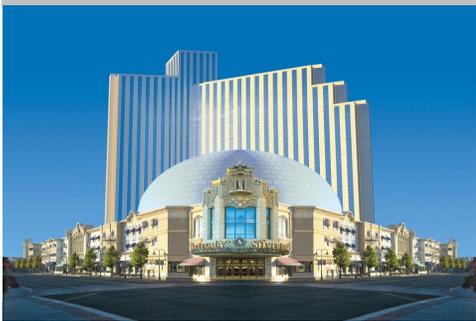
## Dates & Locations of Upcoming Conferences



**October 8—13, 2017**  
*Marriott Convention Center  
Riverside, CA*



**February 25—March 2, 2018**  
*Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, Sacramento, CA*



**June 2 — June 8, 2018**  
*Silver Legacy Hotel, Reno, NV*

# NewsLetter DEADLINE

***Last Thursday of the Month  
Unless Notified Otherwise!***



## Musings of the Executive Director



Tom Splitgerber  
CACVSO Executive director  
tsplitgerber@san.rr.com

The Mentor Program which was developed by the Association is to provide hands-on training and mentoring to new or struggling county veterans service officers. The objective is to raise the level of expertise in county veterans service offices throughout the state to ensure that every veteran seeking assistance is provided only the highest quality service from highly trained and expert staff. Presently we have had inquiries by six counties that desire to have another CVSO visit their office to provide help and guidance. We would like to see the county requesting the help develop at a minimum three objectives that they want to set. The objectives will then be monitored to see how effective the training was. There should be no embarrassment to anyone who has requested help as the mentoring is to help all concerned. From the mentoring, we may be able to determine model staffing standards for the large, medium and small counties for claims. By monitoring the objectives and how well they were met may help us in the long run market ourselves to the legislators and our own Board of Supervisors to gain more money or staffing. I want to remind the CVSO's to seriously consider signing up for the various Committees that we have. This is a great way to learn about the Association, what it does for us and to gain knowledge so that you can take the various positions in the Executive Board and the elective chain. Anyone with a specific expertise in graphic arts, computer skills, Quick Books or advanced knowledge of Microsoft Office please let the Executive Director know. We can use your skills.

See you all in Riverside at the Training Conference!

Tom Splitgerber  
Executive Director  
CACVSO

# LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE REPORT

(By Pete Conaty and Dana Nichol, Legislative Advocates)

CACVSO  
Communicator  
Legislative Advocate's article  
September 2017

By Pete Conaty

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## BILLS CURRENTLY ON THE GOVERNOR'S DESK THAT THE CACVSO HAS TAKEN A POSITION ON

List compiled by Pete Conaty and Associates, CACVSO Legislative Advocate, 9-29-17

**For more information on these bills, go to:**

<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

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**For more information on CACVSO legislative advocacy, contact:**

Scott Holwell, Legislative Committee Chairman, CACVSO, [scott.holwell@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:scott.holwell@co.kings.ca.us)  
Pete Conaty, CACVSO Legislative Advocate, [pcontay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pcontay@sbcglobal.net)

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\*The Governor has until October 15 to sign or veto bills.

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AB 153	<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Chavez [R]
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Military Fraud
Support	<b>SUMMARY:</b>	Requires certain elected officers to forfeit their office upon the conviction of a crime pursuant to the federal Stolen Valor Act or the California Stolen Valor Act that involves a fraudulent claim, made with the intent to obtain money, property, or other tangible benefit, that the person is a veteran or a member of the Armed Forces. Provides for penalties.
AB 296	<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Cervantes [D]
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Task Force: Health of Women Veterans
Support	<b>SUMMARY:</b>	Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to create a task force to study the health of California women veterans comprised of members with specified qualifications. Prohibits task force from receiving compensation or reimbursement of expense for their service. Requires the task force to study the health care needs of women veterans in the state. Requires the task force to submit reports to the Governor.
AB 363	<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Quirk-Silva [D]
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Drivers Licenses: Veteran Designation
Support	<b>SUMMARY:</b>	Prohibits a fee from being charged for requests to have the word VETERAN printed on driver's licenses and identification cards, if made by a person who has been determined to have a specified income level or a person who can verify his or her status as a homeless person.
AB 365	<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Muratsuchi [D]
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Pupil Instruction: Coursework and Graduation
Support	<b>SUMMARY:</b>	Amends an existing law which requires a school district to exempt certain pupils from coursework and other requirements in certain cases. Extends the exemption to children of military families.
AB 547	<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Chavez [R]
	<b>TITLE:</b>	California Prompt Payment Act: Disabled Veterans
Support	<b>SUMMARY:</b>	Requires state agencies to pay an undisputed invoice from a certified disabled veteran business enterprise that is also a small business within a certain period of initial receipt. Requires a state agency to submit a claim on an undisputed invoice to the Controller for payment within a certain period. Requires the agency to pay penalties if it fails to submit a correct claim schedule.

AB 1249 **AUTHOR:** Gray [D]  
**TITLE:** Property Taxation: Exemptions: Veterans Organizations  
**SUMMARY:** Provides that the veterans' organization exemption shall not be denied to a property on the basis that the property is used for fraternal, lodge, or social club purposes to any portion of a property that consists of a bar where alcoholic beverages are served.  
 Support

AB 1269 **AUTHOR:** Stone [D]  
**TITLE:** Mobilehome Residents and Senior Protection Act  
**SUMMARY:** Extends the application of certain enforcement procedures for the prevention and elimination of housing discrimination to apply to unlawful actions under the Mobilehome Residency Law against homeowners or residents of mobilehomes. Authorizes the Department of Fair Employment and Housing to investigate potential violations of the Mobilehome Residency Law that are discovered during the course of an existing formal investigation, without a formal complaint.  
 Oppose

AB 1365 **AUTHOR:** Reyes [D]  
**TITLE:** Veterans Homes: Planning Strategy  
**SUMMARY:** Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit to the Legislature and post on its website a financial report of the Veterans homes located in certain locations by a specified date. Requires the department to review the use of a Veterans home, using specified factors, no later than a specified period before the expiration of a specified use restriction imposed by federal law to determine the best continued, unrestricted use of the Veterans home.  
 Support

AB 1403 **AUTHOR:** Obernolte [R]  
**TITLE:** Military and Overseas Voters  
**SUMMARY:** Authorizes a military or overseas voter to apply in person to the elections official for permission to register if he or she is released from services after the closing date of registration for an election, has returned to the county of his or her residence, and is not a registered voter. Allows a military or overseas voter who is required to move under official active duty military orders after the closing date of registration to apply in person after the closing date of registration.  
 Support

AB 1710 **AUTHOR:** Veterans Affairs Cmt  
**TITLE:** Prohibited Discrimination Against Service Members  
**SUMMARY:** Amends existing law which prohibits various types of discrimination against an officer, or enlisted member, of the military or naval forces of the state or the US, because of his or her membership or service. Includes, within these prohibitions, discrimination in terms, conditions, or  
 Support

SB 3 **AUTHOR:** Beall [D]  
**TITLE:** Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018  
**SUMMARY:** Enacts the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018. Authorizes the issuance of bonds of a specified amount to be used to finance various existing housing programs, as well as infill infrastructure financing and affordable housing matching grant programs. Provides for additional funding of a specified amount for farm purchase, home purchase, and mobilehome purchase assistance for veterans.  
 Support

SB 156 **AUTHOR:** Anderson [R]  
**TITLE:** Military and Veterans: Transition Assistance  
**SUMMARY:** Requires the veterans transition assistance program to provide information to noncitizens, who are leaving military service, where to acquire state legal assistance to acquire US citizenship. Requires the state National Guard to inform its members that it will assist noncitizen members in acquiring US citizenship as soon as they are eligible. Requires the state National Guard to assist a noncitizen member in filing all forms and paperwork necessary to become a US citizen.  
 Support

SB 266	<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Dodd [D]
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Armed Service Members: Consumer Loans
Support	<b>SUMMARY:</b> Amends the Banking Law, the Credit Union Law, the Finance Lenders Law, and the Deferred Deposit Transaction Law to update references to the Military Lending Act. Makes changes concerning discrimination with respect to the terms of a loan or financing based on a person's	
SB 339	<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Roth [D]
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Veterans Treatment Courts: Judicial Council Assessment
Support	<b>SUMMARY:</b> Requires the Judicial Council to report to the Legislature on a study of veterans and veterans treatment courts that includes a statewide assessment of veterans treatment courts currently in operation and a survey of counties that do not operate such courts that identifies	
SB 728	<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Newman [D]
	<b>TITLE:</b>	State Public Employees: Sick Leave: Veterans
Support	<b>SUMMARY:</b> Relates to the California Wounded Warriors Transitional Leave Act. Grants an additional credit for sick leave with pay to a state officer, or employee who serves as a member of the National Guard, or federal military reserve force who is called up to active military service and as	
SB 731	<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Newman [D]
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Public School Employees: Veteran Leave of Absence
Support	<b>SUMMARY:</b> Relates to leave of absence for public school employees. Includes both a certificated employee and a classified employee who is a former active duty member of the Armed Forces, or a former active duty member of the California National Guard. Requires credit for leave of absence to be credited to a qualifying certificated employee on the date of the employee's disability rating decision.	
SB 776	<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Newman [D]
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Corrections: Veterans' Benefits
Support	<b>SUMMARY:</b> Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide one employee for every 5 state prisons, who is trained and accredited by the department, to assist incarcerated veterans in applying for and receiving any federal or other veterans' benefits for which they or their families may be eligible. Requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to give the Department of Veterans Affairs' employees access to the hardware, software, and those computer networks as are reasonably necessary.	



The Riverside County Veterans' Services Department has an open vacancy for the position of Veterans Service Representative I/II, Job #8439 in Riverside and Indio/Hemet, which is now posted on Job Gateway with an expected closing date of Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. PST; however, postings may close at any time.

To apply please follow the link below.  
[Employee Self Service \(ESS\)](#).  
 And log into your Self Service account.

**DATES OF INTEREST**

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

- 10 Nat. Grandparents Day
- 11 Patriot Day
- 15 Nat. POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 18 Air Force Birthday
- 22 Native American's Day
- 24 Gold Star Mother's Day

