



# Minutes of the General Business Meeting Fall Virtual Conference

## **Opening**

The regular meeting of the CACVSO General Business Meeting was called to order on October 3, 2023, by President, Rhonda Murphy. Proceeding with Pledge of Allegiance by Harry Hitchings and Invocation by Scott Holwell.

## **Counties Present**

All counties were present at the time of roll call excluding Humboldt, Inyo-Mono, Los Angeles, Mendocino, Orange, Riverside, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Francisco, Solano, Stanislaus, Trinity and Yolo.

## **New VSO/VSR Introductions**

We Welcome William Orecchia, Alameda and Joshua Zebley, Contra Costa. Do not hesitate to reach out to president or your peers if you need anything.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Discussion: None.

**Proposal:** Approve minutes submitted electronically June 29, 2023, for Yuba-Sutter Summer Conference.

**Motion:** Ken Cruickshank

**Seconded:** Jim McHugh

**Passed**

## **President Report** President, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion: Welcome everyone to the Fall Virtual conference. The training team has been working diligently to provide excellent sources of training during this virtual conference. Thank you to Tammy Bender and her team. President had the opportunity to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> CACVSO Mentorship summit. David West and his team did a great job helping the new CVSO come aboard, he will be reporting on this later. There were some things that were learned along the way to make the next one even better. CalVet has requested to move our conference to October 17<sup>th</sup>. Have heard from several of you stating it wouldn't work. Would like to have clarity about who could attend. CalVet was aware of our conference dates, they approved them, so census is that we are not able to change last minute due to scheduling.

At a previous conference it was brought up to honor VSRs at one of our conferences. The work they do is just as important as the CVSO in the office. A lot of them go unrecognized. I know that some of you are a 1-person shop, however those who are not will be asking for 1 name per County, and we will randomly choose our winners. They will be recognized at our in-person conference in February.

If you would like to get involved with the Committee, please reach out to our Secretary Yvette Mason and she can provide you where the vacancies are.

**Committee recommendations:** During the next conference we would like to have our committee chairs give brief reports on what their committee do and how it affects the overall day to day of the Association.

**National updates:** If you are still struggling to log into your NACVSO account, please reach out to us and we can assist you to get it resolved. The Basic benefits training classes will be as follows: Basic Benefits 2023, October 23-27; Advanced Appeals 2023, November 15-17 and CVA 2023, December 7-8. Please remember that it is important to keep your memberships active. Our Association pays for the CVSO, and the counties are responsible for paying for the staff. This gives us more voting power when we need our presence known within the National association. You will need to fill it out online and email an invoice to Marion at [execdirector@cacvso.org](mailto:execdirector@cacvso.org) so that we can get the check to NACVSO by the deadline. The next National Conferences will be in Denver CO from 05/12 through 05/16/ 2024.

**Legislative Report** Chair, Scott Holwell

**Discussion:** A Legislative report was emailed out to members. Will be meeting on October 13 virtually. AB46 placed in suspension in committee. Extended to two-year bill. Ongoing discussions. Bill list has been emailed to members. Have some committee changes, two new voting members, Jim McHugh, Ventura and Jose Lopez, Kern. We are not asking for any increase subvention funding, but we can look at one-time funding for one-time expenses. Please submit ideas to the legislative committee.

**Veterans Homes:** Chair, Deborah Esque

**Discussion:** Report emailed to members noting site visits, available units, await lists for assisted living, skilled nursing, and memory care. 30-40 days application process for homeless veterans. Yountville and Barstow and Chula Vista have openings.

**Funding Process:** Chair, Jim Mchugh

**Discussion:** Awaiting on who will step into Keith Boylan's position.

**Strategic Planning Report** Chair, Marvin King

**Discussion:** Revisions were sent out to members via email. Thanks everyone on committee for all their help. Eboard reviewed and recommended revisions. Currently working on Ethics, Code of Conduct and SWAT analysis.

**Mission Statement:** To advocate on behalf of, educate, and support member counties as they assist their military and Veteran communities. Removed wording after approved by the general membership. E-Board meeting 09/14/2023 recommended removing "The mission of the California Association of County Veteran Service Officers is"

**Vision:** To assist County Veteran Services Officers (CVSOs) in developing productive relationships with state and local governmental agencies. To be the leading organization in advocating and developing state and federal benefits for our Veterans. To have the best trained membership and CVSO staff. To implement processes and remove barriers that hinder effective processing of Veteran claims. To provide CVSOs with tools to enhance outreach to their local Veterans.

Values: California Association of County Veteran Services Officers (CACVSO) values the service and sacrifice of our military members, Veterans, their families, and survivors. CACVSO values our Leadership who conduct themselves with integrity, honor, professionalism, and empathy with open, transparent, and honest communications to membership. CACVSO values transparency and open communication within the association and among our membership. CACVSO values good character, integrity, and ethics for all internal and external stakeholders. CACVSO values a well-trained professional membership. CACVSO values inclusiveness within the association. CACVSO values members who exhibit professionalism, commitment and empathy when advocating for Veterans and their families. CACVSO values collaboration among member counties. CACVSO values active, meaningful, and effective participation in the local, state, and federal legislative process, affecting and/or advancing Veteran interests.

**Proposal:** Approve Strategic revisions.

**Motion:** Tom Jackson

**Seconded:** Kenneth Cruickshank

**Passed**

**Hospitality:** Chair, Chis Mancebo

Discussion: Tickets will go on sale Today after the business meeting. We will put the link in the Chat and will be emailed out to members. We will be doing the number generator method for determining who wins the prizes. Prizes are an Amazon \$300 gift card: Amazon \$200 gift card, and Amazon \$100 gift card from VetPro. 35 tickets for \$20; 15 tickets for \$10; and 7 tickets for \$5.

**Mentorship:** Chair, David West

Discussion: Last week we held our first ever CACVSO Mentorship Summit on 9/21 & 9/22. This was a great opportunity to learn from each other and it was an opportunity for our younger members on the committee to gain exposure through their presentations. The feedback received was honest so that we can make next time more of academy style. It was an overall success. March/April will be meeting in Santa Clara again. VetPro manual is still going through edits and will be released hopefully soon. Any new VSOs that would like to be connected with a mentor, please reach out; Assistance is always available to you.

**Homeless:** Chair, Alfred Sims

Discussion: Trying to arrange presentation for next conference. Need more participation in committee.

**Cemetery Report** Chair, Brian Galicia

Discussion: No report. Members request updated report on cemetery openings.

**Women, Minority & Underrepresented Veterans:** Chair, Ro Arnold

Discussion: Chair vacancy.

**Time & Place:** Chair, Vacant

Discussion: The Executive Director has been covering for this committee. Chair vacancy.

**Deferred:** The Meeting was deferred to Thursday, October 19th at 8:42 am.

**Proposal:** Defer meeting until Thursday, October 19th.

**Motion:** Tom Jackson

**Seconded:** Alfred Sims  
**Passed**

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**Legislative Report** Chair, Scott Holwell

Discussion: Legislative Platform 2022 and 2023 Legislative priorities were emailed to members for review. State Legislative Priorities 2023: homelessness, accreditation, Veterans license plate fee waiver, restore veterans-only license plate and jobs. Federal Legislative Priorities 2023 to support legislative, regulatory or policy changes to help reduce claims backlog and expand outreach services to veterans; authorize pharmacies to honor prescriptions written by non-USDVA physicians; and eliminate means test for medical care.

**Proposal:** To accept report.

**Motion:** Ken Cruickshank

**Seconded:** Chris Mancebo

**Passed**

**Treasurer Report** Treasurer, Ryan Kegley

Discussion: Balance on hospitality suite and disaster relief was provided; budget overview; current balances; and new budget impacts.

**Proposal:** To accept report.

**Motion:** Jim McHugh

**Seconded:** Chris Mancebo

**Passed**

**Executive Director Report** Chair, Marion Moses provided by Rhonda Murphy

Discussion: Winter Legislative Conference will be held at the Hardrock Hotel in Wheatland from 11-16 February 2024. The contract has been negotiated and is awaiting the final draft for signature. The registration site for this conference will go live by the end of October/early November and the sooner you register, the better. With the winter conference, we are introducing something new, called the Whova app. It is a conference app that allows you to view speaker information, the agenda, schedule networking meetings, and collaborate interactively with each other. This is a pilot project, and your participation and feedback are much appreciated. The app can be used on your smartphone or on a computer/laptop/tablet. The sign-up invitation for Whova will be available as part of your conference registration.

Summer Training Conference is tentatively scheduled for 9-14 June 2024 at Cache Creek Casino Resort in Brooks, CA (Yolo County). Venues within a reasonable budget are difficult to find, but this would be a great venue. Contract negotiations are currently ongoing. With that said, the higher attendance we can get for our in-person conferences, the better. If we could get our attendance at the conference up to 150 participants per in-person event, it would allow us to have an even better conference experience.

We have received a first mockup of our new website that I would like to share with you (mockup was shown). If you know what our website looks like right now, I feel you will find this new design much more up-to-date, relevant and professional looking. (Slowly scroll through the mockup to let membership look at it). There is not much content there yet, but with your help, we can make this a very informative website. With that, if you have suggestions on content, please email Executive Director to discuss. The website will also host a blog for our

training consultants, so questions can be posted and discussed in real time. Again, any support with regard to web content is very much appreciated.

**Unfinished Business** President, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion: No unfinished business.

**New Business** President, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion:

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned for October 19, 2023, at 3:50pm. by President, Rhonda Murphy. The next General Business Meeting will be held during the Winter Conference.

**Proposal:** To Adjourn General Business Meeting.

**Motion:** Tom Jackson

**Seconded:** Chris Mancebo

**Passed**

Minutes submitted by: Yvette Mason