



# Minutes of the General Business Meeting Summer Yuba-Sutter County Conference

## **Opening**

The regular meeting of the CACVSO General Business Meeting was called to order on June 19, 2023, by President, Rhonda Murphy. Proceeding with Pledge of Allegiance by Harry Hitchings and Invocation by Grant Gautsche.

## **Counties Present**

All counties were present at the time of roll call excluding Amador, Marin, Merced, Orange, and Sonoma.

## **New VSO/VSR Introductions**

Steve Johnson, Placer; Ramsey Williamson, Del Norte; Bill Reed, Contra Costa; Yuba, Alameda, Tatian Pinson, Yuba-Sutter; Mike Schmidt. San Diego, and Tamyra Simpson, Alameda.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Discussion: None.

**Proposal:** Approve minutes submitted electronically March 9, 2023, for Winter-Sacramento Conference.

**Motion:** Tom Jackson

**Seconded:** David West

**Passed**

## **Correspondence** President, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion: None.

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

Discussion: What President has been up to since Sacramento. She attended the NACVSO conference with some of our other CVSOs and our very own Katrina Eagle and Jim Ragdona, won the Doug LeValley award which stands for dedication, collaboration, humility, and Mentorship. It's an honor to have them recognized nationally and be on our training team. They fit in my current mantra that "Together we make a difference".

She attended the 75th annual Women Veteran trailblazer even in Sacramento. It was a terrific event, there were so many female veterans in one room it was very impressive to her. CACVSO was represented well by receiving two Trailblazer awards. Elena Kim San Francisco County and myself. Also, Darryln Escalante was also a nominee. Several of our CVSO were also in attendance to support the event. I encourage you to appoint the female veterans in your offices as we are all Trailblazers in our own right.

We had our first annual President breakfast for Committee Chairs to honor those who have stepped up to support the E-board and this Association, without them our jobs would be much harder. Coming out of COVID and catching up on all the committees, they have been a busy group and the E-Board wanted to recognize them.

Just a reminder, if you would like to join a committee please see our Secretary, Yvette Mason and see which positions are available.

Thank members for their patience while NACVSO figured out their payment processing issues. Executive Director and President are still working closely with Kim Shalloo, the Executive Director of NACVSO, to ensure that our state membership numbers are a true reflection of this state and our offices. You can now go on the website and print out your own invoice. If you are unable to do any of this, please reach out to the Executive Director and she will assist. Please remember if you are CVSO send your invoice to the Executive Director so that she and the Financial Officer get the check cut. 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. David West was elected to the NACVSO Executive Board during this conference. Congratulations David.

NACVSO is looking to come west in 2027 and we are looking at different areas to see if we can support one of these conferences again in our state or partner with a state so that the costs for the NACVSO members will not be astronomical. If you are interested, please get with me and we will talk to the NACVSO conference director Jane Roland. CACVSO is more than happy to assist. The next National Conferences will be in Denver CO from 05/12 through 05/16 2024. Also remember that if you need National Accreditation then that is online now. You can register for this through the website. Next Basic Benefits class is September 23-27, 2023, and you can register on-line for this class.

**By-Laws Report** Chair, Dell Pratt

Discussion: All revisions Voted/Approved by the Association during the Winter 2023 CACVSO Conference have been incorporated in the Bylaws. Specifically allow for Virtual Executive Committee Meetings & invited guests at CACVSO President's discretion. Change Election of Officers from the Fall Conference to the Winter Conference. Officially Added Standing Committees for Mentorship & Women, Minority, & Underrepresented Veterans. Added Training Committee Chairperson as voting member of Executive Committee

The current Proposal before the Bylaws Committee is the addition of a CACVSO Code of Ethics/Code of Conduct/Grievance Procedures (Actual name to be determined by Association). Both the updated CACVSO Bylaws (to be added to CACVSO Website) and current draft are attached/available. Will have verbiage for eboard meetings being virtual and proper notification.

**Nominations and Elections:** Scott Holwell, Chair

Discussion: Need to start running committee as it should be run. Three members of nomination would be the three trustees. Which will be installed at banquet in February Conference. The committee comes up with a slate for each position. If interested let them know so that we can have a list built prior to nominations on floor. No standards or metrics for qualifications currently. Will be defined through the bylaws.

**Strategic Planning Report** Chair, Marvin King

Discussion: A Strategic Plan is a series of statements used by an agency to help guide that agency through discussions and decision over a 3-to-5-year period. These statements look at what the agency's purpose is, help focus the direction the agency is heading, and then project where this agency will be at the end of this period. It is used to guide that agency in its daily activities and helps set a course such that at the end of this 3-to-5-year period the agency has accomplished their goals, placing that agency where it planned to be.

In 2022, this association decided that we need to update our Strategic Plan. A committee was formed with five members meeting twice a month to update this plan. So far, this committee has gathered input from association members, consolidated these inputs, drafted a Mission Statement, and obtained approval for the proposed Mission Statement. The Mission Statement was presented and approved during the January 2023 conference. Since that time, this committee continues to meet with the objective of drafting our Vision and Value Statements. The draft Vision Statement was submitted to the President and discussed at the recent E-Board meeting. The E-Board provided recommendations/changes, but these changes have not been considered by the committee. Since this has not been discussed in committee, I am unable to present this Vision Statement to the association body during this meeting.

Along with the work on the Vision Statement, the committee continues to work on our Values, Ethics, Priorities and Objectives. We are at the beginning stages of these statements, and we will present them to this association as they are finalized.

**Hospitality:** Chair, Chis Mancebo

Discussion: We are not providing food and alcohol for hospitality at this conference 6 pm until .... Hard Rock Café manages hospitality, we will be providing two alcohol tickets per day. Next conference is virtual. Anyone is welcome to bring food prior to conferences on Mondays and Tuesdays. You can donate through county, or we can reimburse. Raffle prizes should be brought representing your counties as it helps support the hospitality. Can take cards or cash.

**Mentorship:** Chair, David West

Discussion: Current members or mentees of committee to bring to his attention that they are on the committee. New VSO's please reach out to David West and reach out to peers. First Mentorship Summit in September 21-23. 25 rooms being held. The working committee met in Santa Clara and worked on Vet Pro manual and policies.

**Cemetery Report** Chair, Brian Galicia

Discussion: State Cemeteries currently accepting interments: California Central Coast Veterans, Northern California, Yountville Veterans Home Cemetery- currently only accepts interment of the Veteran Home's residents and their eligible dependents, and Southern California – According to CalVet, discussions are ongoing for a proposed site for a Southern California Veterans Cemetery.

National Cemeteries currently accepting interments: Bakersfield, Miramar, Riverside, Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley..

**Contract Renewals** President, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion: It is contract renewal time, and we need to continue all the contracts. Contracts will be provided in advance in the future for review by membership.

There are no changes to anyone's contact financially. The only suggested change that the eboard has requested is that all contracts are on a 2-year renewal plan so that they are all uniform. There are clauses in each contract that if one of the parties would like to get out of their contract or we would like to remove them, there is a 30-day policy in place.

Ted Puntillo's Financial Operations Officer contract was shown on the screen: for the position of Financial Operations Officer. We added Ted as our Financial Operations Officer in September of 2022, and he has taken much of the strain off the appointed Treasurer. Since Ted has become Financial Operations Manager, requests for reimbursements have been quicker. His knowledge of the Association's past has helped us move forward financially. The only change that the E-board is seeking is to make this a 24-month contract to make all contracts uniform in the Association.

**Proposal:** Approve Financial Operations Officer Contract with 2-year renewal.

**Motion:** Bob Johns

**Seconded:** Saul Sanabria

**Yays, 27; Nays, 13; Abstentions, 7**

**Passed**

Marion Moses's Executive Director Contract was shown on the screen: Since the passing of Pete Conaty, our Executive director has taken on the role of sponsor management and as of this date has brought in more than \$12,000 from CACVSO Sponsorships. This has increased the time spent on Association business more than what the position initially required. Also, as we get out from under COVID and we all are doing more business the Association is relying on the Executive Director more and more.

**Proposal:** Approve Executive Director Contract with 2-year renewal.

**Motion:** Rick Jackson

**Seconded:** Ken Cruickshank

**Yays, 40; Nays, 0; Abstentions, 7**

**Passed**

Katrina Eagle and Jim Ragdona Training consultants Contract was shown on the screen. There are no financial changes, the only suggested change is making this a 24-month contract instead of a 12 month contract.

**Proposal:** Approve Training Consultants Contract with 2-year renewal.

**Motion:** Ken Cruickshank

**Seconded:** Tom Jackson

**Yays, 44; Nays, 1; Abstentions, 2**

**Passed**

**Legislative Report Chair, Scott Holwell**

Discussion: The Legislative Report Platform will be sent out and posted to the website. Reviewed hot ticket items and those we voted to support. If you have opinions, please send them to the Legislative Chair. We have five voting members, membership not limited. Bylaws limit voting membership to five. Anyone can be added to the legislative committee email distribution list. Please reply to all members of the committee with responses. Reviewed legislative reports. Reviewed CSAC At Home Resolution.

**Proposal:** Approve Legislative Report.

**Motion:** Jim McHugh

**Seconded:** Jose Lopez

**Passed**

**Proposal:** Approve CSAC At Home Resolution proposal

**Motion:** Bill Cook

**Seconded:** Grant Gautsche

**Passed**

**Treasurer Report** Treasurer, Ryan Kegley

Discussion: Reviewed on screen proposed 23/24 Budget, current income, revenue, and expenses; incidental costs and summer conference report. 100% paid membership dues. The association invoices will be going out first week of July. Don't anticipate dues increase.

**Proposal:** To accept proposed budget.

**Motion:** Ken Cruickshank

**Seconded:** Chris Mancebo

**Passed**

**Proposal:** To pay bills.

**Motion:** Rena Maveety

**Seconded:** Marvin King

**Passed**

**Executive Director Report** Chair, Marion Moses

Discussion: Report on current projects reviewed on screen. Been working on website upgrade, NACVSO Renewals and taking over Pete Conaty's role with association in regards to Conference sponsors, revenue streams, and Contact campaigns. A mock of the new website will be reviewed during October conference.

**Proposal:** To approve Jaramillo Web Design Proposal.

**Motion:** Bill Cook

**Seconded:** Josh Christopherson

**Passed**

**Time & Place:** Executive Director, Marion Moses,

Reviewed what goes into arranging a conference venue, the ongoing upkeep during training week, classroom/banquet settings and costs savings. Need a new venue for future Legislative conferences due to issues and upgrades needed at prior location.

**Proposal:** To approve a 3 yr. contract with Hard Rock Hotel and Casino for February Conferences.

**Motion:** Sal Torres

**Seconded:** Rochelle Arnold

**Passed**

**Funding Process Report** Chair, Grant Gautsche

Discussion: Latest update from Jack Kirwan: An initial set of proposed regulation changes were submitted to CalVet in late March to re-open discussions about fixing the issues with the subvention manual. We are awaiting feedback pending higher priorities in the several offices within CalVet that play a role in rule making.

**Unfinished Business** President, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion: No unfinished business.

**New Business** President, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion: Implement an award for office staff so that they can be acknowledged at the Winter Conference. Citation requests should be forwarded to the Secretary prior to conferences.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned for June 22, 2023, at 5:00pm. by President, Rhonda Murphy. The next General Business Meeting will be held during Fall Virtual CACVSO Conference.

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

**Motion:** Jacques Murphy

**Seconded:** Bob Johns

**Passed**

Minutes submitted by: Yvette Mason