



Minutes of the General Business Meeting Summer-San Luis Obispo Conference June 20, 2022

Opening

The regular meeting of the CACVSO General Business Meeting was called to order on June 20, 2022, by President, Rhonda Murphy. Proceeding with Pledge of Allegiance by Harry Hitchings and Invocation by our Chaplain, Grant Gautsche.

Counties Present

All counties were present at time of roll call excluding Marin, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, Shasta and Trinity.

New VSO/VSR Introductions

Susan Feighery-San Joaquin, Alfred Sims-Solano, Elena Kim-Orange, Job Silva, VSR-Del Norte, Terry Thomas-El Dorado, and Stephanie Stone-Los Angeles.

Approval of Minutes

Discussion: None.

Proposal: Approve minutes submitted electronically March 14, 2022, for Winter Virtual Conference.

Motion: Ken Cruickshank

Seconded: Bob Johns

Passed

Correspondence President, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion: None.

President Report President, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion: I had the honor of attending the National Association of county veteran service officers annual training conference two weeks ago. Also, in attendance was Marvin King 1st vice, David West, Nevada, County and who was also selected to be on their training team, and Travis McLain, Napa County. There were also three that attended virtually one Terry Thomas from El Dorado and Elvie Flaviano from San Francisco, Lorena Lacar, and Federico Garcia from Imperial. I would encourage any of you to attend either virtually or in-person. The training is valuable, and the speakers are great, it is also good to see what the National Association is working on.

It is contract renewal time: If Marion or Katrina are in the room at this time, I will ask you to leave the room. We need to renew Marion Moses contract. For the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. There are no changes to contract. After doing this position for the last 6 months, I was an Executive Director fan before but to continue to assist my veterans and support this association as President having an Executive

Director that is efficient and detailed oriented is a god send. Also, it does not hurt that she used to sit in our seat for the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

Also, we need renew contract for our training consultant Katrina Eagle & Jim Ragdona. Since they have come aboard, the training at our conferences is second to none and we get two terrific trainers for the price of one. Due to the increasing costs for travel, hotel rates and food costs, the E-board has agreed we should increase, their contract amount from \$13,500 to \$18,000 and their travel from \$1,800 to \$3,000 for the year July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. I have spoken to the Treasurer and we can cover this increase with no financial hardship.

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 association. Also, the Accreditation class now called Basic Benefits Class is now only online. To register, you can do so on the NACVSO website. Next class is in August. The next National Conferences will be Madison WI from 06/04 through 06/08 2023 Denver CO from 05/12 through 05/16 2024.

I would like all the committee chairs to stand please. We are only as strong as they committees themselves so if you would like to join a committee, please see our website, and talk to our Secretary Yvette Mason to add you.

Reconvened showing power point with Executive Director current contract and clarification of whether any conflict of interest would exist.

Proposal: To Accept Executive Director contract to include clarification paragraph and non-disclosure statement.

Motion: Ken Cruickshank

Seconded: Tom Jackson

Passed

Proposal: To Increase Training Consulting Fee from \$13,500 to \$18,000 annually and increase travel budget from \$1,800 to \$3,000.

Motion: Sam Isdell

Seconded: David West

Passed

Treasurer Report Treasurer, Ryan Kegley

Discussion: Provided power point presentation noting conference attendance, costs, proposed budget, contracts. Expenses, Revenues, and summary of notable changes. No longer expending for Budget consultant. Hospitality account balance is \$7,113.03 derived from raffle ticket sales and Disaster relief donations \$3,586.43. Expenses 72% executed; overall expenses will be less due to virtual conferences. Edward Jones account 185k, B of A will be closed and moving all accounts to Union Bank.

Proposal: To accept treasurer report.

Motion: Scott Howell

Seconded: Terry Sanders

Passed

Executive Director Report Chair, Marion Moses

Discussion: No Report.

Legislative Report Chair, Scott Holwell

Discussion: This year AB 1623 (Ramos) was our top priority. AB 1623 would have exempted military retirement pay for retired veterans over the age of 60. As we continue to see, AB 1623 was killed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee due to concerns about the impact on general fund revenues. General Fund revenue loss of \$36 million in fiscal year (FY) 2022-23, a revenue loss of \$60 million in FY 2023-24, and revenue loss of \$60 million in FY 2024-25 Appropriation hearings have concluded, and, as most readers know, this is where bills go to die on the appropriations suspense file. This process is conducted behind closed doors and a public hearing is held to let the public know which bills will move forward (without a recorded vote by individual members) and which bills will need to try the following year again. There is still important legislation concerning veterans, the National Guard, CalVet, and military families continuing to move through the process. We are still getting reports of which veterans and military-related bills will continue to move forward. You will find a list of bills we have compiled, which will continue to need your support.

The Legislature has a constitutional requirement to pass a state budget and deliberate on the business of the people. The Governor's office released the revised budget on May 13, 2020. The proposed budget that is being reviewed by the Legislature has \$50 million earmarked for Veteran suicide and awareness. The budget must be approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor by midnight on June 15, 2022. The May revised budget summary can be viewed at: <https://www.ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2022-23MR/#/BudgetSummary>

Governor's budget proposal regarding veterans: Provides \$5 million for an awareness campaign that educates veterans and the broader community to inform the knowledge, behaviors, and attitude surrounding veteran suicide. Provides \$5 million to establish a multidisciplinary team of professionals and stakeholders focusing on the identification and collection of veteran-specific suicide data and coordinate a statewide assessment of veteran's mental health and provide recommendations on future prevention, intervention, and postintervention strategies. Provides \$40 million to provide competitive grants to local jurisdictions that provide matching grants to expand mental health service capacity by supporting a network of veteran-specific mental health services throughout the state. The intent of this program is to assist the creation of self-sustaining, ongoing programs that support veterans and maximize available federal programs (U.S. Veteran's Affairs and Medi-Cal).

In late 2020, the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial was vandalized. Vandals had poured a substance on one of the panels, which memorialized those from California who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. The substance obscured the etchings and coloring of some of the names. Because of the COVID closures, repairing the damage was not able to be addressed until early 2022. Under the current system relating to repairs of the memorial, private funds are required to be raised. Historically, repairs were made by veterans' organizations such as the Vietnam Veterans of America-California State Council (VVA).

In response to the vandalism, a survey of the site was performed by a contractor, and a bid was submitted for about \$108,000. We are requesting the state pay for the monument's repairs and continued maintenance. We have put in a budget request through the Senate and the Assembly. Our state needs to properly remember its heroes by honoring the sacrifices of the 5,822 men and women from California who gave their lives in the Vietnam War, as well as those veterans who brought home the physical and mental wounds of war.

Proposal: Approve Legislative report

Motion: Sam Isdell

Seconded: David Rose

Passed

By-Laws Report Chair, Dell Pratt

Discussion: The Bylaws Committee currently has the following Proposed Amendments to be “Read” and voted on by the Association: (First Reading).

- **Article XIII, Section 8 – Other Memberships and Citations.**
 - o Rename “The Ernie Oats CACVSO Service Award” to “The Ted Puntillo CACVSO Service Award”.
- **Article XII, Sections 11, 12 & 13.**
 - o Section 11 would delete the current verbiage and replace with “Section 11. Mentorship Committee”. With the “Duties” of the aforementioned specified immediately after.
 - o Section 12 would add “Section 12. Women, Minority, and Underrepresented Veterans Committee”. With the “Duties” specified immediately after.
 - o Section 13 would be the Current Section 11.
- **Article IX, Section 2. Duties of the 1st Vice President**
 - o Add “Member of Finance Committee” (aligns with Article XII, Section 4 - composition of Finance Committee)
- **Article XII, Section 7. Nominating Committee.**
 - o Add “Junior Past President as member” (clarifies composition of committee).
- We haven’t discussed the Treasurer situation yet – but hopefully we can come up (via the Executive Director) with a proposal to Read and Vote.

Strong disagreement on renaming Ernie Oats Award.

Time/Place Report Chair, Sam Isdell

Discussion: October in Nevada county at Gold Miners Inn, and registration site will be put up immediately. February 2023 in Sacramento, Summer in Yuba Sutter at Hard Rock, October Virtual, February 2024 Sacramento and Summer 2024 Tuolumne County. Los Angeles would like to host 2026 during Centennial.

Finance Report Chair, Marvin King

Discussion: Reviewed current fiscal year budget. Several outstanding payments not cashed. Problems with NACVSO payments. Outstanding counties for annual membership dues. Proposed budget will be presented on Thursday. New method of conference registration has been included. Found the need for a paid treasurer position. Increasing insurance or obtaining a bond for financial errors. Update online tracking account for Edwards Jones account. Current issue on language for conferences. Need to have deadline for registration and one for payment. Three weeks prior to conference payment must be received.

Proposal: To accept Finance Report.

Motion: Harry Hitchings

Seconded: Bill Cook

Passed

Citations Report Chair, Sam Isdell

Discussion: No report.

Veterans Home Report Chair, Deborah Esque

Discussion: Provided updates on the following veteran homes:

Barstow does not have Memory Care (Flyer attached) nor site visits. Has available units, priority is given to homeless veterans, and Semi-Private rooms.

Fresno Has no site visits nor available units. Waiting lists for Assisted Living is 3-4 months and Skilled Nursing and Memory Care 3-5 years, provides Private Rooms and Double rooms for Married Individuals.

Redding Never return calls; however, it is one of the newest homes. And at the conference in Redding, they stated they would do tours and they have private rooms. No other information available.

West LA No site visits nor available units. Waiting list for Assisted Living 12 months, Skilled Nursing and Memory Care are on Pause right now (Not accepting any applications) Normal wait list is 12-36 months for Skilled Nursing and 12-24 months for Memory Care

Chula Vista Offers site visits. Must bring your vaccination card and if not vaccinated, a COVID NEG test within 48 hours No available units. All three levels on are on a wait list. roommate situation.

Lancaster No site visits nor available units. Wait List, normally 6 months, roommate situation.

Ventura Provides site visits, vaccination require to include booster. Has available units. one but two individuals are on wait list. Normal wait list is approx. 6 months, roommate situation.

Yountville Provides Site Visits, Vaccination required and then a 15 min COVID screening test is accomplished prior to tour. No available units all levels of care have a wait list. Independent – private rooms, however, communal bath facilities approx. 10 months to a year; Skilled, Assisted and Memory are Roommate situations, so they are on a paused due to COVID. Normal wait time Assisted 2-2.5 years; Skilled/Memory 4-4.5 years working on 2017-2018 applications.

Nominations Report Chair, Scott Howell

Discussion: No Report.

Funding Process Report Chair, Grant Gautsche

Discussion: No report other than the “Final updates from CalVet on the Subvention Manual Changes are on hold currently.” I will be meeting with CalVet during the conference for further discussion and will give an update at the next conference.

Strategic Planning Report Chair, Marvin King

Discussion: Contemplating the direction our association is going. How do we know we are headed into the right direction? We are a reactionary organization not a visionary organization. Look for 3-to-5-year strategic plan. VBA soliciting claims, Pac Act, AMA, HC, tech changes, list is very large and continues to grow. We need to address these changes and meet needs of our clients. Purpose would be to establish a framework to address upcoming changes and which direction we need to go to include strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Will send out survey monkey within next few months to help guide committee through this process. I urge you to respond as this is only as good as the responses received. Will compile information into a coherent plan, with development around 6 months.

Education and training Chair, Tammy Bender

Discussion: No Report.

Audio Visual Report Chair, Clinton Taxdahl

Discussion: All association gear is currently stored at the home of C. Taxdahl. We plan on inventorying the items and sharing the document. Previous A/V staffed used some of their own equipment (tablet / computer / special microphone for virtual). Current staff can do the same, but the main portions that belong to the association are the screen, speakers /sound system built in, cabled mics, mic cords, 3 mic stands, projector shelf, HDMI splitter, and projector. Additionally, C. Taxdahl has the hitch assembly / tie down straps, borrowed after Redding, and required for transport of the large screen. Also, the association flags and flag stands are with the gear. C. Taxdahl purchased two replacement projector bulbs totaling \$548.21 and is seeking reimbursement. Verification receipt / invoice can be provided. In Redding, the bulb burned out and was not yet replaced. This price was the lowest after searching alternatives comparably. The new bulb has been installed and one spare will be on hand at conference. C. Taxdahl also purchased additional equipment to attempt to duplicate the previous set up created by Frank using his own equipment (mic for virtual, mouse pointer, associated required HDMI cords, USB hub). One other item purchased is a unit which powers two wireless mics. If the setup is successful at the SLO conference and the association wants to reimburse for this, C. Taxdahl can itemize the dollar amount. If it is found that they are not needed, then they can be kept separate from association gear and considered personal use items.

Automation Report Chair, Rob Daniel

Discussion: No Report.

Communications Report Chair, Cindy Holley

Discussion: No report.

Disaster Relief Report Chair, Chris Mancebo

Discussion: No report.

Facebook Report Chair, Cindy Holley

Discussion: No Report.

Homeless Veterans Report Chair, George Dixon

Discussion: Looking to see if the association is willing to support additional funding from CDVA to support homeless veterans initiate allowing CVSOs to support a senior veterans represented to work homeless veterans' issues in each county. CVSOs spend a lot of time on this issue to include prevention of homeless but are very limited with resources they can deploy in the field.

Things we may be able to do support legislation that increases funding to support additional advocates in the field who can devote time an effort to work issues specifically for homeless veterans their dependents and survivors, be the liaison between county veterans service and the community while establishing Department of Veterans Affairs, state, and local benefits as an accredited representative. As an association maybe work on preventative measures.

Hospitality Report: Chair, Chris Mancebo

Discussion: No Report.

Mentorship Report Chair, David West

Discussion: No report.

NACVSO Report Chair, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion: Refer to President's report.

Newsletter Report Chair, Vacant

Discussion: No Report.

Photographer Report Chair, Eva Jimenez

Discussion: No Report

Raffle Report Chair, **Chris Mancebo**

Discussion: No Report

Training Consultant Report Chair, Katrina Eagle

Discussion: No Report

Veterans Cemetery Report Chair, Vacant

Discussion: No Report

Veterans License Plate Report Chair, Vacant

Discussion: No Report

Website Report Chair, Yvette Mason

Discussion: No report.

Women, Minority & Underrepresented Veterans Committee Chair, Rochelle Arnold

Discussion: No Report

Unfinished Business President, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion:

New Business President, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion: Treasurer role- paid position 15 hours week overseen by treasurer and audited by finance committee. With treasurer growing responsibilities has become more than a volunteer position. 15 contractual hours per week 780 hours per week at proposed rate of \$20, \$15,600 year will be money well spent.

Proposal: Seek Contract Treasurer services having Treasurer with direct oversight

Motion: Sam Isdell

Seconded: Jason Cameron

Passed

Approval of Paying Conference Bills:

Discussion: None.

Proposal: Pay bills for conference

Motion: Sam Isdell

Seconded: Ken Cruickshank

Passed:

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned on June 23, 2022, at 5:00pm. by President, Rhonda Murphy. The next General Business Meeting will be held during Fall-Nevada County Conference.

Proposal: To Adjourn General Business Meeting.

Motion: Sam Isdell

Seconded: Bob Johns

Passed

Minutes submitted by: Yvette Mason