

Veterans Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Present:** Fred Baer; Alfred Banfield; Kai Martin; Linda Meyer; Jacob Pletcher; Hank Scherf; George Smith; Donna Vaillancourt; Brandon Jones

**Absent:** Francisco Oliva

**Staff:** Selina Toy-Lee, HSA; Ed Kiryczun, CVSO/HSA; Matt Wilson CVSO/HSA

**Public Comments By:** No Public Comments

Topic	Discussion	Action/Next Steps
<b>Meeting called to order &amp; Pledge of Allegiance Recited</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting called to order at 6:32pm</li> <li>• Pledge of Allegiance and roll call taken</li> </ul>	No Alternates
<b>Approval of minutes &amp; adoption of agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes from September 2020 commission meeting were adopted</li> <li>• Vote - 9 Y / 0 N</li> <li>• Agenda for tonight's commission meeting was adopted</li> <li>• Vote - 9 Y / 0 N</li> </ul>	Removal of absent members; Fix date of meeting minutes sheet from Nov 14 <sup>th</sup> to Nov 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Public Comments</b>	<b>No Public Comments</b>	No additional actions or steps

<p><b>Veterans                  Commission                  Business</b></p>	<p>➤ <b>Ed Kiryczun, CVSO COVID Operations Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>January 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Veterans Served: 6018</li> <li>○ Total Retroactive Received: \$2,204,149.29 (+\$219,500)</li> <li>○ Total Monthly Assistance: 223,173.33 (+\$33,293) \$2,678,079.90 annual</li> <li>○ Claims Submitted: 524 (+91)</li> <li>○ College Fee Waivers Granted: 132 (+5)</li> <li>○ College Fee's Waived: \$ 775,734.00 (+\$55,620)</li> </ul> </li> <li>* <b>Fall CACVSO Conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Blue Water Navy Updates</li> <li>○ Board of Veterans Appeals</li> <li>○ VA home Loan</li> <li>○ How to properly use Lay-Evidence</li> <li>○ Incarcerated Veterans Program</li> <li>○ DBQ (Disability Benefits Questionnaire) how and when to use</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>No additional actions or steps</p>
<p>Topic</p>	<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Action/Next Steps</p>

<p><b>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>Operational Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Hours of Operation 8am to 5pm, Monday thru Friday (No longer closed for lunch)</li> <li>o Office still closed to walk-in traffic</li> <li>o We will see veterans in-person by appointment</li> </ul> </li>   <li>* <b>Policy Updates for California Veterans</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Veterans and Gold Star Families are granted free access to National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, and other Federal Lands managed by the Department of the Interior starting Veterans Day 2020 and every day onward</li> <li>o Veterans granted free access to all County of San Mateo Parks</li> </ul> </li>   <li>* <b>Blue Water Navy Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, roughly 640 million dollars in retroactive benefits have been awarded to more than 24,000 BWN Veterans or Survivors</li> <li>o VA/NARA digitization of Navy &amp; Coast Guard deck logs for ships that served in Vietnam finally completed in September 2020</li> <li>o More Ships added to BWN group databases</li> <li>o Gunfire Support Ship list added</li> <li>o Submarine list added</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>No additional actions or steps</p>
<p><b>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Ed Kiryczun, CVSO Outreach Update</b></li>   <li>* <b>Veterans Surf Alliance, Halloween BBQ, Oct 31<sup>st</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Organization made up of volunteers including SFVA, focused on using surfing to help combat veterans</li> </ul> </li> <li>* <b>Community College Veterans Resource Fair, Nov 10<sup>th</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Resource fair with the VROC, EDD and VSO including a Q&amp;A session with a VSR</li> </ul> </li> <li>* <b>Veterans Free COVID Testing Event at AL Post 105 Nov 21<sup>st</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o In person, free to veterans and their families</li> <li>o VSO and Veterans Resource Center resource desk will be available to all veterans</li> </ul> </li> <li>* <b>SFO USO Re-Opening, VSO trip Friday Nov 13th</b></li> </ul>	<p>No additional actions or steps</p>

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<p><b>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</b></p>	<p>➤ <b>Leah Grant, The Veterans Curation Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>Skills Acquired</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Computer database management</li> <li>○ Records management</li> <li>○ Photographic and scanning technologies</li> <li>○ Computer software proficiency</li> <li>○ Processing and organization of collection</li> <li>○ Knowledge or archaeology and history</li> <li>○ Increased interpersonal communication skills</li> </ul> </li> <li>* <b>Benefits to Participants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Temporary employment/financial support</li> <li>○ New skill set</li> <li>○ Support system</li> <li>○ Assistance with resume building, cover letters, interview skills, job searches and education placement</li> <li>○ Flexible scheduling</li> </ul> </li> <li>* <b>Success and Accomplishments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 646 veterans have participated (44 veterans currently participating)</li> <li>○ 91% of veterans have obtained employment or contained their education upon completion of the program</li> <li>○ Over 400 USACE collections are being or have been rehabilitated to federal standards</li> </ul> </li> <li>* <b>Benefit to the Nation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Over 44,000 photographs and scans have been created as a result of our efforts</li> <li>○ VCP digital files (artifact photographs and scanned documents) have been uploaded to the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR)</li> <li>○ The files will be available for use by researchers, educators, tribal members and the public at no charge</li> <li>○ Assisting with the transition to civilian life for our veterans by using these collections to train a wide array of transferable skills</li> </ul> </li> <li>* <b>Contact Information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. J.W. Joseph, Program Manager <a href="mailto:jwjoseph@newsouthassoc.com">jwjoseph@newsouthassoc.com</a></li> <li>○ Jasmine Hackman, Project Manager <a href="mailto:jheckman@newsouthassoc.com">jheckman@newsouthassoc.com</a></li> <li>○ Jessica Mundt, Assistant Project Manager <a href="mailto:jmundt@newsouthassoc.com">jmundt@newsouthassoc.com</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>No additional actions or steps</p>

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<p><b>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Hank Scherf, Veteran of the Year Event 2020</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>Last Minute changes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Change from the West Point Glee Club to the Naval Academy Glee Club</li> </ul> </li> <li>* <b>Availability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ November 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am</li> <li>○ On County Veterans Website and link that was sent to everyone</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Donna Vaillancourt, Budget Workgroup Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Rescheduled for next commissioner meeting due to Absent member</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Donna Vaillancourt, Veterans Commission Recruitment Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Received 4 applications by mid-October, the first dead line to submit applications</li> <li>○ Extended recruitment to Nov 20<sup>th</sup></li> <li>○ Have received 2 new applicants, 50% increase</li> <li>○ Have outreached to colleges as well as put on County Veterans Twitter and Facebook pages.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Sub Committee Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>Donna Vaillancourt, Needs Assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chose CIVIX as the contractor for the Needs Assessment</li> <li>○ Started work in September</li> <li>○ Currently working on the demographic report</li> <li>○ Deliverables set for December to complete the Veteran demographic report</li> <li>○ CIVIX is working with Health Department, CalVet, VSO, Housing Department, HSA and Veterans Court</li> <li>○ Veterans services list is being compiled</li> <li>○ On target for completion of Needs Assessment by June 2021</li> <li>○ CIVIX will come in at any commission meeting to update commission on progress</li> </ul> </li> <li>* <b>George Smith, Comprehensive Assessible Online Catalog</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meet with Ed and Darren to make Website user friendly</li> <li>○ Website was not user friendly</li> <li>○ Want to make sure when veteran types in veteran it goes to the County Veterans Office website</li> <li>○ Want to divide website into Eras of time served that way veterans can have benefits information directed to their time in service</li> </ul> </li> <li>* <b>Brandon Jones, General awareness &amp; accessibility</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Awaiting the Needs Assessment results to know what the gaps are</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>No additional actions or steps</p>

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<b>Announcements from Commissioners</b>	<p>➤ <b>Commissioner George Smith</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ On November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11am, Post 105 American Legion is hosting a virtual veterans celebration on the American Legion Post 105 Website</li></ul>	No additional actions or steps
<b>Adjournment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meeting adjourned at 7:55</li><li>• Vote 9 Y / 0 N</li></ul>	No additional actions or steps