



Andrea Ford, Agency Director

	<p>requested it on my behalf. I have seen 4 Psychiatrists been in Sequoia Mental Hospital for 2 weeks, been diagnosed mas compulsive disorder currently on 8 medications just to maintain my sanity. I fought for my country, and this is how I get rewarded from the Vet's office. They don't have the decency to submit my requests.</p> <p>(3) Krista Arrington, Richard Arrington would like to speak about his difficulty with obtaining PAAFC status for his caregiver. Please advise now, we should participate in this meeting.</p> <p>(4) Randy Arrington wanted to know if he would be allowed to speak.</p>
<p>4 GUEST SPEAKER TOPIC: Status of the Pt. Alameda Project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor of Alameda, Marilyn Ashcraft stated that Veterans building will receive city funding for improvement.</li> <li>• The Honorary Grand Marshall is Congressman Barbara Lee, and she will be riding in the vehicle in front of the veterans.</li> <li>• City Manager Jennifer Ott gave details of the project, which consists of an outpatient clinic, plenty of infrastructure, and memorial space.</li> <li>• It is 100 % funded by Congress.</li> <li>• Environmental work should be done by August.</li> <li>• Website: Pt. Alameda.info.com</li> </ul>
<p>4. COMISSION REPORTS</p>	<p><b>1. Women's Veterans Recognition Day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jessica Burch, CBS Meteorologist and National Guard Medovac pilot was elected to be the keynote speaker and Delphine Metca will be the backup.</li> <li>• There will be a press release that will go out on or around May 3rd. Commissioner Williamson will be the point of contact.</li> <li>• There will be a placard in place in the Alameda Air Museum of all the awardees.</li> <li>• A proclamation declared by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor will be given. <i>Comment: Someone in the audience asked where this will be held. Commissioner Farmer replied: "It will be held at the Alameda Navel Air Museum on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.</i> <i>Comment: Commissioner Gilmore asked Commissioner Williamson if she would be interested in having a Quilt of Valor Presentation. She replied yes.</i> <i>Comment: Women's Veterans Day is technically recognized as a National recognized Veterans Day for women, but it's not being publicized out there. We started this movement this year and it would be great to see congress start to move forward also.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>2. Veteran Observance Days</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June is PTSD Awareness Month/June 27 is PTSD Awareness Day.</li> <li>• Memorial Day is next week.</li> <li>• Independence Day in July.</li> <li>• There will be Memorial Day events at the Alameda Memorial Day Veterans Park at 11 am., Castro Valley Community Center, at Chabot 9 am, and Lone</li> </ul>

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Tree in Hayward at 10:30.

**Action:** A work request regarding the wreath will be delivered to Commissioner Owen's home on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

**3. Executive Committee:**

- Commissioner Parshall should have been removed.

**Action:** Luna Contreras will check the status.

- The proclamation that June 4, 2024, be named Baqar Rizvi Day in honor of Veteran Baquar Rizi has moved forward.
- Moving forward, the Executive session that is held before the General Meeting will only be held if it deems necessary.

**4. Budget:**

- This year's budget included funding for the street renaming, Women's Veteran's Day event, and the Memorial Day wreath.
- We put a proposal for next year which is higher than this year. It was done in generalized terms.
- The four categories that we asked for funding were:
  - Veteran's Community Outreach, this is money for us to be able to work with the community.
  - Veterans Observance Days. The bylaws state that we are supporting Veteran Observance Days in general **not** Veterans Day.
  - We're asking for enough money to potentially put on 2 1 day stand downs.
  - The last thing that was proposed was that the commission have a little bit of money where they could purchase some items like certificates.

**5. Membership:**

- Greg Owen is officially taking over as chair and Diane Williamson will be the co-chair of the sub-committee.
- 21 seats are filled and there are six vacant positions.
- American Legion has 2 vacant seats, Marine Corp League, Veteran of Foreign Wars, Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans of America, and Military Officers Association of America all have vacancies.

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**6. Outreach**

- Commissioner Farmer created an Outreach presentation that could further promote the Commission. Will be presented at the next meeting.

**Comment:** *Eleni Swords stated that to enhance future sessions, it would be helpful if the meetings could be hosted in a location with stable internet connection and sound. It was hard to hear throughout the duration of the meeting because the sound wasn't stable, and the meeting stopped multiple times. As a result, we missed many of your valuable comments and announcements. Additionally, I noticed that two participants raised their hand on-line to share public comment and they were not acknowledged.*

**7. CVSO:**

- The sub-committee started to draft a letter to Andrea Ford, Social Services Director for the use of the Alameda Veterans Memorial building as permanent or temporary VSO as an option.
- A petition to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for a Stand-Alone County Veteran Service Office was drafted and is expected to go in front of the Board by July's annual meeting.

**Action:** *A petition inquiring signatures was passed around.*

**Action:** *The Commissioners have no later than Thursday at 8 am to review and make changes to the letter and petition and notify Commissioners Farmer or Gilmore.*

- There will be a VAC presentation this year on July 22nd.
  - The Board of Supervisors has already approved a Stand-Alone Facility.
- Public Comment:** *Mr. Payne asked, "How will you advertise the temporary or permanent Stand-Alone office.*

*Commissioner Farmer replied that they have commissioners representing districts in every county. We can advertise through the different distribution lists, through the social services agency, the veteran service letter, social media, media publicity, and the various veterans resource center at the colleges, e.g.: (Laney, Chabot, Cal, and Las Positas).*

**8. Street Plaques:**

- This project is moving forward. The check has been paid to Oak.Dot

**Action:** *Commissioner Farmer will be going to the site to explain how it's supposed to look.*

**Action:** *There will be an unveiling event. Look out for that information.*

**9. Stand Down:**

- Was a huge success. There was a feature on Channel 7 news.
- The After-Action Report in progress, Commissioner Farmer will present it

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	<p>at the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 130 attendees and 33 service providers provided legal, housing, dental care, shower, facilities, or also offered food, employment, and healthcare assistance.</li> <li>Commissioners Williamson and Cole spoke at the event, during the Pride Inspiration Port.</li> </ul> <p><b>10. Legislation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It's not possible to give an update. AB1882 and SB1124 got to the Appropriations Committee this last week and did not pass. Won't be voted on again until a whole new legislature is elected.</li> <li>AB 1882, that was going to expand eligibility for disabled plates or some veterans who can't walk more than 200 feet or so, but that's not 100% disabled.</li> <li>SB1124 that was going to make it against the law in California or groups to charge Veterans for helping to prepare their veterans claims by not saying they prepared it but by do charging forward and then telling them they fill out the paperwork, so they're not violating the federal law and to say that it's not legal in California to require somebody to give you their military ID or veteran's ID card.</li> </ul> <p><b>11. Bylaws:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bylaws are supposed to be updated every 1 to 2 years.</li> </ul>
<p>5. STAFF UPDATES: Jennifer Stephens-Pierre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We had a special recruitment for the VSO, and we are waiting to hear from HR regarding the results.</li> <li>Currently working on a Working Plan for the VSO and will reach out to the VSC to get ideas on who we select.</li> <li>In the process of interviewing for the veteran service representative position that we have open.</li> <li>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter data showed that we had a total of 1,809 visitors for the county veterans service office, of which 659 were walk-ins /in-person. 383 follow-ups and processed 462 claims.</li> <li>Some of the temporary measures we have put in place are adding partitions for sound control and privacy. For more sensitive issues we will ask the veteran if they don't mind if they do their interviews on-line via the web.</li> <li>The status of the lobby is that we are moving along. It's taking longer than originally anticipated.</li> <li>We are in the process of building out what we call a Bookings Application.</li> <li>In honor of Memorial Day, we will have a Missing Man's Table that will commemorate veterans missing in action or prisoners of war.</li> <li>We will be at the Alameda County Fair marketing our services, including veteran services.</li> <li>Involvement in the Veteran Treatment Court. They want to come out to do a</li> </ul>

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	<p>presentation to show what services they provide/offer.  <b>Action:</b> <i>Commissioner Farmer will notify Jennifer on the month that the Commission would like to have Gavon O' Neil from the Veteran Treatment Court to come speak.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are in the process of creating a public service announcement</li> </ul>
<p>6. OTHER ITEMS</p>	<p><b>Next Meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Committee: June 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am.</li> </ul>
<p>7. ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 12 pm.</p>