



Alameda County
Veterans Affairs Commission
General Meeting Minutes
 Monday, January 21, 2025

Alameda County
Social Services Agency
 6955 Foothill Blvd – Ste. 300
 Oakland, CA 94605
<http://alamedasocialservices.org>

CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 10:02 am
- Roll Call, Quorum Achieved.

In Attendance: <i>(P=Present, E=Excused, A=Absent, O=Online Attendance)</i>	County Staff Present:
O. Farmer (Vice Chair) = P D. Boldt = P R. Forbes = A R. Cole = P S. Dolgin = P G. Owens (Chair) = P M. Gilmore = A J. Phair = P N. Harrison = P K. Warner = A F. Jaffin = P D. Williamson = P L. Brunner = P J. McLvain = P J. LoParo = P S. Yohannes = A A. Gordillo = P	Anthony Simpson Jonathan Montero-Flores Diarra Piggue Rhoda Turner

AGENDA/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Item	Discussion/Recommendations
Adopt Agenda	Meeting agenda adopted by Commission as read.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	Motion to accept meeting minutes from 12/16/2024: Motion to approve: Commissioner Jaffin (M) Commissioner Gordillo (S) Motion Passed
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jeff Co-founder of Hired Labs informed the commissioners that his organization helps vets find meaningful work. They also have a free Coding Boot Camp for vets. Their next cohort is February 18th.
Staff Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Veteran Service Officer Anthony Simpson mentioned the following. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mario Castillo, the newly hired Veterans Service Representative, will be attending training in Sacramento to get certified. <i>Action: Diarra Piggue will post statistics to the Veteran’s webpage once approval is given by Jennifer Stephens-Pierre.</i>
Guest Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Reed, Director of the Veteran Memorial Bldg. • Madeleine, VSO Auxiliary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Don Reed from the San Leandro Veteran Memorial Bldg. spoke on his organization. ➤ Madeleine discussed the VSO Auxiliary and its shared purpose in helping vets and their families. <i>Alameda Point wasn’t able to attend. An invitation to attend February’s meeting was sent.</i>

Sub-Committee Reports

- **Outreach:**
 - Vice Chair Farmer reviewed the various outreach opportunities such as: Give Veterans a Smile (eye exams will also be available) on 2/22 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds from 9 – 3 pm. and Swords to Plowshares mentorship program.
 - Commissioner Farmer also mentioned that Commissioner Gilmore consulted on a film “Brothers After War” that will be in theaters on February 28th.
- **Budget:**
 - Commissioner Farmer stated that since he hasn’t received word on how much the budget has been approved, he took different budget requests that were submitted and divided by \$6,250.
- **Executive:**
 - The first Executive meeting was held earlier this month.
 - Discussion items included the Attendance, AB-2449 New Brown Act Rules, ACVAC Meeting Schedule 2025, location options, guest speaker topics, sub-committees, and initiatives for 2025.

Motion to move meeting from February 17th to February 18th

Motion to approve: Commissioner Farmer (M)
Commissioner Boldt (S)

Motion Passed

- **Changes to sub-committee List:**
 - Commissioners Dillion Boldt & Fred Jaffin have been added to the PAL Legislation.
 - Commissioner Stephen Dolgin has been added to Outreach.
 - Commissioner Lisa Brunner joined the Women Veterans Recognition Day.
- **ACVAC Initiative 2025:**
 - Commissioners Farmer & Williamson are working on having a Black History Month exhibit sometime in February. The location hasn’t been secured.
 - Spreading Women Veterans Recognition Day to other states, Community Walk for Suicide Awareness, Flag Day Detail, and a Pet Care event were some of the initiatives for 2025.
- **Stand Down:**
 - Dates are not finalized.
 - The Executive committee has agreed to only have two stand downs this year.
 - The first proposed date is May 16 & 17. Back up date June 27 & 28.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The county assessor reached out and wants to support the ACVAC financially & outreach. <p>➤ Veteran Memorial Building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The county sold the building to the City of Oakland, and they call it a senior center. ○ Veterans’ organizations should be given priority first to use county memorial buildings. ○ Issues surround several veteran memorial buildings. <p>Motion to have a Veterans’ Memorial Bldg. Ad-Hoc Committee.</p> <p>Motion to approve: Commissioner Farmer (M) Commissioner Williamson(S)</p> <p>Motion Passed</p> <p>Ad-Hoc members: Diane Williamson, Lisa Brunner, Omar Farmer, Dylan Boldt, and Nate Harrison.</p>
<p>ORAL COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This past week American Legion District 10 had their general meeting. They discussed the Oakland Post. There will be a proposal going to the Dept. Executive Committee in March that will put the Oakland Post on suspension. The post will go to Dist. 10; they will have one year from that point to resurrect the post. Right now, the Oakland area has two posts & zero operating at this point. ➤ Commissioner Brunner mentioned that a lot of these organizations are struggling because the memberships are aging out and that’s why it’s important to recruit young members. ➤ Don Reed advocated that the commissioners visit their emergency service centers to see their plan. He stated that training is free. If you’re looking to donate
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 11:54 pm.</p>