



## ***Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission***

### ***Meeting Minutes***

***Date: May 17, 2021***

***Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.***

***Locations: via Zoom***

Meeting Called to order at 10:04 by Chair Steven Johnson.

Salute Colors-in-Place

Minute of Silence for MIA POW

**Commissioner's Role Call:** Eugene Cota (absent), Raymond Will (Excused), Baqar Rizvi, Steven Johnson, Diane Williamson, Fred Jaffin, Luis Diaz, Ethel Gilmore (absent), Felix Guillory, Ronald Parshall, Kasey Warner

**Staff Present:** Anthony Marchante, Yolanda Newton, Mariana Austin

#### **Approval of Minutes 04/19/2021 as Read:**

- (M) Williamson
  - (S) Diaz
- Approved.

**Correspondence:** None

**Guest Speaker:** None

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

1. Membership: Steven Johnson, Ronald Parshall & Luis Diaz
  - a. Kasey Warner has joined the Commission representing Nate Miley, District 4.
2. Finance Sub-committee – Commissioner Guillory **(2 vacancies)**
  - a. No report
3. Bylaws Sub-committee – Anthony Marchante, **(2 vacancies)**
  - a. The marked-up version was submitted the County Counsel (CC). ACVSO to follow up with CC to receive the final version that will be sent to BOS.
4. Outreach Sub-committee – Diane Williamson **(1 vacancy)**
  - a. No Reports
5. Staff, Anthony Marchante ACVSO
  - a. ALCO operating with CVSO, 2 VSR's, 2 Clerical and 1 Retirement Annuitant that will assist with processing claims. In process of adding 3<sup>rd</sup> VSR.



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### ***Event Report – John White Jr. Memorial Tree Planting, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

1. Commissioner Jaffin attended the event that took place at the Hayward Veterans Memorial Building on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. There was an estimate of over 70 guests in attendance. Many who knew Mr. White stood up and made comments, remembering his life. There was a tree planted and a plaque placed in the Building.

### ***Announcements***

1. PTSD Presentations
  - a. April 17<sup>th</sup> presentation rescheduled for May– Speakers will share stories of their PTSD
  - b. June - History and Treatment PTSD panel of experts
  - c. September – Theater of War re: Mental Health Professional Actors focus on the impact of service combat on PTSD issues on Hornet
  - d. November – Grand Finally around Veterans (Day details to come)
  - e. No moneys needed from commission. Would like us to get people within our organization to participate by attendance or being involve with the events.

### ***Agenda Items:***

1. May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Board of Supervisors Presentation – Ideas & Suggestions
  - a. Commissioner Warner: Homelessness, mental health, better availability of Veteran Offices
  - b. Commissioner Parshall: More visibility of the Veteran Offices, hire more Officers to serve the veterans.
  - c. Commissioner Diaz: Concern about the Veterans Buildings not being used as Vaccination PODs (Points of Dispensing)
    - i. ACVSO to follow up on who determines has authority to keep the Veteran buildings open.
    - ii. ACVSO will also compile a list of veteran buildings, identify the points of contact and what are the protocols for the buildings to be used by the public. Commissioner Guillory would like to be a part of the efforts.



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- d. Commissioner Jaffin: He would like to see more Event Support, more specifically support around Veteran's Day events around the county.
- e. Commissioner Baqar: How many tuition waiver claims have happened since COVID and how many disability claims were processed in the past year.
- f. Commissioner Guillory: He would like to see increased efforts to assist homeless veterans.
- g. Commissioner Williamson: ongoing recruiting efforts.
- h. Chair Stevenson: mention the upcoming PTSD presentations.

### **Announcements**

- 1. **Commissioner Jaffin**
  - a. The Commissioner inquired about the County plans to reopen the offices and having meetings in person. ACVSO answered that at the time there is no concrete timeline of when meetings will resume in person.
  - b. He will be making a welcoming comment at the Memorial Day Event held by USS Hornet, at 11am on May 31<sup>st</sup>. [Memorial Day 2021 - USS Hornet Museum \(uss-hornet.org\)](https://uss-hornet.org)
- 2. PTSD Presentation – July, September, and November 2021
  - a. [PTS Resource Center - USS Hornet Museum \(uss-hornet.org\)](https://uss-hornet.org)

***Meeting adjourned at 11:46 am.***

***Next Meeting June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am via Zoom***