

**Andrea Ford**, Agency Director

**Faith M. Battles**, Assistant Agency Director



**ALAMEDA COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**General Meeting Agenda**

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

**In-Person Attendance:**

[San Leandro Veteran Memorial Building](#)  
[1105 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577](#)

**Via Zoom Video Conference Call, use link below:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99526750740?pwd=YlpiQ1JsRm5FM2VsNndTL3FZRmg0Zz09>

**For Dial-in Option, use the number below:**

+1 669 900 6833 (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 995 2675 0740 | Passcode: 995735

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99526750740?pwd=YlpiQ1JsRm5FM2VsNndTL3FZRmg0Zz09>

*Public participation at Commission meetings is encouraged. Individual public comments per agenda item shall be no more than two minutes.*

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 10:00 – 10:02 | <p><b><u>CALL TO ORDER:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum</li> <li>• Review and Approval of December 2024 General Meeting Minutes</li> </ul>  |
| 10:02 – 10:03 | <b>SALUTE COLORS-IN-PLACE</b>  |
| 10:03 – 10:04 | <b>RECITE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b>   |
| 10:04 – 10:05 | <b>MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR POW/MIA VETERANS</b>  |
| 10:05 – 10:10 | <b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>  |
| 10:10 – 10:30 | <b>STAFF UPDATE</b>  |
| 10:30 – 11:20 | <p><b><u>Guest Speaker/s:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don Reed from the San Leandro Veteran Memorial Building [25 min]</li> <li>• VA regarding Alameda Pt. update. [25 min]</li> </ul>  |
| 11:20-11:55   | <p><b><u>SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach: Black History Month, etc (Farmer) [5 min]</li> <li>• Budget (Farmer) [5]</li> <li>• Veteran Observance Days (Farmer) [5 min]</li> <li>• Executive (Farmer) [5 min]</li> <li>• Stand Down (Farmer) [5 min]</li> <li>• LA County Veteran Assistance Efforts [10 min]</li> </ul> |

---

**Andrea Ford**, Agency Director

**Faith M. Battles**, Assistant Agency Director

11:55  
12 PM

**NEW BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS. [5 min]**  
**ADJOURNMENT**

## THE COMMISSIONS' PURPOSE

[Article 3 §§ 1 and 2] [CA admin code § 2.92.040 - Duties]

The commission **SHALL ADVISE & ASSIST the BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** on matters relating to veterans & their families as may pertain to meeting their basic needs for **veterans' benefits, housing, food, shelter, & employment:**

1. Assist in all **VETERANS' OBSERVANCE DAYS** during the year;  
[**SUGGESTED** - <sup>1</sup>Armed Forces Day (3rd Saturday **May**), <sup>2</sup> Memorial Day (Last Monday **May**), <sup>3</sup> Patriot Day (Annually **September 11**), <sup>4</sup> Veterans Day (11th **November** Annually).]
2. Promote, develop, & identify the needs of the veterans and their families.
3. Submit recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding programs, plans, goals, policy, & procedures dealing with veteran services.
4. Review annually the status of veterans' benefits.
5. Study, investigate & research veterans' matters in Alameda County so that services to veterans can be coordinated and maximized.

The Commission's purpose & objectives to **ADVISE & ASSIST the Board of Supervisors** are accomplished through:

- Attending and speaking at civic/community activities.
- Membership in Veterans' Organizations.
- Individual contacts within the Community.
- Membership in Civic Organizations.
- Membership in Honor and Color Guard Units.
- Personal Commitment.
- Participation in Eastbay Stand-Downs.
- Lobbying (Any attempt by individuals or private interest groups to influence the decisions of a politician or public official on an issue), etc.

[Reference: Outlined in the 5/24/2021, 7/22/2019, 11/26/2018, and 9/26/2016 Annual Veterans Affairs Commission Report to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors]



<p><b>Guest Speaker: Daniel J. Libby, Director of the Oakland Veteran’s Center</b></p>	<p>Daniel J. Libby, from the Oakland Veterans Center gave an overview of the services they provide.</p> <p>Mr. Libby explained that the Veterans Center has now moved to the Eastmont Bldg. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.</p>
<p><b>Sub-Committee Reports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Outreach:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach was done every month this year in multiple districts in the county.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Membership:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The commission has doubled in size by the addition of eight new commissioners with a total of 17.</li> <li>• One potentially interested applicant will probably put in an application next month.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Budget:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The commission was still able to do events without the budget.</li> <li>• Budget issues are still being worked on.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Comment: Commissioner Greg Owens mentioned during the executive meeting – It would be helpful to have someone to come out to the January meeting and explain the budget process.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Action: Sonya Frost will extend an invitation for someone to come out and discuss the budget.</i></b></p> </li> <li>➤ <b>Veteran Observance Days:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The commission participated in a lot of the Veteran Observance day’s events as well as created events.</li> <li>• Creative ideas for future Veteran Observance Day events were Pearl Harbor and PTSD.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Comment: Jennifer Stephens-Pierre suggested that a PSA could be done for PTSD Awareness when the time comes.</i></b></p> </li> <li>➤ <b>Executive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget was discussed</li> <li>• Planning for next year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Stand Down:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan out next year Stand Downs were discussed.</li> <li>• St. Vincent de Paul committed to all three Stand Downs next year.</li> <li>• December Stand Down was cancelled.</li> <li>• End of March/Early April was suggested for the 1<sup>st</sup> Stand Down.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Nomination:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Greg Owens is taking over in January and Commissioner Omar Farmer will be Vice Chair.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Women’s Veterans Day:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed having the people who were honored be put in the Women Veterans Museum section in the Naval Air Museum.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>PAL Legislation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The BOS hasn’t sponsored any of the legislation that the commission has recommended.</li> <li>• Legislation bills that the commission should support in January were <b>AB53</b> – Exemption for uniform services, retirement, and surviving spouses and <b>SB1</b>- same thing; introduced by republicans which has different effective date.</li> <li>• More potential legislation in January.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>VSO:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sometime in 2025 the commission should be in their new Stand-Alone space.</li> <li>• Veteran Service Officer Anthony Simpson explained the process of how the veterans are screened/seen.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>ORAL COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eleni Spiru commented on-line that Swords to Plowshares offers free employment and training assistance.</li> <li>• Commissioner Owens recognized Commissioner Farmer for everything he’s done for the commission.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.</p>