

Andrea Ford, Agency Director

Faith M. Battles, Assistant Agency Director



ALAMEDA COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

General Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

In-Person Attendance:

College of Alameda on 555 Ralph Appezato Memorial Pkwy, Alameda, 94501
in Building L, Room 237. Park for FREE in Lot A.

Via Zoom Video Conference Call, use link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99526750740?pwd=YlpjQ1JsRm5FM2VsNndTL3FZRmg0Zz09>

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=YlpjQ1JsRm5FM2VsNndTL3FZRmg0Zz09>

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><u>CALL TO ORDER:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum • Review and Approval of December 2024 General Meeting Minutes
10:02 – 10:03	SALUTE COLORS-IN-PLACE
10:03 – 10:04	RECITE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
10:04 – 10:05	MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR POW/MIA VETERANS
10:05 – 10:10	PUBLIC COMMENT
10:10 – 10:15	STAFF UPDATE
10:15 – 11:45	<p><u>Guest Speaker/s:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Phong La, ALCO Assessor [15 min] Q&A [15 min] <p><u>SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand Down (Farmer) [5 min] • Outreach: Brothers at War (Gilmore), BVHC Exhibit, Santa Rita Veteran Pod tour (Farmer), [10 min] • National Vietnam War Veterans Day (Farmer) [10 min] • Executive (Farmer) [5 min] • Veteran Memorial Buildings (Farmer) [20] • Flag Day (Farmer) [20 min]

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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** - ¹Armed Forces Day (3rd Saturday **May**), ² Memorial Day (Last Monday **May**), ³ Patriot Day (Annually **September 11**), ⁴ 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]



**Alameda County
Veterans Affairs Commission
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 21, 2024**

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 R. Forbes = A S. Dolgin = P M. Gilmore = A N. Harrison = P F. Jaffin = P L. Brunner = P I. LoParo = P	D. Boldt = P R. Cole = P G. Owens (Chair) = P J. Phair = P K. Warner = A D. Williamson = P J. McIlvain = 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	➤ 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 18 th .
Staff Updates:	➤ 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 at 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 Speaker: Don Reed, Representative of the American Legion, VFW, MCL, American Legion Riders, and 40 & 8 Association Madeleine Reed, VSO Auxiliary	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. Invitation to attend February’s meeting was sent.</i>

<p>Sub-Committee Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Outreach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Motion to move February 17th meeting to February 18th</p> <p>Motion to approve: Commissioner Farmer (M) Commissioner Boldt (S)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion Passed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Changes to sub-committee List: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates are not finalized. • The Executive committee has agreed to only have two stand downs this year.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First proposed date is May 16 & 17. Back update June 27 & 28. • 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 the 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 Memorial Bldg. Ad-Hoc Committee.</p> <p>Motion to approve: Commissioner Farmer (M) Commissioner Williamson(S)</p> <p>Motion Passed Ad-Hoc members include 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 & 0 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. • Vice Chair Omar Farmer made a statement regarding the CERT Programs of the Bay Area cities (Community Emergency Response Team, a FEMA program)
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 11:54 pm.</p>