**Meeting Minutes**

**Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO)**

**VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC)**

**October 27th, 2022, Thursday, at 3:00 p.m.**

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| 1. **CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**
* Call to Order: Chair Oglesby
* Roll Call to Establish Quorum: Chair Oglesby
 | **Committee Members Present:**City of Seaside – Chair, Mayor Ian OglesbyUVC – Mary EstradaUVC – John GayUVC – Shane StrongMVAAC – Sid WilliamsCity of Del Rey Oaks – Rick JohnsonCity of Marina – Wesley HayeVeterans Families – Walan ChangFt. Ord Retiree Council – Louise Goetzelt |
| **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** | Led by: Adam Errahebi |
| **3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** | * None Received
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| **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES****(From August 25th)** | * Motion: John Gay
* Second: Rick Johnson
	+ Roll Call: Vote
		- Ayes – Unanimous
			* Motion Carried
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**5. BUSINESS ITEMS INFORMATION/ACTION**

**a. AB 361**

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| **i. Consider the resolution presented on AB 361** | * Motion: John Gay
* Second: Louise Goetzelt
	+ Roll Call Vote: Unanimous – Ayes
		- Motion Carries
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 **b. Affordable Housing**

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| **i. VTC – General Updates*** **Kurt Schake Reported**
 | * VTC is currently housing 101 Veterans and nine family members.
* Kurt expressed the VTC’s gratitude towards the City of Seaside, City of Monterey, and County of Monterey for allocating Community Development block grants for the purpose of duplex renovation.
* The State of California Department of Corrections has increased the Long-Term Offender Recovery and Reentry Program up to 34 beds.
* Kurt thanked Asm. Mark Stone and Erica Parker for championing an increase in funding by $4 million to create the first Veterans hub in a California Penitentiary at CTF Soledad Yard B.
* VTC has already hired a team and started programs to be run for the next three years. If successful, these programs will be expanded to two additional prisons.
* Chair Oglesby praised Erica Parker.
	+ Erica Parker thanked the VTC and committee. She also expressed the joy of ending Asm. Stone’s tenure on such a high note.
* Jack Murphy comment:
	+ Stated that the Military and Veterans Affairs Office attended a California Association of County Veteran Service Officers training conference. Jack stated that he notified CALVET Deputy Director Keith Boylen of the vacant Prison Veterans Representative Position and the impact it is having on our County.
	+ Jack explained a CALVET grant opportunity for the VTC.
		- Kurt stated that he is aware of the vacancy and has brought his concerns to CALVET. He stated that it is VTC’s desire to have a dedicated Veterans Representative from the Military and Veterans Affairs Office for Soledad paid for externally.
* Rich Garza comment:
	+ Stated that a Veterans Representative presence is imperative for the incarcerated Veteran population. Having access to benefits reduces the recidivism rate. Rich stated that if he can do anything to help with the Soledad program, please let him know.
* Chair Oglesby question:
	+ Who is the point of contact to ensure the programs success?
		- Kurt Schake stated that it is the VTC.
		- Chair Oglesby stated that we should coordinate support with the VTC to ensure a united voice for the program’s success.
		- Chair Oglesby stated we should also get in contact with Alice Mitchell who can help support this program from within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
		- Rich Garza stated we should contact Phil Butler who is a Veteran on the Warden’s Community Advisory Council.
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 **c. Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report**

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| **i. CCCVC Status Report*** **Erica Chaney reported**
 | * The Gravesite Locator has arrived, and it is currently not operational due to a technical issue. We hope to have it operational before Veterans Day.
* The Custodial position posting has closed and we hope to conduct interviews soon.
* The Security Guard position has been reposted as no one has applied. If you know anyone, please contact me. It is a part-time position of Friday for four hours and 8-5pm Saturday and Sunday.
* Veterans Day Event it on November 11th at 10:30AM. The banner we put up every year is placed on Normandy and Parker Flats for over a month.
* Mike Ward of American Legion Post 591 is coordinating the invites.
* Attendees:
	+ Tentative: Congressman Panetta
	+ Confirmed: Mayor Oglesby, Mayor Carbone, Seaside Highschool JROTC, Seaside Police, Seaside Fire, Angela Chestnut, Erica Parker on behalf of Asm. Stone, Dominic Dursa on behalf of Asm. Robert Rivas, Supervisor Wendy Root-Askew.
	+ Declined: Mayor Kerr of Del Rey Oaks.
* We will be having a Veteran guest speaker this year. Her name is Rebecca, and she is the Quartermaster for VFW.
* We will have 100 chairs for seating.
* We have several organizations volunteering in several positions.
* Candy Ingram from the Cemetery Foundation has generously donated a refreshment table for the event.
* Keith Boylen of CALVET has asked that Christine Odson, who is my supervisor be the primary contact for the donor wall.
* Louise Goetzelt question:
	+ Why is the banner at Parker Flats and Normandy rather than a spot with higher visibility?
		- Erica responded that the sign has always been at that location to catch the traffic coming to the cemetery.
	+ Erica asked CSM Traylor if it was okay to place the sign on Presidio property?
		- CSM Traylor responded that it was okay as long as the sign was taken down after the event.
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 **d. Cemetery Foundation**

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| **i. General Updates*** **Rich Garza and Candy Ingram reported**
 | * Letters to the contributors of the donor wall will be going out this week.
* We will also be forwarding the 100% design and constructions plans to CALVET within the next two weeks. If approved, it will detail what we can build.
* There is a slight delay with the donor wall due to moving the dirt. We still need to find a location on the property to relocate the dirt. This needs to be completed and reviewed by both CALVET and the Army before we can start construction.
* The Foundation has made contact with the City of Seaside regarding the properties and possible enclosed area at the cemetery.
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 **e. Ord Military Community**

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| **i. Active-Duty General Update:** * **CSM Traylor reported**
 | * There is a Trunk or Treat on Saturday at the Presidio.
* Veterans Day event on November 10th at DLI.
* The Presidio Dining Facilities are doing a Thanksgiving meal on November 24th from 1200 to 1600 hrs. It is open to any ID Card holder.
* DLI is conducting its block leave from December 19th to January 4th. There will be reduced services on DLI and one open gate (Bolio Gate).
* We are becoming more active in the community.
* Louise Goetzelt question:
	+ Can you repeat the hours for the Thanksgiving meal?
		- CSM Traylor responded 1200 (noon) to 1400 (2:00pm) and 1430 (2:30pm) to 1600 (4:00pm) at both dining facilities.
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| **ii. Ft. Ord Retiree Council:** * **Louise Goetzelt reported**
 | * Retiree Council meeting is at 1:00pm next Thursday at Stillwell Community Center.
* Retiree Appreciation Day will be on July 15th. Moving forward we will have the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) on the third Saturday in July every year. That information will be going out to the Retirees via newsletter.
* We are working to set up a 501(C)(19) to enable us to have a fundraising mechanism as you cannot donate or raise money for the Army. This is important as the Retiree Council is under Army Regulation.
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 **f. VA-DoD Clinic**

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| **i. General Update*** **Kintina Edouard reported**
 | * The clinic is still offering the Bivalent Booster and the flu shots. The next flu shot clinic being Saturday November 19th from 9:00am to 1:00pm.
* The VA does provide a double shot to those 65 and older.
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 **g. Municipalities**

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| **i. City of Del Rey Oaks, General Updates:** * **Rick Johnson reported**
 | * Del Rey Oaks is awaiting election results.
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| **ii. City of Monterey, General Updates:** * **Nat Rojanasathira**
 | * None received.
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| **iii. City of Marina, General Updates:** * **Wesley Haye**
 | * None received due to technical difficulties.
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| **iv. City of Seaside, General Updates:** * **Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby**
 | * No update at this time.
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 **h. Military & Veterans Affairs Office**

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| **i. General Update*** **Jack Murphy and Adam Errahebi reported**
 | * Half of the office attended the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers training conference in Grass Valley, CA. A lot of time was spent training on the PACT ACT. The VA is expecting about 1 million new claims in reference to PACT ACT eligibilities.
* PACT ACT changes are live, and we are encouraging all Veterans to apply if they fall into the Gulf War, Post 9/11, or Vietnam categories.
	+ Opens new presumptive conditions up for Gulf War, Post 9/11, and Vietnam Vets.
	+ If you know any surviving spouses this relates to, please have them call us
	+ Expanded healthcare and registry.
	+ New Agent Orange Exposure Locations (Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Guam, American Samoa).
* 125,000 PACT ACT related claims have been received.
* The PACT ACT related claims are effective August 10th. The date it was signed into law.
* Jack attended the Work-for-Warriors 10th year anniversary. The Senior CALVET leaders were in attendance. The program is to provide employment opportunities for Veterans and transitioning Active-Duty servicemembers.
* We are running into barriers in appointment scheduling due to training and staffing issues. Appointments will be pushed out a little further than usual.
* Within the staffing issues we are projecting to hire at least two Veteran Services Representatives and one Management Analyst.
* Veteran of the Year is tomorrow 10/28/2022 at 6:00pm. We are at 216 attendees.
* The Heroes Open is scheduled for 10/29/2022, the day following the Veteran of the Year event.
* Jack stated that the Veterans Home Press Conference is on 11/09/2022 at 11:00am at VTC. Secretary Panetta has confirmed along with Supervisor Alejo and Root-Askew.
* We are scheduled to move our Monterey Office to the Coastal Office on the week of the 14th. We will have our Vet Reps working remotely and there will be no walk-in day that week. Our other locations will be open for walk-ins that week. We will be reaching out to the Veteran Non-profit occupants for a tour and to begin the move-in process.
* Many COVID related benefit exemption may be impacted towards the end of the year due to the official end of the Pandemic Emergency Period.
* Adam gave a list of Veterans Day Events:
	+ DLI Alumni Event: November 17/18th
	+ Hartnell College Veterans Appreciation Day: November 10th from 4:00 – 700pm
	+ Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Veterans Day Event: November 11th at 10:30am
	+ Monterey Peninsula College Veterans Day Event: November 10th at 11:00am
	+ Salinas Veterans Day Parade: November 11th at 2:00pm
	+ Salinas Vietnam Veterans Memorial POW Event: November 11th 11:00am
* Jack gave MVAO’s monthly report, see attached.
* Chair Oglesby question:
	+ In reference to the Veterans Home Press Conference, who is coordinating the event?
		- Jack Murphy responded: the Military and Veterans Affairs Office.
	+ Chair Oglesby stated the importance of a large presence from the Veteran community at the press conference. He also wanted to ensure invitations went out to all local Veteran organizations.
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**6. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**

***Receive Communication from Committee members as it pertains to future agenda items***

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| * **Louise Goetzelt**
 | * The double strength flu shot and COVID booster is available at the Safeway in Del Rey Oaks.
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| * **Chair Oglesby**
 | * What time does the Heroes Open Golf Tournament start?
	+ Sid Williams replied 8:30am with registration starting at 7:30am.
* Our next meeting will be scheduled via Zoom for an AB-361 vote. Our November meeting will be canceled due to the holiday.
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**8. ADJOURNMENT: Chair, Ian Oglesby**

