**Meeting Minutes**

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

**VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC)**

**September 28th, 2023, Thursday, at 3:00 p.m.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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, Ian Oglesby  MVAAC – Sid Williams  UVC – Mary Estrada  UVC – John Gay  UVC – Shane Strong  City of Del Rey Oaks – Rick Johnson  Veterans Families – Walan Chang  Army Retired Soldier’s Council – Louise Goetzelt |
| **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** | Led by: Shane Strong |
| **3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** | * None received |
| **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  **(From August 24th)** | * Motion: Sid Williams * Second: John Gay   + Roll Call: Vote     - Ayes – Unanimous       * Motion Carried |

**6. BUSINESS ITEMS INFORMATION/ACTION**

**a. Affordable Housing**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **i. VTC – General Updates**   * **Kurt Schake reported** | * VTC is currently at maximum capacity for all housing programs (104 Veterans and dependents). * Lightfighter Village wall raising is scheduled for the 30th of October. Congressman Panetta is scheduled to be the guest speaker. * Tomorrow, the VTC will be receiving the Non-Profit Organization of the Year Award in the Innovator Category from Non-Profit Alliance, Monterey County. * The VTC is looking to partner with Dentistry 4 Vets in the future. * A VTC Employee is one of the recipients of the Veteran of the Year Award. |

**b. Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **i. CCCVC Status Report**   * **Christine Odsen via Adam Errahebi reported** | * Erica Chaney resigned effective 07/18/2023. They are in the process of filling the vacancy along with two other positions. * The Highway 1 sign is moving forward as CalVet and CalTrans have agreed to modify the language in their guidelines to approve the placement of a sign off of the Lightfighter exit North and South. Talks are ongoing. |

**c. Cemetery Foundation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **i. General Updates**   * **Candy Ingram reported** | * We received a credible proposal for the construction of the donor wall. We hope to have board approval soon. * We are coordinating with the State and Post 591 for an 11:00am Veterans Day Cemetery event on November 11th. |

**d. Ord Military Community**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **i. Active-Duty General Update:**   * **CSM Joseph Traylor** | * In reference to the possible Government Shut Down:   + All service members received their end of month pay today. If the Shut Down happens, all non-essential services will be shut down. The Commissary will remain open. |

**e. Army Retired Soldier’s Council**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **i. General Update:**   * **Louise Goetzelt reported** | * Retiree Council meeting is on October 5th at 1:00pm at the Stillwell Community Center. * Reminder: Attended the National Retiree Council meeting on August 1st. We will be meeting in person on or around the April 14th. Replacement nominations will be due in around 6-8 weeks. There are listing requirements for each position (rank, active, reserve, etc..). National issues will be due on November 1st. * The Soldier for Life apparel is available online at Shopmyexchange.com. |

**f. VA-DoD Clinic**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **i. General Update**   * **Adam Errahebi reported** | * This Monday we conducted a tour of the Gourley Clinic with District 4 Supervisor, Wendy Root-Askew. VA Palo Alto Medical Center Director, Jean Gurga attended the tour as well. * Flu shots are available on a walk-in basis from 9:00am to 12:00pm and 1:00pm to 3:00pm. * Jack Murphy comment:   + I have been notifying the VA Palo Alto Senior Leadership about the spike in complaints about the mental health providers at the clinic. |

**g. Municipalities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **i. City of Del Rey Oaks, General Updates:**   * **Rick Johnson reported** | * No updates at this time. |
| **ii. City of Monterey, General Updates:**   * **Mark Ackermann reported** | * Unfortunately, last week at the City Council meeting, we experienced a “Zoom bombing” incident in which individuals disrupted the meeting with hate/inappropriate speech. The city got it under control as fast as they could and immediately condemned the incident. * The City of Monterey co-sponsored the Monterey Bay Veterans Fishing Derby. The city provided 25 parking passes for the event. * We are trying to recruit military spouses and Veterans for job opportunities. Please contact me for more info. |
| **iii. City of Marina, General Updates:** | * None received. |
| **iv. City of Seaside, General Updates:**   * **Chair Oglesby reported** | * Mayor Oglesby and The City of Seaside were featured in a New York Times article regarding Fort Ord. |

**h. Military & Veterans Affairs Office**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **i. General Update**   * **Adam Errahebi reported** | * Adam gave MVAO’s Monthly Activity report, see attached. * Explained the movement of AB46 and AB684. It is currently a two-year bill. * Explained various Veteran events. * Thanked the Committee for spreading the word about WWII servicemember Wilbur Mitts’ repatriation. * MVAO hired Lupe Javier Diaz as a Vet Rep. * Veteran of the Year is on November 3rd at 6:00PM. * Heroes Open is on October 28 th. * Two Veterans with no family will be interred at the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery on October 10th at 9:30am. * Jack Murphy discussed the possible Government Shut Down and the impacts to the Community. Veteran’s benefits are fully funded. |

**6. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * **Louise Goetzelt** | * The Women’s Veterans Memorial has the Square Foot Society to sign up for online. * Inquired about the total amount of Disability Compensation coming to the County. |
| * **Walan Chang** | * Jean Gurga will attend the VA Palo Alto Veterans and Family Advisory Committee next month. If you have any questions you want to ask, please contact me. |
| * **Shane Strong** | * The Heroes Open is on October 28th and is also looking for items for auction. We will also be looking for volunteers for gift bag stuffing prior to the Heroes Open. * DLI is having a homecoming in November 2nd to the 4th . it gives alumni an opportunity to go back on campus and reconnect. Registration is free. * American Legion Post 41 Auxiliary is having an apple pie sale on November 4th. |
| * **Mary Estrada** | * I met with the American Legion Department Commander and discussed the Veterans Homes of California. We discussed the County’s effort, and he is interested in supporting our effort. We also touched on the County’s monthly report for their Service Officers. |
| * **Chair Oglesby** | * Thanked everyone in attendance for how nice Wilbur Mitts’ repatriation ceremony turned out. |

**7. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Oglesby**

