

LOS ANGELES COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION

1816 S. FIGUEROA STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015



Ruth A. Wong
Director

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Present:

Absent:

Commissioners

Commissioners

Thomas O'Shaughnessy
Patricia Jackson-Kelley
Fred Flores
Hector Elizalde
Tom Lasser
Joe Leal
Dennis Tucker

County Department

Military and Veterans Affairs

Ruth Wong, Director
Tatiana Rosas, Executive Secretary

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Approval of Minutes

Chair Thomas O'Shaughnessy called the meeting to order at 1:36p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by newly appointed Commissioner Michael McDowell. Chair O'Shaughnessy asked for a moment of silence as we are within the 24hr from tragic events at the Pentagon and Flight 93 on 9/11.

Motion to approve Minutes by Commissioner Leal and was seconded by Commissioner Elizalde. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

Roll Call

As noted above.

Chairman's Report

Chair O'Shaughnessy stated because there is a quorum he will turn to Commissioner Elizalde to vote on item, "Nomination of Officers."

Election of Officers

Commissioner Elizalde stated that in July it was decided that the Commissioner O'Shaughnessy continue as Chair and Commissioner Patricia Jackson-Kelley as Vice-Chair. Motion by Commissioner Joe Leal: Commissioner O'Shaughnessy continue another year as Chair and nominate Commissioner Patricia Jackson-Kelley as Vice-Chair. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lasser and all approved unanimously.

**Veterans Advisory Commission Meeting
Minutes of September 12, 2018
Page 2**

Motion: By Commissioner Hector Elizalde moved that the Commission work with the Department to do outreach to veterans in multiple location in Los Angeles County to collaborate with the VA, regional hospitals to provide services to veterans in each supervisorial district. Other County departments and veteran service organizations will also be asked to participate. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Tom Lasser.

Chair asked that the Department query the motion and if it can be done and add it to the Strategic Plan. Chair stated this would be tabled for formal final ratification until month.

Commissioner Tom Lasser asked that the draft VAC Ordinance be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Motion: To forward Ordinance to General Wong to send to the Board of Supervisors for their concurrence and/or approval. Motion seconded by Commissioner Patricia Jackson-Kelley and all present were in favor.

Chair O'Shaughnessy requested that the change to "compensation" be a separate item to be discussed in the VAC Ordinance. General Wong relayed a discussion that she has had with the Executive Office approximately two years ago regarding increasing the compensation to the Commission. The Executive Office stated that if they would consider increasing the compensation to the VAC Commission then all the other Commissions would also have to be taken into consideration. The General stated that she would like to revisit this issue with the Executive Office on behalf of the Commission and will report back outcome.

Annual Report

The Annual Report is still in draft form. Item to be held over until next month.

Strategic Plan

Chair O'Shaughnessy asked all Commissioners to inquire with their respective Supervisors for a meeting date and location for 2019 Commission meetings in their respective supervisorial districts and it be added to the Commission's Meeting Location Calendar.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report

Ruth Wong, Director, stated the following Department updates:

- The City of Los Angeles has created a position called, Director, Military and Veterans Affairs in the Mayor's Office.
- The Department participated in Fleet Week at the USS Iowa
- Met with the Arts Commission to promote who we are and what we do. Our new PIO is working on how to brand our building and our Department.
- The Antelope Valley Transportation Pilot Project will have buses that leave at 5:20, 5:40 to arrive at the VA for 8am appointments. The cost of the ride will be \$5.20.
- Veteran Hispanic Heritage Month is scheduled for September 14th at 10am. Flyer in Commission packets.
- The CACVSO conference is being held from September 30th – October 5th and opening ceremony is on October 1st at 1pm at Patriotic Hall.
- The 75th Anniversary of D-Day is next year (2019) – Tom Ruck, Director, LANC and Ruth Wong will be Co-Chairing events throughout the County.
- Currently in the preliminary stages of creating a Military and Veterans Association of County Employees.

Chair O'Shaughnessy suggested that if there are five pictures or artifacts that can be given on loan to each County Supervisor so that they can display and have a veteran/military tribute in their office.

Public Comments: Comments from Audience on Items Not on Agenda (three minutes each):

Alfred Lugo, Veteran Advocate, is requesting for a resolution for the Escuadron 201, and present them with a Congressional Gold Medal. He would like for the ceremony to be held a Patriotic Hall.

Motion: By Commissioner Joe Leal to recommend that the Board of Supervisors for support of Mexico's Escuadron 201. Seconded by Dennis Tucker and all present were in favor.

**Veterans Advisory Commission Meeting
Minutes of September 12, 2018
Page 3**

Commissioner Joe Leal also asked that the event to be held on a weekend and if possible to have the fees waived.

Item's for Next Month's Agenda (October's Agenda)

None.

Follow-Up on Veteran Issues

None.

Good of the Order

Commissioner Joe Leal attended 2nd Annual, LA County Fair Heroes Corner, in collaboration with The Vet Hunters Project at the Pomona Fairplex.

Commissioner Patricia Jackson-Kelley stated she attended a conference in Atlanta, Georgia and had the honor of pinning a Vietnam Veteran.

Commissioner Dennis Tucker had nothing for the Good of the Order.

Commissioner Hector Elizalde attended Field of Dreams in Azusa.

Commissioner Tom Lasser attended the Governor's Military Council meeting in Sacramento. September 21st is National POW/MIA Day, the Los Angeles Air Force Base has a celebration. The screening of "Solemn Promise" will be in Palm Springs.

Chair Thomas O'Shaughnessy stated that he will be speaking at the Veteran Stand Down on September 15th at the Los Angeles LGBT Center. Chair O'Shaughnessy thanked everyone for attending and adjourned at 3:25p.m.

Tatiana Rosas
Executive Secretary
September 12, 2018