



CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD
Meeting Minutes #748
May 20, 2015



Charlene Taylor, Chair

Hugh Crooks, Jr., Vice-Chair
Juan Gonzalez, Board Member
Todd Trotter, Board Member

Caroline Morales, Member
Sean Sargeant, Board Member
Gena Truitt, Board Member

The California Veterans Board met in Sacramento, CA at the California Department of Veteran Affairs, Medal of Honor Hall at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Charlene Taylor (Chair), Hugh Crooks Jr. (Vice-Chair), Caroline Morales (Member), Sean Sargeant (Member), Gena Truitt (Member), Todd Trotter (Member)
Chair Taylor presided.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOMING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Taylor welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. The Board and Executive Officer introduced themselves.

MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

Approved minutes from March 18, 2015 Board meeting. Member Truitt moved to approve the minutes and member Morales seconded. Motion unanimously approved and carried.

PRESENTATION BY BOBBI PARK: CalVet Local Interagency Network Coordinator (LINC) – Bobbi Park gave a very thorough outline of the LINC Network. The Network is comprised of eight (8) regional LINC's that go out into the Veteran communities and outreach events throughout the State. She reported that they “go out” (they don't wait for the Veterans to come to them) to the Veterans to educate and inform of the Services and Programs that they as Veterans are entitled to. They work closely with the County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO's).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Under Secretary Diane Vanderpot reached out to the Board for help in finding candidates for several vacant Administrator Positions.

CHAIR'S UPDATE – Chair Taylor updated the Board that she attended the 2015 Women's Military History Week Reception on March 18, 2015. The reception was well attended. She reported that she had a telephone meeting with the Secretary on April 15, 2015 and a regular meeting on May 18, 2015. Tomorrow, May 21, 2015 Chair Taylor will speak about the Board at the Kaiser hospital in Sacramento. They will be honoring their employee Veterans. She wasn't able to attend the California State Commander Veterans Council (CSCVC). Hugh attended in her place and gave a brief update on that meeting. Chair Taylor noted that Col. Lorna Griess was in attendance on behalf of the CSCVC.

DEPARTMENT FORUM: Department Update

CLOSED SESSION – Personnel Issues

(Secretary Debbie Endsley, Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Crooks, Member Morales, Member Truitt, Member Sargeant and Member Trotter were in attendance)

OLD BUSINESS

Town Hall

Mr. and Mrs. Whaley Appeal

COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Plan and Objectives

Action Items:

- 1. Chair Taylor:** Chair Taylor reported on the task of updating and revising the California Veterans Board Policy (Policy) and The Boards Administrative Policy Book. She went over the various policies within the California Veterans Board Policy recommending some to delete and some to revise. The Board expressed its interest in working with the Department on the Policy Book revisions and deletions. The Secretary gave her approval to the Board to work with JP on that. Motion was moved and seconded to accept Chair Taylor's recommendations. Recommendations accepted. Chair Taylor then went over "The Board's Administrative Policy". She said that they all need to be reviewed and revised and she will bring those up at the next meeting.
- 2. Hugh Crooks:** No report at this time.
- 3. Caroline Morales:** Caroline updated on several bills being tracked in the Legislature. AB 171: CVSO funding bill is still being monitored. She clarified that the Strike Team funding is part of AB 75 which is different from the CVSO funding in AB 171. SB 543: MWR funds, is being watched closely. The recent amendment would require a role for the Board to play. AB 13 and AB 27 are also closely watched. JP gave an extensive update on SB 543 and the Board's proposed role.
- 4. Gena Truitt:** Updated the Board on the recent Town Hall in San Diego. Forty-one people signed in. The Town Hall revealed a need for more services for the homeless. There needs to be more landlord – property owner engagement for Section 8 housing, flexibility with funding, and documentation. I.D. cards, legal issues and bad credit issues are some of the barriers. Some suggestions were to provide tax cuts for landlords who will rent to Veterans. A Housing trust fund was suggested. In addition, Vets with less than honorable discharge are not accepted for mental health or rehab centers. A draft report will be presented at the next meeting.

5. **Sean Sargeant:** Member Sargeant has not had much luck with responses at Camp Pendleton in regards to the GPX/TR support. He stated he will physically go down and meet in person. Member Sargeant reported that he was successful in guiding a Veteran with a VA Loan issue to the Homes division of the California Veterans Affairs Department, and ultimately to resolve. He attended a Flag Retirement ceremony with a Girl Scout troop where they retired 1400 flags. He was also successful in linking up the Orange County job listings with the Camp Pendleton transition coordinator. He continues to create a positive impression of CalVet within the military.
6. **Todd Trotter:** Member Trotter briefed the Board about Appeals and the Board's jurisdiction over various issues/appeals. He then went on to give his recommendation on the Whaley Appeal. The Appeal was taken up and voted on. The Board unanimously upheld the decision of the Farm and Home Division of the California Veterans Affairs Department, the Appeal was denied.

NEW BUSINESS

Appeals/Complaints – A hand out was provided with the most recent complaints/appeals.

BOARD COMMENTS: Chair Taylor asked if anyone has approached the Board to get their opinion on the additional duties brought up with SB 543?

Hugh suggested it would be nice to have a proclamation from the Governor at the events he will attend on Memorial Day. JP explained the process to obtain these.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:00 NOON