



CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD
Meeting Minutes #762
September 26-27, 2017



Todd Trotter, Chair
Hugh Crooks, Jr., Vice-Chair
Charlene Taylor, Member
Elizabeth Perez, Member

Carla Thornton, Member
Juan Gonzalez, Member
John Busterud, Member
Tina Lassiter, Executive Officer

The California Veterans Board met at the California Department of Veterans Affairs in the Medal of Honor Hall located at 1227 "O" Street, First Floor in Sacramento, CA on September 26 at 2:00 pm and then again on September 27 at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Todd Trotter, Hugh Crooks Jr., Carla Thornton, Elizabeth Perez, John Busterud and Juan Gonzalez

Absent: - Charlene Taylor

Chair Trotter presided.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOMING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Trotter welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and gave a quick synopsis of the Agenda for the afternoon. The Board introduced themselves and Chair Trotter introduced Executive Officer Lassiter.

Day 1: September 26, 2017

PRESENTATIONS

1. Thomas Martin (On behalf of Coby Petersen), Homes Division, gave a comprehensive overview of the Homes division.
2. Lindsey Sin, Women Veterans Division, gave a very thorough description of the Women Veterans Division as well as an additional description of the Minority Veterans Division which is currently seeking to fill the Deputy Secretary position.
3. Theresa Gunn, Farm & Home Division, gave an in-depth description of the Farm & Home division.

RECESS

Day 2: September 27, 2017

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOMING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Trotter welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and gave a quick synopsis of the Agenda for the afternoon. The Board introduced themselves and Chair Trotter introduced Executive Officer Lassiter and Board Counsel, Megan Elsea.

MINUTES RECOMMENDATION

Approve minutes from the July 19, 2017 Board meeting. Vice Chair Crooks moved to approve the minutes and Member Busterud seconded. Motion unanimously approved and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

CHAIR’S UPDATE – Chair Trotter gave a brief report of his activities as chair and announced that John Busterud will head the Legislative Committee and Liz Perez will take on the Homes Committee. In addition, it was decided that another Committee, Home Loans, will be added that the Chair will head.

DEPARTMENT FORUM: Department Update, Secretary Imbasciani.

Secretary Imbasciani gave a brief report highlighting several upcoming events with some of the Native America tribes. He gave an update on the Orange County Cemetery and discussed possible language for the Military and Veterans code reform.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Plan and Objectives

Action Items:

1. Hugh Crooks: Communication and Marketing

No report at this time.

2. Carla Thornton: Services

Member Thornton reported that she is looking forward to attending the “Unconference” in the City of Industry on October 13, 2017.

3. Todd Trotter: Administration

No report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Policies & Procedure review:

All policies were held over until the next meeting, November 15, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

Policies & Procedure review:

All policies were held over until the next meeting, November 15, 2017.

Allied Council Meetings:

1. Continue or not: Yes, continue.
2. Define Scope: Establish a role similar to a Liaison; work together to set up meetings.
3. Allocation of Assignments: Chair Trotter will open this up for comment and listen to requests for assignments and bring back to the next meeting.
4. Level of engagement: Form a strong, reciprocal relationship; whereby members attend their respective Allied Council meetings physically or via teleconference.

Appeals:

Accepted: Lori Cannon: Informal. Admission denial. Yountville home.
Ramona Sola: Review of Record. Fee Waiver

Scheduled: Mr. Donenfeld: Informal. Admission denial. November 2, 2017 in Yountville.

Withdrawn: None.

Complaints: Please see attachment.

BOARD COMMENTS: The location and time for the next meeting was decided upon Chula Vista on November 15, 2017.

RECESS FOR LUNCH

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Russell Atterberry, Undersecretary, gave a brief description of his role as Undersecretary.
2. John Spangler, Deputy Secretary, summarized what he has been doing and what he foresees in the Governmental Relations and Legislation Division of CalVet.
3. Megan Elsea, Senior Attorney, briefed all on her role as counsel to the Board and Matthew Dana, Deputy Secretary and Chief Counsel, explained his position in the legal office of CalVet.
4. Angela Yamamoto, Career Executive Assignment, described the Services division of CalVet.
5. Sherri Gustinell, Deputy Secretary, outlined her role as Deputy Secretary of the Administration division of CalVet.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:00 PM

ATTACHMENT

Date	Name	Issue	Resolution	Date Closed
8/14/2017	Larry C. and Nancy Tevis	CalVet Home loan: They are going to lose their home.	have been in Bankruptcy for years (9). Calvet is pursuing an unlawful detainer.	8/14/2017
8/14/2017	John Earsley	Mr. Earsley works full time so he can only take one 3-unit class each semester. He doesn't qualify for the post 9/11 GI bill benefits. They expire next June. Is looking for ways to use these	Mr. Earsley was given information that the GI benefits are Federal and was referred to his local CVSO.	8/18/2017
8/22/2017	Amber Lee	Ms. Lee has been the victim of fraudulent activity by her lender for her home purchase. She does not have a CalVet loan. She is interested in some legislation to establish some safeguards against lenders that take advantage of	Ms. Lee was referred to John Spangler, Deputy Secretary, Government Relations and Legislation. And also to both legislative Veterans committees in the State Legislature.	8/23/2017
9/7/2017	Andrew Villegas	office has misplaced paperwork and failed to submit important paperwork.	A response was sent with information to contact CSU Chancellor's Office.	9/7/2017
9/15/2017	Howie Hansen	Mr. Hansen was denied admission to the Fresno home. He wanted to appeal the decision but he hadn't received a denial letter yet.	The home resent the denial letter.	9/18/2017