



ALAMEDA COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

**General Meeting Agenda**

Monday, March 16, 2026

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

**Oakland Veterans' Memorial Building**

**Address**

**200 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA**

**Tentatively Available Via Zoom Video Conference Call, use link below:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84973202907?pwd=SiaSb3z1MLosq3X0s2vxTHTFC4NabD.1>

**For Dial-in Option, use the number below:**

1-408-638-0968

Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 849 7320 2907

Passcode: 798737

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84973202907>

*Public participation at Commission meetings is encouraged. Individual public comments per agenda item shall be no more than two minutes.*

10:00 – 10:02	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum</li> <li>• Review and Approval of January 2026 General Meeting Minutes</li> </ul>
10:02 – 10:03	<b>SALUTE COLORS-IN-PLACE</b>
10:03 – 10:04	<b>RECITE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b>
10:04 – 10:05	<b>MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR POW/MIA &amp; VETERANS LOST BY SUICIDE</b>
10:05 – 10:10	<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>
10:20 – 10:30	<p><b>STAFF UPDATE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Information/Deadline</li> <li>• New Office Update regarding ACVAC permanent meetings</li> <li>• New Business</li> </ul>
10:30 – 10:55	<b><u>Presentation: Veterans and Homeownership with Jesus Hernandez</u></b>
10:55 – 11:20	<p><b><u>Budget Finalization &amp; Approval</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Executive Committee's recommendation of 26/27 budget</u></li> <li>• <u>Discussion and Action</u></li> </ul>
11:20-11:55	<p><b><u>SUB-COMMITTEE FORMATION &amp; REPORTS:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Meeting (Yohannes) [5 min]</li> <li>• Outreach (Farmer) [10min] -Stand Down 2026</li> <li>• PAL Legislation (Phair) [5 min]</li> <li>• Veteran Observance Days (Farmer) [5 min]</li> <li>• Veteran Memorial Buildings (Farmer/Brunner) [5 min]</li> <li>• Explanation and Finalization of New Subcommittees [5 min]</li> </ul>
11:55-12p	<p><b><u>New Business / Announcements</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Adjournment</u></b></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There are seven Veteran Service Representative (VSR's) positions, with one currently on leave and one position open.</li> <li>○ Rhoda Turner, Department Secretary, is the contact person for reimbursements.</li> <li>○ Jennifer mentioned that a staff member is working on a spreadsheet to provide information on remaining funds in the line items of the budget.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Jennifer will send an email detailing how much was approved for the budget and provide a breakdown of the budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There will be a grand opening in February for the new stand-alone office.</li> <li>○ Jennifer informed the commissioners that they might want to plan an alternate meeting location in February just in case the new office is not ready for occupancy.</li> <li>○ Jennifer reminded the commission that it was agreed they would receive CVSO statistics quarterly, and the next report will be provided in February.</li> <li>○ Working on scheduling Brown Act Training for March or April.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Discussion &amp; Action</b></p> <p><b>Topic:</b> Review of Bylaws; Possible Amendments</p>	<p>The Commissioners reviewed and discussed Articles 1 through 4 of the Bylaws. Commissioners provided input on the content, structure, and clarity of these articles. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Article 1:</b> General agreement on purpose and scope; minor wording adjustments suggested.</li> <li>● <b>Article 2:</b> Discussion on membership criteria; recommendation for clearer definitions.</li> <li>● <b>Article 3:</b> Suggestions for refining officer roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>● <b>Article 4:</b> Input on meeting procedures and quorum requirements; proposal for additional flexibility in scheduling.</li> </ul> <p>The Commission agreed to pause the review and form an Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to review the remaining Articles of the Bylaws in detail.</p>
<p><b>Sub-Committee Reports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Executive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chair Sheweet Yohannes provided the names of the updated Executive Team which were: herself, James Phair, Don Reed, Robert Hart, and Lisa Brunner.</li> <li>○ Commissioners Robert Cole, Greg Owens, and Omar Farmer are no longer members of the Executive Subcommittee.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Outreach:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commissioner Farmer noted that the Commission promoted events from other entities during the 2025</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>year, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and community engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Tri-City Veterans Mixer will be held on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 pm– 8 pm</li> <li>○ Give Veterans a Smile – February 21 at La Clinica de La Raza in Union City. This event is open to all US armed forces. Please bring your DD214 as proof of eligibility.</li> <li>○ Commissioner Farmer detailed events that were held last year and will need to be scheduled for this year’s outreach, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tour of Santa Rita Jail</li> <li>▪ Recognition of Women Veteran’s Day</li> <li>▪ Stand Downs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>PAL Legislation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commissioner Phair recommended that the Commission contact their respective state senators to request support for SB 694, in order to bolster the bill’s advocacy and legislative.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Finalization of new sub-committees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Commissioners agreed to establish a Bylaw Ad-Hoc Committee with the following members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lisa Brunner</li> <li>● Sheweeet Yohannes</li> <li>● Robert Cole</li> <li>● Robert Hart</li> <li>● Michael Gilmore</li> <li>● Dan Reed</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The commission agreed to create a National Veterans Memorial Day event Committee with the following members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● James Phair</li> <li>● Fred Jaffin</li> <li>● Robert Cole</li> <li>● Nathaniel Harrison</li> <li>● Alfred Gordillo</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>ORAL COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p>	<p>Don Reed mentioned that he attended the Veterans Summit at Las Positas College and spoke with several people there.</p> <p>Next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.</p>