



**Alameda County
Veterans Affairs Commission
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 19, 2025**

Alameda County
**Social Services
Agency**
6955 Foothill Blvd – Ste. 300
Oakland, CA 94605
<http://alamedasocialservices.org>

CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 10:08 am
- Roll Call, Quorum Achieved.

In Attendance: <i>(P=Present, E=Excused, A=Absent, O=Online Attendance)</i>	County Staff Present:
O. Farmer (Vice Chair) = P G. Owens (Chair) = P R. Forbes = A J. Phair = P S. Dolgin = A K. Warner = P M. Gilmore = P D. Williamson = P N. Harrison = P J. McLvain = P F. Jaffin = P S. Yohannes = P L. Brunner = A A. Gordillo = P I. LoParo = P D. Reed = E D. Boldt = P M. Reed = P R. Cole = E J. Jones = P	Jonathan Montero-Flores Anthony Simpson Rhoda Turner

AGENDA/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Item	Discussion/Recommendations
Adopt Agenda	Meeting agenda adopted by Commission as read.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	Motion to accept meeting minutes from 4/21/2025: Motion to approve: Commissioner Phair (M) Commissioner McLvain (S) Motion Passed
Public Comment	None.
Staff Updates:	Anthony Simpson, Veterans Service Officer discussed the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was reported last month that two staff members were out. The good news is that one has since returned, giving them additional support to help facilitate the upcoming outreach programs. ○ One of the upcoming outreach programs will be a Fremont Claims Clinic scheduled for May 31st. ○ It was noted that the Commission may not have received the data reflecting revenue generated from services provided to clients seen in March and April.

	<p>Action: <i>Veterans Service Offer Anthony Simpson emailed the data to Commissioner Farmer.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are personnel on standby to participate in the Stand Down event scheduled for June." ○ There is still no update regarding the relocation of the VSO office. The Commission will be notified as soon as information becomes available."
<p>Guest Speaker: John Reiscenweber</p> <p>Topic: PGA Hope Reach Foundation</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Luis Hernandez, Director</p> <p>Topic: Cal Veterans Service Center</p>	<p>It was noted that staff from the ROTC Program were unable to attend or present at this meeting.</p> <p>John Reiscenweber, representing the PGA HOPE Reach Foundation, delivered a presentation to the commission.</p> <p>Luis Hernandez, Director of the Cal Vet Center, spoke about the center's role, services offered, and its work supporting veterans. Mr. Hernandez noted that while the Cal Vet Center has a relationship with the ROTC, the two operate as separate departments.</p>
<p>Sub-Committee Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Owens noted that there are 22 seats on the Commission, with 19 currently filled. • It was mentioned that Josh Jones is scheduled to take the oath later today, which will bring the total to 20 filled seats. • There are currently two open seats: one for the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and one for the Marine Corps League. Once these positions are filled, the board will be at full capacity (100% representation). ➤ Outreach and VAC Logo: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following an online vote by the commission members, Option 3 (Combat Uni & Flag) was selected with the majority of votes (15) as the official logo for the Veterans Advisory Committee for Alameda County." <p>The following outreach opportunities were mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Golf Tournament – Held in Castro Valley at the Redwood Canyon Golf Course on June 7, 2025. ▪ Santa Rita Jail Tour - Commissioner Farmer informed the Commission that the tour of the Santa Rita Jail, originally scheduled for this Friday, would need to be rescheduled. The proposed new dates are Monday, June 2 or Wednesday, June 4 from 9 am to 10:30 am. Commissioners were asked to confirm their availability for these alternative dates. ▪ Swords to Plowshares Mentorship Program: A continuing initiative offering peer mentorship and transitional support for veterans reintegrating into civilian life. ▪ Spring 2025 Job and Resource Fair: Held on May 28, 2025, at the Castro Valley Library from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. ➤ Executive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Executive Committee met on May 9th.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items discussed included the budget, Women Veterans Recognition Day, and the Stand Down event. <p>➤ Women Veterans Recognition Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commissioner Williamson reported that she, along with Commissioners Brunner and Yohannes, has been diligently working to complete the items outlined in the timeline checklist. ▪ Commissioner Williamson provided an update on the progress of items from the checklist. ▪ The flyer is still being updated to include the QR code and the new logo. ▪ It was noted that the only remaining task is to create the program guide. ▪ The Commission discussed potential awards that can be given, including the Quilts of Valor, as well as the possibility of presenting a slideshow during the event. <p>➤ Veterans Observance Days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information was shared about various Memorial Day events taking place in Alameda, Castro Valley, Livermore, Lone Tree, and other local communities. ▪ Commissioner Farmer provided a Flag Day update, noting that Flag Day is observed annually on June 14th. ▪ The committee met at the Alameda Veterans Memorial Building on Saturday and identified 23 flags in various sizes that can be distributed to organizations in need. ▪ Commissioner Farmer stated that he has already been in contact with several organizations that have expressed a need for a flag. ▪ The next steps for the committee include creating a list of organizations that need flags, confirming the required sizes, and coordinating delivery. <p>➤ Stand Down:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Farmer stated that one of the biggest additions to this year's Stand Down event is the inclusion of Criminal Court Clean Slate Relief. • It was noted that 29 organizations will be in attendance on Friday, and 24 organizations will participate on Saturday. • Commissioner Farmer discussed the use of professional advertising services to promote the event on AC Transit or BART. • The group engaged in a discussion regarding the upcoming Stand Down event.
<p>ORAL COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS</p>	<p>Veteran Service Officer Anthony Simpson clarified the amount of compensation for incarcerated veterans.</p>
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.</p>