



VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

12 February 2026 @1730 Hours
HHS Center – Red Poppy Room
11434 B Ave, Auburn CA 95603

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by John Healy, Chair

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Pledge by All

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: John Healy led introductions

ATTENDANCE: Members On-Site: Don Bilodeau VFW Post 1446; Robert Candler VFW Post 2003; Lorie Franceschi AL Post 84; Harold Hayek FRA BR 230; John Healy AL Post 169; Richard Tetrault AL Post 192; District 4 Supervisor Suzanne Jones; Eva M. Jimenez, CVSO Supervisor (non-voting).

ABSENT: Melissa Washington WVA, Don Witt Semper Fi.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Marianne Ward, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 587. Application pending. They attended executive committee meetings; are in the midst of doing their girl state interviews throughout Placer County High Schools; essay contest currently in progress.

Laurette Ramsey, AL Post 587. Application pending. NSTR.

Cliff Jones, Seniors In Retirement (SIR), branch 102 and 98. Made the honor flight. Member of SIR, Seniors In Retirement, a social club, branch 102 and branch 98 in Roseville. They are doing presentations for veterans; they find out how many veterans there are, where they served, and have a ceremony to present them with ribbons. They will do this for the upcoming year 2026 in July.

QUORUM: A Quorum was established with 7 of 9 members present.

MINUTES: Approved 8 January 2026 minutes. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Suzanne Jones. Nothing much from the BOS but stated there may be a BOS approval on Tuesday's agenda. She brought up Hope Way and asked for names of new VAC members before Tuesday. Eva Jimenez let her know she would have Steve get them to her.

REPORTS:

1. VAC Member's Reports/Announcements

Robert Candler. Not a whole lot happening; we got the budget passed; they have a few people resign for different reasons and are waiting for elections in May.

Harold Hayek. FRA finished their essays; mailed awards and check-in, not much after that.

Richard Tetrault. Been busy; four new people last year. He thanked Marianne, they have their own auxiliary committee; they are now a chartered sponsor; will have Mardi Gras dinner 02/13/26. Monthly breakfast happened, went well to generate funds for their post.

Don Bilodeau. The VFW is promoting an upcoming dance to raise awareness and funds. Their last Poppy fundraiser raised \$5,000–\$6,000 in one weekend, all donated to veterans in Roseville. They are seeking donation partnerships with Raley's, Walmart, and Walgreens and need more volunteers at all locations. Senator and Supervisor Shanti attended a VA discussion event at Sun City in Lincoln. There is also a VFW in Lincoln, described as more of a social club. He is a member of the Military Order of the Cootie (Pub 10, Antelope), which supports hospitals with items like wheelchairs, food, and clothing. A donation roundup is scheduled for April 18. Most meetings are on Sundays. A flyer was provided for the CVSO, and he invited follow-up questions.

Lori Franceschi. Post 84 had their sweetheart dinner 02/11/2026; bingo 02/27/26, chips, cookies, and water available.

John Healy. Post 169 American Legion: Black out in Dec and Jan; First meeting Feb but he couldn't attend. Reported boy scouts are holding a fun run for Veterans. Veterans court doing well; had one graduate recently and a few more expected next month.

2. VSO Executive Report. Eva Jimenez (CVSO Supervisor), reported 2 new reps. They completed part 1 of the CalVet Academy (02/2026), will complete 3months of OJT, then will return to take the exam to become accredited; they are doing exceptional. Reported Tiara Brown winning the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers Yvette Mason Veterans Services Representative Award for Excellence. #1 of hundreds of VSRs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. New Members, still awaiting Clerk of the Board to schedule for BOS approval. VSO inquired 02/04/2026.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Eva Jimenez – Asked the VAC to like PCVSO on FB and Instagram and to send us their flyers to post in our lobby and our social media.

Don Bilodeau asked about a veteran needing help from the Bay requesting help. Jones asked if we vet and Don said they are vetted and primarily look for the DD-214; he stated there is an amount that can be given to any veteran. When it gets to the thousands, it brings up concerns.

Supervisor Jones asked if their respective veterans organizations are non-profits. All VAC members said yes. She let them know they can ask for revenue sharing; all BOS get \$50k each a year. They can submit an application, and it goes to all the BOS and they may approve some funding towards a couple of events/fundraiser. She asked if the VAC has reached out to RC Wiley, Don said they all have. Supervisor Jones informed the VAC, there are also HHS vouchers and American Red cross vouchers to seek.

Marianne Ward reported Vietnam wall in Citrus Heights and fundraising on this.



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John Healy said he doesn't know the process (regarding the CH memorial), but they haven't raised enough money to build it, and it will be an exact replica as the one in D.C. and reports money is being raised by different organizations.

Lori Franceschi asked if anyone has received an e-mail from a person regarding posting mesothelioma – everyone said no.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm to the next regular VAC meeting, Thursday, March 12th, 2025, 1730 Hours, HHS Center - Red Poppy Room, 11434 B Ave, Auburn