



## VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

12 March 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: John Healy AL Post 169, Don Bilodeau VFW Post 1446; Tom Dunavent, PC Navy League; Lorie Franceschi AL Post 84; Laurette Ramsey, AL Post 587; Robert Candler VFW Post 2003; Melissa Washington, WVA; Richard Tetrault AL Post 192; Marianne Ward, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 587; Eva M. Jimenez, CVSO Supervisor (non-voting); Harold Hayek FRA BR 230.

**ABSENT:** Suzanne Jones, Supervisor

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:** Corrine Vierra, Director of Student Success – Sierra College

Corrine Vierra: Reported past interest regarding figuring out how to connect more with veterans on campus. Spring numbers: 439 veterans and dependents utilizing their education benefits. Discussed different veteran events on campus with their associate Deans to invite us all to promote what we do, to get involved and establish longer relationships with the VAC and Sierra College. She would like the opportunity to speak with all members of the VAC to establish relationships, determine what our involvement looks like and create more interaction b/t VAC members and student population. She noted she is not on the distribution list to be able to share VAC member flyers on campus. Reiterating from past discussions, they need folks to assist with color guard and honor guard. She said if we e-mail and we don't get a response, to let her know due to spam filter. Contact Info: cvieira@sierracollege.edu (916) 660-7530.

**QUORUM:** A Quorum was established with 11 of 12 members present.

**MINUTES:** Approval of 12 February 2026, Minutes. Corrections were reported and noted. All in favor for approval of 02/12/2026 minutes after corrections were noted. Updated 12 February 2026 minutes will be sent to Steve Johnson to archive.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** N/A

**SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:** N/A

### **REPORTS:**

#### **1. VAC Member's Reports/Announcements:**

Harold Hayek: Nothing new to report.

Marianne Ward: After VAC meeting 02/12/2026, after BOS Suzanne Jones shared information regarding revenue sharing, Marrian submitted an application for revenue sharing; no result to date. Added American essay winners in Foresthill Schools, grades 4th – 9th placing 1st, 2nd, 3rd place will receive a financial award, and all participants will receive Certificates of Participation. National essays are

currently underway. Candidate interviews were held in the week of 02/16/2026. ALA has sponsored delegates from Colfax, Placer, Foresthill and North Tahoe High Schools to attend Girls State at the University of Riverside. Plans are under way for the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 587 Chili Cook Off on 04/04/2026 at Foresthill Memorial Hall; @ 5pm flyer sent to PC CVSO to post on social media.

Richard Tetrault: Very busy putting together their legion family; just a few pieces need to be signed. They now have an auxiliary, 192 and scouting America troop 192. Both troops were present during their meeting last night; kids are sharp and timely. Meet every Wednesday; Richard is the charting sponsor and will be present moving forward at all meetings dressed in scouting uniform and badges.

Bob Candler: Corn beef and cabbage event on 03/20/2026. Reports, instead of Cinco de Mayo event, they will be having a "Iluevo de mayo" instead, on 05/09/2026. They had their usual breakfast, good turnout, and went well.

Melissa Washington: Reports Lowes does a community impact project, 2026 Community Impact Project. All nominations must be submitted by 03/20/26. If we have a facility or building that Lowes can potentially repair or are looking to get a project done, visit website [corporate.lowes.com/nomination-form-2026](https://www.lowes.com/nomination-form-2026) for nomination form. Reports Elk Grove is having their Red, White, Blue and You Career and Resource Fair 03/13/2026, 8230 Civic Center Dr., E.G from 10am – 2pm. There will be companies, vendors and resources where veterans can bring their resume, complete the VSD-001; event occurs every year. Introduction and overview of Assembly & Senate Bills: Assembly bill 1616, Senate Bill 1040; Senate Bill 1407; Senate Bill 888; Senate Bill 1034; Assembly Bill 1638 (Overview of Bills – see end of agenda minutes). Veterans Administration and DOJ signed a MOU, for the improvement to help our homeless who are unable to make their own health care decisions – gives DOJ the authority to appoint authorize persons (VA attorney) to be appointed to those Veterans and will give legal authority to initiate and participate in State Court guardianship conservatorship proceedings in cases where a legal decision-maker is required. Reports VA's use of AI, to determine/process all Claims. Melissa is working on an AB to support a bill for a Woman's veterans' monument at the State Capitol, status – in progress.

Don Witt: Sempre Fi. Two activities, last meeting, covered Toys for Tots. On Saturday they will have a luncheon for the participating dealers that were collecting toys. Dealers will receive plaques and certificates. Toys for Tots was a successful event, b/t 28k – 29k toys, serving 9K plus children. Also, they are the primary sponsor for the PC Veterans monument, and have confirmed as a guest, a Korean and Vietnam Veteran, serving 36years - Army Air Corp WWII fighter pilot, age 102, speaking at the event. Lastly, started working on Veterans Day ceremony and reports Suzanne Jones has already agreed to speak at the event.

Laurette Ramsey, AL Post 587: Their post has two members who have recently completed their disability veterans Claims and were successfully service-connected. Lori Franceschi: Nothing to report except BINGO on 02/27/2026, was successful. Reports their kitchen will be remodeled, and for the next two months, they do not have anything planned for their next event.

Tom Dunavent: Navy league, Kevin Kiley stopped by to deliver Valentines for Veterans. On 02/2026, the Navy League recognized Sailors for the quarter for the Fallon Branch Medical Clinic. On 03/16/2026, having a dinner meeting featuring their youth group – Navy Cadet Program, and will be presenting checks to the CA Maritime Academy, Luther Burbank Jr. ROTC, Yuba City High School, and the JFK Marine Corp Jr. ROTC – cost \$22/person, 5:30p social hour, 6:30p meeting and RSVP to Bonnie Potter.



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Other activities, presenting the Navy League Theater Roosevelt Awards to Yuba City Chico and Sacramento Sea Cadets. Also helping Division Sea Cadets that are part of the Cyber Patriot competition, 25K students who travel to DC to participate and encourages students to take interest in cyber security and computer science programs. Last group is an exclusive group of young ladies from Sacramento. Upcoming events 04/20/26, Sea cadet youth group; 04/10/2026, having a Lou Conter naming ceremony at the VA Clinic in Auburn (11985 Heritage Oaks Place, Suite 100 Auburn, CA 95603); he was the last survivor member of the Arizona, passed away in 2024. If we would like to donate or volunteer, reach out to Tom or his spouse Rebecca Dunavent. In May 2026, will have big day of giving fundraiser, and then next Navy league meeting will be held on 05/18/2026, preceding their April meeting.

Don Bilodeau: Reported a so-so turn out to their two Mexican fiesta dance on Saturdays; working on it and trying to get more youths involved. Had Blue Star ladies serve dinner, they are getting more involved and if you want them to come to your post for dinner, they will put it on, serve and give you more info to what they are doing. Reminder of Veterans Stand Down, 05/05/26 & 05/06/26 – handed out flyers. Reports the VFW is getting ready for the Poppies coming out in May, handing out different poppies in stores and getting different contributions. He represents the Cooties and will have their stand-down on April 18th at 5pm fundraiser (\$40/ticket) to see what the Cooties are all about – he handed out a flyer. Post 4647 Tri-Tip and chicken in Antelope. Blue Star ladies will have their event at the same Post (4647). Suggested seeking donations from bigger organization for your fundraiser events.

John Healy: Regarding Boys State with all High Schools in Roseville, Don Adams decided not to participate, and chose not to return phone calls. On 03/24/26 their post is hosting the pre-flight meeting for the honor flight; other than that, kind of quiet however, they will start elections next month.

**2. VSO Executive Report.** Eva Jimenez reports the CVSO annual report complete, it's fantastic. Steve may have copies for all – TBD.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. New Members, all officially appointed to their seats by the BOS. Welcome Aboard:
  - a. Marianne Ward
  - b. Laurette Ramsey
  - c. Tom Dunavent
  - i. Noted today, all new members require Expense Forms.

**NEW BUSINESS:** N/A

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS & GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

John Healy reports receiving an e-mail a couple of months ago, about a fishing trip in Collins Lake. He replied to the e-mail, received a response and he will be attending.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm to the next regular VAC meeting, Thursday, April 9th, 2025, 1730 Hours, HHS Center - Red Poppy Room, 11434 B Ave, Auburn