

**Veterans Advisory Board Minutes**  
**May 28, 2019**  
**City Hall, Room 2007-B**

Open Meeting: The Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

Member at Large #1  
Special Forces Association  
American Legion Post 10  
DAV Chapter 10  
Marine Corps League  
Member at Large #2  
Member at Large #3  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
MOAA  
United Military Women of the SouthWest  
Vietnam Veterans  
VFW Post 3242  
VFW Post 10124  
*(A quorum of appointed members was present)*



Lawrence Orvis, Chairman  
Kyle Trout, Vice Chairman  
Ed Torres  
Sam Bothern  
Carol Gaines  
Hector Sanchez  
Mike Cano (excused)  
Rod Gajewski  
Christine Sautter (excused)  
Karen Woods  
Fred Schneider  
Jesse Addison (absent)  
Patrick Ramirez (absent)

**Approval of Agenda** for today's meeting was motioned by Rod Gajewski and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol Gaines. All members that are present voted unanimously.

**Introduction of Guests:**

NM Dept. Veterans Service  
Mayor's Liaison  
American Legion Auxiliary  
DAC HHS  
LC Vet Center  
VA  
NMCDHH  
Honor Flight of Southern NM  
State Rep House District 3  
Community of Hope  
CLC Parks & Rec  
Veterans Parade  
Commander DAV 10  
VVA

James Turner  
Dolores Archuleta  
Patricia Torres  
Athena Huckaby  
Dale Lawrence  
Gina McCue  
Susana Santillan  
Arnie Diaz  
Rudy Martinez  
Sharon Casas  
Cathy Mathews  
Bill Hawkins  
William Garcia  
Hubert Gay  
Debra Hathaway

**City of Las Cruces Staff:**

Eric Enriquez

Board Coordinator

**Acceptance of Minutes,** Kyle Trout motioned to approve the minutes from April 23, 2019. Ed Torres 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all members that are present voted unanimously.

**Old Business- NONE**

**New Business- NONE**

**Public Participation**

- **Veterans Transportation- Debra Hathaway** provided copies of a letter sent to the Mayor. His response was enthusiastic regarding the possibility of getting transportation for our veterans. A study will be performed to assess the transportation needs of our veterans. The goal is to have the study completed by October so that it can be made into a bill to be brought forth during the legislative session in January. Representative Rudy Martinez is trying to get a task force together to put together a matrix of information from this study. They intend to work with DAV's current transportation systems to identify areas of improvement to veteran transportation throughout the state of New Mexico.
- **VA Clinic Name- Michael Amaral** was not present at the meeting. This item will be moved to next month's meeting.
- **Salute Across America- Dolores Archuleta** the event was very successful. She extended her thanks to the board for their support and to Mike Cano for helping set up. The future of the Saluting Marine will depend on the group Rolling Thunder.
- **American Legion Auxiliary Events Updates- Patricia Torres** thanked everyone for their support with the enchilada dinner. \$400 was raised for Girls State which will take place June 2<sup>nd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>. The installation of new officers will be at the American Legion Post 10. Ed Torres will be the new commander at the American Legion. The Centennial Convention will take place in Clovis on June 27th.
- **Arnie Diaz** just got back from the spring Honor Flight. The next trip will be October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>. The Welcome Home is getting bigger each trip. They are looking for more veterans and guardians for the next trip.
- **Susana Santillan** with New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing provides resources with individuals with hearing and speech problems. They provide different technologies for the individual's needs.
- **Gina McCue** thanked the members of VFW Post 10124 for allowing community partner to host a legal clinic for low income veterans. They are hoping to have another one by November. They are working with the young lawyers division with the New Mexico Bar to do something similar to the Wills for Heroes which is focused on First Responders but would like to expand it to Wills for Veterans as well. If there is anyone looking to be a mentor for the Veterans Treatment Court Program, she will be a point of contact.
- **Athena Huckaby** was present to connect with anyone regarding opioid overdose prevention. The Governor passed legislation that Naloxone is to be co-prescribed with any opioid medications.
- **Crystal Davis-Whited** changes are coming to the VA. Choice is no longer available. It will now be Community Care.
- **Bill Hawkins** made the initial announcement for the Veterans Parade. The tentative date will be November 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am. They are working with the City and Farmer's Market to continue to use Main Street.

- **JR Turner** stated that the flag rising for Memorial Day went well but they had struggles with the pulley and the wind when they were being lowered. The flags were looking tattered so the City will be providing new flags. A service dog went missing during the Candlelight Ceremony. As of this morning he has not been found.


**Board Member Reports**

- **Carol Gaines-** Marine Corps League State Convention was held in Alamogordo. The New President is from the El Perro Diablo Detachment and the Vice President is also from Las Cruces. The Honor Guard participated in many events over the Memorial Day weekend.
- **Karen Woods-** the lights were working at the Women Veterans Monument. There were some flaws with some bricks. They are being corrected. The Annual Pancake fundraiser for Honor Flight will be August 25<sup>th</sup> at American Legion between 6am to noon. Plates are \$5.
- **Ed Torres-** American Legion served breakfast to about 400 people during Run for the Wall. There was room for trailer hookups. There will be 10 students attending Boys State. They are hoping to get more participants next year.
- **Rod Gajewski-** veteranmedals.army.mil will duplicate any medals listed on your DD14. It is a free service for veterans. They tweaked ideas from the past Candlelight Vigil committee. Karen came up with the idea to use magnets instead of tape to refrain from any damages being done to the walls. Patricia was a significant help in getting the sponsorship tables set up.
- **Kyle Trout-** Special Forces participated in the wreath laying. Around 200 bikes were provided during Bikes for Tykes.
- **Chief Enriquez-** a form will be provided to board members to help with bringing forth information regarding activities and events taking place within each organization. It will help with board reports and the minutes. Chief Enriquez announced that recording secretary Brittany Viramontes will be relocating to Albuquerque.

**Next Meeting: June 25, 2019**

**Adjournment:** Karen Woods motioned to have the meeting adjourned, Kyle Trout 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All members present voted unanimously.

  
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 Name

  
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 Date