



# NCOA<sup>®</sup>

## Non Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America

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Central Valley Chapter #1551 • P. O. Box 642 • North Highlands, CA 95660 • Tel (916) 362-9746  
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6 Sept 2023

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Central Valley Chapter # 1551  
*Spirit of Sacramento Auxiliary Chapter # 0270*

**SUBJECT:** NCOA/Auxiliary General Membership Meeting Minutes (6 Sep 2023)

1. **Meeting called to order at 1900 hours in person.**

Pledge of Allegiance led by CMSgt (Ret) Jim Sullivan  
NCOA Creed read by: SP4 Tim Tribble  
Moment of silence observed.

2. **Executive Committee Members:**

CMSgt (Ret) Jim Sullivan, Chairman, Present  
MSgt (Ret) Michael Grabow, Vice-Chairman, Present  
CMSgt (Ret) Jim Kearns, Treasurer, Present  
MSgt (Ret) Liz Lynn, Secretary, Present  
MSgt (Ret) George Wheeler, Trustee, Absent  
MSgt (Ret) Gary Chase, Trustee, Present

3. **Auxiliary Executive Committee Members:**

Ellie Witt, Vice Chairman, Present  
Scott Rodowick, Treasurer, Present

Tammy Sullivan, Chairman, Present  
Pam Wright, Secretary, Absent  
Melissa Carnahan, Trustee, Present

4. **Members Present:**

Donald (Tim) Tribble, SP4      Tamara Rowley, Auxiliary      Jasmine Kearns, Auxiliary  
Donna Master, Auxiliary

5. **Guests Present:** Joseph Blea, from The Mission Continues, shared that the mission of the organization is to connect veterans with under-resourced communities. Donna Master spoke for VFW Post 4647 Commander, CMSGT (Ret) Ed Connor (who was not present). She highlighted new floors in the banquet room and indicated volunteers were needed to clean the stove and a new toaster is in the works.

6. **Chairman's Comments:**

**Grand Knight Letter:** On 9/11, Nation observes Patriot Day. On 9/15, we observe POW/MIA Recognition Day. On 9/18, Nation observes 76th birthday of the U.S. Air Force. Initially founded on 18 Sept 1947.

**Regular:** Two new NCOA banners purchased for \$195.13 which was under our \$200 budget. NCOA Conference recap by Tina Kish was outstanding. Rancho Cordova Thank You for celebrating 60 years. NCOA Thank You letter for \$500 conference donation (Ch 1551). NCOA Certificate Appreciation for JROTC Vanguard Sponsoring at conference. Thank You letter from Sacramento Standdown Association for our \$100 donation. Thank You from Vietnam Veterans Memorial fund for our \$300 donation and the 2024 Calendar given to Tim Tribble. A tribute to 100 year old veteran, SSG Bufkin, will take place on 9/11 in Citrus Heights. Address was provided.

**Auxiliary:** Tammy Sullivan, President of International Auxiliary to attend a Zoom call Sept 9 to discuss medallion programs and how to recognize more women who served during World I and II. A Thank You card received from Joan's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

**HQ Chairman's Comments:** None

7. **Membership Coordinator:** Regular: 152    Auxiliary: 116

*Chartered by the United States Congress*

8. **Treasurer's Reports:** CMSgt (Ret) Jim Kearns and Mr. Scott Rodowick gave their treasurers' reports.

Balance: \$2,336.39      JROTC: \$1,643.91      Auxiliary: \$1,863.49

9. **Legislative:** MSgt (Ret) Gary Chase provided updates on various topics:

About 32,000 veterans' disability claims were delayed, some as long as five years, due to a technical flaw in federal filing systems. These delays are the latest technology misstep for a department already under intense scrutiny from lawmakers and advocates for ongoing challenges with its new 10-year, \$16B electronic health records system update project. More than 5,500 National Guard troops were on duty in three states impacted by Hurricane Idalia, which struck north Florida as a Category 3 storm before dumping heavy rains and damaging wind on parts of Georgia and North and South Carolina. Military families who are enrolled in the Tricare premium plans for young adults, reservists and retired reservists, and separating service members will once again see hikes in their premiums, starting Jan 1. The Senate reconvenes on Tuesday Sept 5th, one week earlier than the House, which will come back in session on Sept. 12. Appropriations bills to fund the government through the next fiscal year are the top priority. The Navy will offer a pre-set payment option to claimants with certain diagnosed illnesses related to their exposure to toxic water at Camp Lejeune, N.C., as it seeks to speed the processing of tens of thousands of claims. Those who choose to accept the elective option will forfeit that right to sue the government over the Camp Lejeune water issue. However, accepting the elective option will have no impact on an individual's VA benefits.

10. **Unfinished Business:**

- a. Website Update – Conference Recap on our website. Continues to be updated. (Open)
- b. JROTC Update –Motion by Tim Tribble to award JROTC \$500 scholarship to recipient, Gabriella Gracia, approved, seconded by Michael Grabow and motion carried. New banking to be determined by Sept 15th, go live Oct 1st, savings up to 60%. Upcoming months, need to update which high schools are currently under the JROTC program. Liz Lynn to work with scholarship team to align JROTC Scholarship Program, Application and Evaluation Form before year end. (Open)
- c. Gotsneakers.com - Scott Rodowick: Up to 4 barrels, locations at a Community Center in Roseville, First Adventist Hospital, Marysville, VFW Post 4647 and At Ease Brewery in Sacramento. Spirit of Sacramento Aux presented \$500 check to Michael Grabow for Irreverent Warrior Walk. (Open)
- d. 2023 Calendar of Events – Updated copy passed around. (Open)
- e. Irreverent Warrior Walk – MSgt (Ret) Michael Grabow - Surveyed the trail. VFW 6604 at 1300 Veterans Way, Folsom to host the event afterwards. The theme is Burritos, Beer & Buddies. Mayor Rosario to provide burritos. Need DJ for event. Participants and volunteers need to register on the website before Sept 14th as merchandise is available until then. Unclear if City of Folsom to charge \$3.00 per person. (Open)
- f. VFW dinner - 11 Aug (Jim S) - Served 83 steak dinners. \$359.66 was raised split as follows: VFW \$35.96 and \$161.85 to each chapter. Thank you to all the volunteers. (Closed)
- g. Move American Forward-Troopathon – (Tammy) Volunteers for 9/11 event can contact Tammy for information. (Closed)
- h. Capitol City Airshow – 23/24 Sept 2023 –Volunteer sign ups finalized for Pizza booth. (Open)

11. **New Business:**

- a. Christmas Party – 9 Dec 2023 –Saturday 6:00pm – Dinner fee will be \$35.00 per person.
- b. Donna Master is working on holiday baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. (Closed)

The meeting adjourned at 2010 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 4 Oct 2023 at 1900 hours and will be held both in person at the VFW and online with Zoom. MSgt (Ret) Michael Grabow will send out an email with information to attend; please respond to his message so you can register.

*//signed//*  
JAMES N. SULLIVAN, CMSgt, USAF (Ret)  
Chapter Chairman

*//signed//*  
DR. LIZ M. LYNN, Ed.D, MSGT, USAF (Ret)  
Chapter Secretary