



NCOA[®]

Non Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America

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5 Apr 2023

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

SUBJECT: NCOA/Auxiliary General Membership Meeting Minutes (5 Apr 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 (Ret)
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, Absent
MSgt (Ret) George Wheeler, Trustee, Present MSgt (Ret) Gary Chase, Trustee, Present

3. **Auxiliary Executive Committee Members:** Tammy Sullivan, Chairman, Present
Ellie Witt, Vice Chairman, Present Pam Wright, Secretary, Absent
Scott Rodowick, Treasurer, Present Melissa Carnahan, Trustee, Present

4. **Members Present:**

SKCS (Ret) Norman Von Dohren MSgt (Ret) Bryant Bickford TSgt (Ret) Orin K. Taylor Sr.
SP4 (Ret) Tim Tribble Donna Master, Auxiliary Kim Dewar, Auxiliary
Jasmine Kearns, Auxiliary

5. **Guests Present:** Scott Tillson - VFW Post 4647 Canteen Manager provided an update of the status of the Post and reminded the membership about post elections on 20 Apr 23. Shereen Sharig from Wounded Warrior Project and Sir Joe Terry and Lady Tina Kish from the headquarters also joined.

6. **Chairman's Comments:**

Regular: CMSgt (Ret) Jim Sullivan discussed several topics: The Grand Knight monthly newsletter, Executive Director Insights and the NCOAdvocate. He acknowledged a \$1000 donation in support of the VA HUD-VASH program. He also discussed the NCOA survey that was sent to the chapters. He reminded the membership of an AFSA Steak Dinner on 7 Apr 23.

Auxiliary: Chairman Ms. Tammy Sullivan – discussed continued membership campaign.

HQ Chairman's Comments: Sir Joe Terry provided an update on the conference as well as the medallion programs and the continued push for membership.

7. **Membership Coordinator:** Regular: 166 Auxiliary: 124

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

Balance: Regular: \$2,757.78 JROTC: \$7,415.91 Auxiliary: \$2,450.91

Legislative: MSgt (Ret) Gary Chase. Finland became the newest NATO country member. The United States and the Philippines on Feb 1, 2023 announced plans to expand America's military presence in the Southeast Asian nation, with access to four more bases as they seek to deter China's increasingly aggressive actions toward Taiwan and in the disputed South China Sea. Plans from Veterans Affairs leadership to restart their embattled electronic health records program this summer could be upended by lawmakers concerned over the long-term safety and reliability of the program. If you have an illness or injury that you believe was caused—or made worse—by your active-duty service, you can file a claim for disability benefits 180 to 90 days before you leave the military. Active-duty and some reserve and National Guard personnel who lose their spouse or a child and don't have more than 30 days of leave on the books are now eligible for 14 consecutive, non-chargeable days of bereavement leave, according to a Defense Department memorandum released Wednesday. Under the new contract, 98% of TRICARE beneficiaries live within 15 minutes' driving time of a network retail pharmacy, and more than 99% live within a 30-minute drive. The VA has set an objective to provide burial space within a 75-mile radius for 95% of the nation's veterans. Currently just shy of that goal at 94%, the department needs assistance from regional, non-federal cemeteries.

Informative Websites below:

<https://www.cac.mil/coronavirus/Tricare>, AFSA – (<http://www.hqafsa.org>), <http://www.airforcemag.com/Pages/HomePage.aspx>, Veterans Administration – <https://www.va.gov>, and Military Times - <http://www.militarytimes.com>.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

- a. Website Update – The website provides up to date information.
- b. JROTC Update – We've shipped 132 orders and have backorders for 75 medals. We are awaiting a shipment of presentation folders. Four local schools have requested support. (Open)
- c. Gotsneakers.com – Scott Rodowick provided an update on the program. A barrel was placed at Claimstake Brewery in Rancho Cordova. (Open)
- d. 2023 Calendar of Events – Updated calendars were provided.
- e. The Wall that Heals was at Rusch Park, Citrus Heights: 29 Mar – 2 Apr 2023. SP4 Tim Tribble and Scott Rodowick volunteered for several shifts during the event. Several members attended the event, and each provided their perspective during the meeting. (Closed)
- f. Raise Right – No update (Open)
- g. VFW Golf Tournament 16 Jun 2023. Donna Master indicated teams are starting to sign up. The Auxiliary has committed to sponsoring a hole like last year. (Open)
- h. VFW Family Freedom Festival – The event will not be rescheduled. (Closed)
- i. NCOA Conference: 18-21 Jul 2023 - San Antonio, TX. The chapters committed to sponsor a Vanguard award winner from the JROTC program. We will not be selling merchandise this year. (Open)

10. **New Business:**

- a. Sacramento Stand Down – 5/7 May – Mather Field. Kim Dewar provided an update on the event. She also reminded the membership about the Big Day of Giving on 4 May and The Stand Down Association is a recognized charitable organization. (Open)
- b. VFW Breakfast – 21 May. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available at the next meeting. (Open)

Meeting adjourned at 2015 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 3 May 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