



# 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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7 Jan 2026

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

**SUBJECT:** NCOA/Auxiliary General Membership Meeting Minutes (Jan 2026)

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by CMSgt (Ret) Jim Sullivan  
NCOA Creed read by MSgt (Ret) Michael Grabow  
Moment of silence observed.

2. **Executive Committee Members:**

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

3. **Auxiliary Executive Committee Members:**

Ellie Witt, Vice Chairman, (Absent)  
Melissa Carnahan, Trustee, (Present)

Tammy Sullivan, Chairman, Present  
Scott Rodowick, Treasurer, Present

4. **Members Present:**

SSgt Terrance Page                      Bob Byers, Auxiliary                      Diana Russell-Milton, Auxiliary  
Donna Master, Auxiliary

5. **Guests Present:** None.

6. **Chairman's Comments:**

**Regular:** McClellan Retirees Activities closed and graciously donated \$3,680.93 to our NCOA Chapter 1551. Donation will help fund more medallions. The Cordova Community Council Membership dues are now \$75. Rancho Cordova (RC) luncheon with Mayor Gatewood on Friday, Jan 23rd. RC grand opening of Sour Dough & Co on Saturday, Jan 17th. RC free pet vaccine and microchip clinics return in 2026, starting Saturday, Jan 31st. NCOA Conference 21-24 July 26 in Norfolk, VA. NCOA newsletter promotes the theme 'NCOA Together We can!' in 2026. Chief Sullivan thanked everyone who attended Chief Kearns celebration of life. A very nice service was held at Heritage Oaks in Rocklin. Member Terrance Page is also the VFW 4647 Post Commander and provided a few comments. He discussed declining membership, like other military organizations. He also provided his thoughts about the NCOA potentially not holding a Christmas Party at the post. An option would be to have a joint holiday party with other organizations or actually renting the hall to different organizations. More discussion to be had in the future.

**Auxiliary:** Tammy Sullivan, President, International Auxiliary NCOA. Reiterated 'strength in unity' for 2026 by doubling our membership. NCOA Vanguard Lifetime Membership applications are available on NCOA website. [www.ncoausa.org](http://www.ncoausa.org) Member Donna Master informed the membership that 46 Christmas food baskets were provided across various agencies including the USCG and Joyce elementary school.

7. **Membership Coordinator:** Regular: 154    Auxiliary: 133

*Chartered by the United States Congress*

8. **Treasurer's Reports:** MSgt (Ret) Liz M. Lynn and Scott Rodowick gave their treasurers' reports.

Balance: \$7,212.02

JROTC: \$1,794.68

Auxiliary: \$5,005.27

9. **Legislative:** Gary Chase – Top 5 Legislative Priorities for 2026:

1. Medically retired, combat-disabled veterans with less than 20 years of service, allowed to receive both full retirement pay and VA disability compensation.
2. NCOA to prioritize veteran mental health by expanding access to care, reducing stigma and addressing suicide at military and veteran communities.
3. Protect survivor benefits for spouses of fallen service members and ensure retention of benefits of SBP, DIC and Tricare, even if remarried.
4. Ensure veterans have same access to non-opioid pain management options such as Medicare patients.
5. Focus on expanding PACT Act benefits.

U.S. representative Republican Doug LaMalfa passed away Jan 6, 2026. The 2026 Defense Auth Act bill authorizes \$900 billion in discretionary funding for national defense. Alaskan Native veterans who served in Vietnam between Aug 5, 1964 and Dec 31, 1971 or their heirs, are eligible to receive up to 160 acres of federal land in Alaska. President Donald Trump proposed \$1.5 trillion in U.S. military spending in 2027 citing "troubled & dangerous times."

10. **Unfinished Business:**

- a. JROTC Update – (Jim S.) Closed 2025 with 282 shipments totaling 894 medals. For 2026, looking to order 1,000 more medals. (Open)
- b. 2026 Calendar of Events (Tammy). 2026 calendar handed out. Minor date changes to be updated (Open).
- c. Korean War and Vietnam Medallion Program (Jim S). Prices of medals have been increasing. Debating whether to pass the increased amounts to customers. (Open)
- d. Jessup University Update (Liz). Jessup U. to host a Hoops for Heroes event (basketball) on Feb 7, 2026. More info to follow. (Open)
- e. Christmas Party - 6 Dec (Tammy). Due to low attendance of our Christmas party over the past several years, the idea of cancelling this year's Christmas party was discussed. Several alternatives included a restaurant, Michael Grabow's house, progressive dinner, switching to a Halloween party vs Christmas party and re-vamping the Christmas invite. More discussion to follow. (Open)
- f. VFW Breakfast - 21 Dec. Thank you to all those who helped. We served 37 meals and raised \$268.02 split as follows: VFW \$30, NCOA 0270 \$102.35 and NCOA 1551 \$135.67. A highlight was Michael Grabow's grandchildren who helped serve the meals and donated some of their tips to our tip jar. (Closed)

11. **New Business:**

- a. VFW Dinner - 20 Feb 26 – volunteer signup sheet to be handed at February's meeting. (Open)
- b. Mar 2026 - elections to be held for new trustees and treasurer. (Open)
- c. Sacramento Foodbank. Discussion ensued about supporting Sacramento Foodbank. Melissa Carnahan will research and provide details at the February meeting. (Open)
- d. Stand downs – Discussion arose about support of local stand downs. Research will be conducted. (Open)
- e. Quarterly Socials. Michael Grabow volunteered to host social events at his house to encourage more participation from chapter members. He will recommend a schedule and provide details at the February meeting. (Open)

The meeting adjourned at 2010 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 4 Feb 2026 at 1900 hours and will be in person at the VFW Post.

*//signed//*

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

*//signed//*

DR. LIZ M. LYNN, Ed.D, MSgt, USAF (Ret)  
Chapter Secretary