



A G E N D A

ORANGE COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 10, 2024

3:00 P.M.

www.veterans.ocgov.com/advisory

Location:

1300 S Grand Ave, Building B
Santa Ana, CA. 92705

****In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting should notify the Orange County Community Services office 72 hours prior to the meeting at (714) 480-6555****

This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The Council encourages your participation. If you wish to speak you may do so during Public Comment. Once acknowledged and prompted by the Chair, you may begin to speak. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing in the agenda. When addressing the Council, please state your name and city of residence for the record prior to providing your comments.

This agenda contains a brief description of each item to be considered. Except as provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing in the agenda. To speak on a matter not appearing in the agenda, but under the jurisdiction of this Advisory Council, you may do so during Public Comments. Speaker request forms must be submitted prior to the beginning of the meeting, the reading of the individual agenda items and/or the beginning of Public Comments. When addressing the Board, it is requested that you state your name for the record. Address the Board as a whole through the Chair. Comments to individual Members or staff are not permitted. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes.

Materials/handouts can be requested up to 72 hours in advance of the meeting by visiting www.veterans.ocgov.com/advisory.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Alexis Federico

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. COUNCIL ROLL CALL: OC Community Services Representative

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At this time, members of the public may address the Council regarding any items within the subject jurisdiction, provided that no action is taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. (Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes, unless the Chair pre-identifies a different time at the start of meeting for all public speakers).

5. PRESENTATION:

Veterans Legal Institute
Antoinette Naddour, Esq., LLM
Veterans Legal Institute
Executive Director and Co-Founder

6. INFORMATION ITEMS:

- i. November 8, 2023 Action Minutes

7. ACTION ITEMS:

- i. Annual Report of Council Activities – Chair Alexis Federico
Recommendation: Review and approve 2023 OCVAC Annual Report of Council Activities for submission to the Board of Supervisors.

8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: Chair Alexis Federico

9. OCVSO UPDATE: Director or Designee, Veterans Service Office

10. CALVET LINC UPDATE: Ben Gales, Local Interagency Network Coordinator

11. OC4VETS UPDATE: Elana E. Randal, Orange County Health Care Agency, Service Chief

12. COMMITTEES:

- i. Communications Standing Committee Report: Council Member John Burick
- ii. Events/Outreach Standing Committee Report: Council Member Michael Radigan
- iii. VSO Metrics Ad Hoc Committee Report: Council Member Erik Duane

13. COUNCIL COMMENTS

At this time, members of this Advisory Council may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters and ask questions of or give directions to staff; provided that NO action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

14. ADJOURNMENT:

Next Meeting:

March 13, 2024

3:00 PM

“Have We Helped A Veteran Today?”

DISCLAIMER: No member of the Orange County Veterans Advisory Council (OCVAC) shall sign a letter or make a statement purported to represent the position of OCVAC as a body. Letters or verbal statements of support or opposition on any issue shall only be made or signed by the Chair of OCVAC and shall be submitted to the Board for approval. The policy of the Board of Supervisors does not allow OCVAC or its Chair to sign a letter of position on any matters pertaining to legislation. OCVAC members may write personal letters or speak as individuals stating personal positions but may not do so as representing the position or opinion of OCVAC.



MINUTES

ORANGE COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 8, 2023

3:00 P.M.

www.veterans.ocgov.com/advisory

Location:

1300 S Grand Ave, Building B
Santa Ana, CA. 92705

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Stephanie Wade

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. COUNCIL ROLL CALL: OC Community Services Representative

PRESENT: John Burick, Erik Duane, Alexis Federico, Robert McDonald, Michael Radigan, Steve Vargas, Stephanie Wade

ABSENT: Alex Maslin

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At this time, members of the public may address the Council regarding any items within the subject jurisdiction, provided that no action is taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. (Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes, unless the Chair pre-identifies a different time at the start of meeting for all public speakers).

No Public Comment

5. ACTION ITEMS:

i. OCVAC Meeting Schedule – Chair Stephanie Wade

Recommendation: Review and approve 2024 meeting schedule for Orange County Veterans Advisory Council

Motion by Robert McDonald, Seconded by Erik Duane

Unanimous Vote to Approve Recommendation

ii. Election of Officers – Conducted by County Staff

Recommendation: Accept nominations from the floor and conduct election for the following OCVAC positions for a term of (1) year.

a) Chairperson

Motion by Stephanie Wade to nominate Alexis Federico as Chairperson, Seconded by John Burick

Unanimous Vote to Approve Recommendation of Alexis Federico as Chairperson

b) Vice Chairperson

Motion by Steven Vargas to self-nominate as Vice Chairperson

Unanimous Vote to Approve Recommendation of Steven Vargas as Vice Chairperson

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: Chair Stephanie Wade

- i. Annual Report for Council Activities: Chair to create Ad Hoc to develop an annual report of Council activities for OCVAC approval at January 2024 meeting and submission to the County by February 1st.

Annual Report for Council Activities is appointed to Executive Committee, Chair Stephanie Wade and Vice Chair Alexis Federico.

- ii. Chair to Appoint 2024 Standing Committee Chairs

Events/ Outreach Standing Committee: Council member Michael Radigan is appointed as Committee Chair. Chair Wade is appointed to Events/Outreach Standing Committee.

Communications Standing Committee: Council member John Burick is appointed as Committee Chair. Council member Robert McDonald is appointed to Communications Standing Committee.

VSO Metrics Ad Hoc Committee: Purpose of this Ad Hoc is to report on and make VSO Metrics recommendations.

Council member Erik Duane is appointed as Committee Chair. Council member Steven Vargas is appointed to VSO Metrics Ad Hoc Committee.

7. OCVSO UPDATE: Director or Designee, Veterans Service Office

8. OC4VETS UPDATE: Elana E. Randal, Orange County Health Care Agency, Service Chief
No Update

9. COMMITTEES:

- i. Communications Standing Committee Report: Council Member John Burick
- ii. Events/Outreach Standing Committee Report: Council Member Michael Radigan
- iii. VSO Metrics Standing Committee Report: Council Member Erik Duane

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS

At this time, members of this Advisory Council may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters and ask questions of or give directions to staff; provided that NO action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

11. ADJOURNMENT:



Orange County Veterans Advisory Council

1300 S. Grand Avenue, Building B, Rm 247

Santa Ana, CA 92705

714-480-6555

714-567-7577 Fax

January 10, 2024

Orange County Board of Supervisors
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, California 92701

Re: Orange County Veterans Advisory Council Annual Report

Dear Chair Wagner and the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

The Orange County Veterans Advisory Council (“OCVAC”) hereby submits its Annual Report on Council Activities. This report contains background information on OCVAC, OCVAC meeting information, a recap of OCVAC’s 2023 recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, OCVAC’s goals for 2024, and general veterans-related event information.

I. Background.

OCVAC was created on March 28, 1978, and is tasked with advising the Board of Supervisors on issues of importance to veterans and their dependents based on input from the veteran community; providing a source of liaison and communication with various groups relative to veterans’ issues; and, promoting involvement in veterans’ related events and functions within the County.

OCVAC consists of volunteer members appointed by the Board of Supervisors who are U.S. military veterans with Honorable Discharges and are residents of Orange County. Each of the five (5) County Supervisors may appoint a veteran from their district and there are four (4) at large positions. Here are the current OCVAC councilmembers:

District	Member
District 1	Erik Duane
District 2	Vacant
District 3	Bobby MacDonald
District 4	Steven Vargas, Vice-Chair 2024

District	Member
District 5	Alexis Paschedag Federico, Chair 2024
Member At Large	John Burick
Member At Large	Alex Maslin
Member At Large	Michael Radigan
Member At Large	Stephanie Wade

In 2023, Stephanie Wade served as OCVAC Chair and Alexis Paschedag Federico served as the Vice Chair. On November 8, 2023, OCVAC elected Alexis Paschedag Federico as the 2024 Chair and Steven Vargas as the 2024 Vice-Chair.

II. Meetings.

In 2023, OCVAC held regular meetings on January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, June 14, August 9, October 11 and November 8, and held a special meeting on January 4. OCVAC heard presentations on various veterans-related issues, including: LifeScore Holistic Health App John Wordin, Founder and Chairman, Life Aid; Orange County Master Plan on Aging Tammy Peng, Director of Operations, Advance OC; and Setting Up a Veteran Peer Access Network in Orange County Los Angeles Veteran Peer Access Network. OCVAC resumed in-person meetings.

In 2024, OCVAC will meet on January 10, March 13, May 8, June 12, August 14, October 9, and November 13. OCVAC will hold its annual election on November 13, 2023.

To increase its presence and accessibility to Orange County veterans, OCVAC has decided to start rotating its meeting location within the five (5) Orange County District communities, starting with its March 13, 2024 meeting at the Brea Civic Cultural Center, City Council Chambers, 1 Civic Center Circle, Brea, CA 92821.

III. 2023 Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

In 2023, OCVAC sent three (3) letters to the Board of Supervisors relating to veterans' issues, recommending it take certain actions.

On February 10, 2021 OCVAC recommended the Board of Supervisors support efforts for federal action to revise and streamline the process of correcting discharge documents for Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender ("LGBT") veterans. On April 8, 2021, then-Chairman Andrew Do and then-Vice Chairman Doug Chaffee sent a letter to Senators Feinstein and Padilla and Representatives Correa, Kim, Levin, Lowenthal, Porter, Sanchez, and Steel in support of potential legislative action regarding LGBT related military discharge process. On August 9, 2023, OCVAC voted to resubmit the 2021 OCVAC Letter of Support in light of California Senate Joint Resolution 6 Don't Ask, Don't Tell: discharge characterizations ("SJR-6"), recommending the Board of Supervisors voice support for SJR-6.

On March 9, 2022, OCVAC recommended the Board of Supervisors lead a county-wide “welcome home” event for post 9-11 veterans. On October 22, 2022, Supervisor Foley hosted a Post 9-11 Welcome Home Event at Heroes Hall. On August 9, 2023, OCVAC voted to resubmit the 2022 OCVAC Letter of Support regarding the Welcome Home Program to the Board of Supervisors for consideration of a county-wide event.

On August 29, 2023, OCVAC recommended, and the Board of Supervisors approved, a bylaw revision that clarified that Orange County staff are permitted to travel to OCVAC meeting locations and that mileage reimbursement would not be considered an impermissible “additional cost” to the County.

In that same letter, OCVAC also recommended that the Board of Supervisors provide tele/video conferencing capabilities or another similar electronic medium to the Orange County Veterans Service Office at 1300 S Grand Ave, Building B, where OCVAC regularly held its meetings. OCVAC made this recommendation because in-person attendance can pose a hardship to some, if not many, veterans and OCVAC believes that providing remote viewing and/or participation options would increase veteran participation. The VSO conference room still does not have this capability.

IV. OCVAC’s 2024 Goals.

In 2024, OCVAC will seek to increase its presence and accessibility in various Orange County communities. In addition to rotating its regular meetings in various districts, OCVAC members have set a goal to each attend at least one veterans-related event per month. OCVAC is also working with County staff to better disseminate event information to the council and to determine the best way for the public to connect with individual council members.

OCVAC has also established an ad hoc committee to evaluate the Orange County Veterans Service Office’s (“VSO”) reporting metrics. OCVAC intends to evaluate the VSO reporting metrics, compare them to other counties’ VSO metrics, investigate whether other metrics should be reported, and determine whether there are any resource shortfalls or other assistance OCVAC may help address through recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

OCVAC is also looking into whether County-affiliated governmental entities and cities in Orange County have policies and programs similar to the County’s Veteran Employment Policy and the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (“DVBE”) programs, which were approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2020 and have greatly benefited Orange County veterans.

V. 2024 Veterans’ Events in Orange County.

Orange County is one of the most veteran friendly counties due in large part to the support of the Board of Supervisors and the tireless dedication of various Orange County veterans service groups. If any Supervisor would like specific information concerning veterans-related events in their District or anywhere in Orange County, please feel free to contact me or your district OCVAC member. As a general matter, we would like to highlight the following annual events important to veterans and their families.

April is designated as Month of the Military Child and is a time to honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide. On average, military families move every two to three years, which means military children change schools and support networks roughly six to nine times during

their school years. Military OneSource, an official Department of Defense website, offers free ideas and resources to celebrate military children.

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/parenting/children-youth-teens/month-of-the-military-child/#events>

On May 24, 2024, various veterans service organizations, veterans, and cities in Orange County will honor and mourn U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces by hosting Memorial Day events.

On November 11, 2024, various veterans service organizations, veterans, and cities in Orange County will celebrate and honor veterans of the United States Armed Forces by hosting Veterans Day events.

It has been our pleasure to serve the Board of Supervisors and Orange County veteran community in 2023 and we look forward to continuing our service in 2024.

Sincerely,

Alexis Paschedag Federico
Chairperson
Orange County Veterans Advisory Council

CC: Supervisor Andrew Do, Vice Chairman, District 1
Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento, Chair, District 2
Supervisor Donald P. Wagner, Chair, District 3
Supervisor Doug Chaffee, District 4
Supervisor Katrina Foley District 5
Dylan Wright, OCCR Director
Renee Ramirez, OCCS Director
Frank Kim, CEO

OCVAC Committee on Veteran Events in the County of Orange

January 2024 Committee Report

Chair: Michael Radigan

Members: Michael Radigan, Steven Vargas

Task: Contact OC General Council for guidance on rebroadcasting veteran events around the county.

Status: Sent the Legal department an email and am waiting to hear back.

Task: Contact Webmaster to understand the process for updating the website.

Status: Sent the Webmaster an email and am waiting to hear back.

Upcoming Events

Brothers After War Movie & Seminar

6 Jan 2024, 9am – 3pm

American Legion Post 291

Free

[Vet Tix - Tickets For Troops - Veteran Tickets Foundation](#)

Vettix.org

They get Veterans and those currently serving free tickets to sporting events, concerts, community events.

Sign Up and they verify your status.