



**Veterans Democratic Club of Sacramento County
General Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2012**

Lawson Stuart- President	Present
Cres Vellucci- Vice President	Present
Michael Pina- Treasurer	Present
Mario Guerrero- Recorder	Present
Scott Sanders- Sergeant at Arms	Absent
Olga Trevizo - Legal Officer	Present
Joyce Childs – Membership	Present
Melanie Ramil – Fundraising	Present
Ben Phillips – Campaign Services	Present
Michael Seaman – Alternate DPSC Representative	Present

Swearing in ceremony for the New Board

Award Presentation (Item taken out of order)

Dr. Pan – John F Kennedy Award – Legislation to help Veterans discharged under DADT (Don't ask, Don't Tell) to receive veterans benefits.

Meeting convened at 7:14 pm (called to order in honor in Kevin Tonn, Galt PD).

Traditional veterans ceremony will be held for special occasions only.

Pledge of allegiance.

Guests

Barry Banks – Veteran's for Peace
Ana Guzman – supporter
Trevor Pratt – guest of Ben
Jann Dorothy – Stonewall Dems and ADEM

Quorum verified.

Motion: Minutes. Michael Seaman/Michael Williams 2nd. Unanimously approved.

Correspondence – Vietnam Veterans of American, Ch. 500, newsletter

Committee Reports

Executive - Lawson

Board has met. Per our bylaws board member terms already started.
Swearing in ceremony was honorary.

Board minutes will also be provided in the future.
General membership is always invited to attend board meetings.
Membership hardship option. We will use the honor system. No questions asked.
We will need to improve our tracking/reporting of finances.
Goal to fill the room with members.

Membership – Joyce

Thank you for paying your dues.
Please connect with us on FB.
We want to connect to other clubs.

Fundraising – Melanie

Looking to create a signature event. Looking to possibly have the event on the 4th of July.
We are looking for members of a fundraising committee.
We are looking into sponsor levels and benefits.

Campaign Services – Ben

This will be a foundation year.
Focus on fundraise for PAC.
We will work to strengthen our numbers for endorsements.
Open invitation for members to join the committee.
Farming efforts – to elect vets and veteran allies.
Scott Sanders - active with Veteran's against Lungren. – example of work ahead.

Communications – Cres

Increase presence in online/social and traditional media.
We are looking for members of a committee.
Looking to create a newsletter.
Suggestion to find veterans where they are and to look at advertising on veteran publications.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

2013 Handbook – Minor technical changes.

Motion: Approve 2013 Handbook. Ben Phillips/Michael Williams 2nd. Unanimously approved.

Change.org petition: Nadia McCaffrey became an activist for Veterans issues after her son, Patrick McCaffrey (Army - Iraq) died on active duty. Nadia invited press to see her son brought home. Worked on PTSD services. She invited vets to her home to be closer to Veterans services. Helped over 30 vets. She inherited her son's home. An attempt to Short Sale to another fellow Veteran fell short. The home was

foreclosed and sold at Public Auction without their knowledge. There is a petition on Change.org requesting assistance from John Garamendi and Mike Thomson to intervene with the bank. If you can help, e-mail OlgaTrevizo@gmail.com. Let's post on FB and spread the word.

Motion: Draw up a resolution on the issue. Press release, letter. Chris Parker/Michael Williams 2nd.. Unanimously approved.
Connection to OFA (Obama for America). Needs 30K signatures.
Plan B. Building her a new home.

Look into national policy to restore benefits discharged under DADT, similar to Pan's bill here in California, for the nation.

Special Program – None

Ceremonies

Mar Monte Thank You Presentation

Stand Down – 100 tops/bottoms undergarments donated. Lawson to present award at external event.

Outgoing Officers Thank You Presentation

Chris Parker

Olga Trevizo (Still on the board)

Cres Vellucci (Still on the board)

Annual Awards 2012 Presentation

Sacramento Valley Veterans – President's Award – sister club

Michael Williams – Members Award – help to our club leadership

Michael Seaman – Member of the Year – help with policy platform

Announcements

Lawson is a candidate for Chairman of State Veterans Caucus. Has put together a slate. Will need members. Any registered Dem can become a member.

Our club was beta test for the formation of other Dem Vet clubs across the state.

New Citizen's Naturalizing and voter registration tomorrow at Convention Center at 9 am to noon (13th and J). Talk to Melanie, voter registration chair for DPSC.

Political organization cannot sell fireworks.

Joyce Resolutions Chair, Melanie Voter Reg., Mario Controller for DPSC.

Crab feed Feb 15th. Park District website has details. Money goes to at risk Youth. Ask Michael Seaman for details.

Monday Jan. 28th. Sac Valley Vets mtg at Lavender Library on 21st St. Will set up a full calendar of events for the year.

Michael Williams now works for Keller/Williams.

Next Monday is Inauguration Day and MLK Day. Veterans for Peace will walk to convention center.

Motion to adjourn: Chris Parker/Michael Williams 2nd. Unanimous approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.