

**Arizona Department of Veterans' Service Advisory Commission**  
4141 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (North S. Herrera Way), Phoenix, AZ 85012  
Thursday – August 11, 2011

**MINUTES**

Advisory Commissioners

Terrie Gent, Chair  
George Cushing, Vice Chair  
Gary Fredricks  
Jeffrey Olson  
Lionel Sanchez (arrived at 11 a.m.)  
David Toliver, Sr.

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Col. Joey Strickland (US Army, Ret.), Director  
Mike Klier, Assistant Deputy Director  
Homer Rodgers, Assistant Deputy Director  
Dave Hampton, Public Information Officer  
Gabe Forsberg, Strategic Planner/Women Vets

Absent

Phillip Hanson

Guests

Ray Thomas, State Adjutant – Veterans  
of Foreign Wars  
Monica Cabrera, Public Information Officer  
VA Regional Office

**Call to Order** –The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairperson Terrie Gent. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.

**Agency Report**

Director Joey Strickland provided an overview of the agency's recent activities and recognition received. Homer Rodgers invited the Commission to tour the state veteran home facility after the middle of September and provided other information about the completion of the home. Mike Klier reported on both the Veterans Service Division and the Cemetery Division.

Dave Hampton reported that the Governor has a new Legislative Liaison who has not yet requested draft bills from state agencies. When she has made the request, he has lined up sponsors and will draft legislation for issues for the department and the commission. The two initiatives of most interest to the Commission:

- Support for in-house counsel
- Raising the cap for the fees that can be collected from the clients of the Fiduciary Department

**Auditor General Performance Audit Report Recommendations:**

Director Strickland reported that the sunset audit for the State Veteran Home was primarily a recap of historical information and he accepts the report as published. The Commission discussed the State Veteran Home Sunset Audit Report and concurred with its recommendations in a motion proposed by Commissioner Olson. The commission expressed appreciation for the great improvements in the home noted by the audit report.

The agency received reports from the Auditor General for the Veterans Donation Fund and the Military Family Relief Fund on August 10, 2011. The reports will be shared with the Commission as soon as they have been reviewed.

### **Status Report on the Regional Meeting in Kingman**

David Toliver and Jeff Olson reported their progress in planning the meeting. Dress is business casual. Jeff Olson will get the number of reservations needed and let Judy Smith know about lodging.

### **Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV) Proposal to Partner on Legislative Initiatives**

Linda Fulkerson plans to attend future meetings and will continue to review the Commission's minutes so that she is aware of legislation that the Advisory Commission is following. There are no pending actions on this agenda item.

### **Vacancies to be Filled by the Governor's Office of Boards and Commission**

Gabe Forsberg reports that she made contact with the Governor's office on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and no decision has been made on who will fill the vacancies on the commission.

### **Open Discussion**

Lionel Sanchez suggested the Commission inform Linda Fulkerson about legislative initiatives they are following closely. Chairperson Gent reviewed the two initiatives that Commissioner Sanchez can take to the UAV through Linda Fulkerson:

- Support for in-house counsel
- Raising the cap for the fees that can be collected from the clients of the Fiduciary Department

Commissioner Olson mentioned that the agency may want to consider a change in its approach to support the Fiduciary Department. Lifting of the cap for the fees that can be collected from the clients may be more easily handled by rule than by statute.

Newly elected Chair Gent adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m. The next meeting will be held September 10, 2011 in Kingman.