



Guam Veterans Commission

Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500



In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

- 1. Call the roll of officers and members**
- 2. Quorum established**
- 3. Pledge of allegiance**
- 4. Call to order – 1502**
- 5. Recording of meeting minutes for minutes purposes ONLY**
- 6. Review/discussion of previous minutes 03 December 2021**
 - a. Motion to approve minutes by Brian Merenda, VFW Post 2917
 - ↳ Second by Roy Gamboa, GY671
 - b. Discussion
 - ↳ Mr. Merenda points out that on pg. 5 of the minutes that GOVA was unable to print the report back in December and would email it out but hasn't seen a report.
 - c. Chairman asks if all are in favor to approve amended minutes
 - ↳ All in favor
 - ↳ None one opposed
 - d. Minutes passed
- 7. Recognition of Guests/Community**
 - a. Congressman Michael San Nicolas' representative, Julian Bordallo
 - b. Bobbie Taitano
 - c. USAF, Col. Puzan
 - d. Acting Director for GOVA, Stephanie Flores who is the Director of the Guam State Clearinghouse
 - e. Via Zoom: Sarah Thomas Nededog from the Office of Homelessness Assistance and Poverty Prevention (OHAPP)
 - f. Via Zoom: Corri Gobin from the Department of Veterans Affairs Guam CBOC
 - g. Via Zoom: Dr. Nathaniel Brooks from the Department of Veterans Affairs Guam CBOC
 - h. Via Zoom: Ciera Tamayo from WestCare – Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
- 8. Report of Officers**
 - a. Chairman
 - ↳ Chairman apologizes for the cancellation of the past 2 months due to non-compliance with the Open Government Law. He was able to meet with GOVA to ensure we satisfy those requirements which will be taken into action by the state office. One of the



Guam Veterans Commission

Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500



In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

requirements is to publicly announce the meeting 1) 5 days prior to and 2) 48 hrs. prior to the meeting. In addition, Chairman says that an agenda must be provided in that announcement. He says we were not able to hold the meeting to ensure we were all in compliance.

↳ Chairman says that there is an encouragement of an online ethics training by all the members of this commission. He adds that he will take the training first and members will follow suite. Chairman indicates that there is no penalty that he's aware of for any of the community leads that are not in compliance and encourages that we do the right thing.

- ☑ Johnny Taitano of MOPH asks for clarification that this applies to all voting members, to which Chairman responds yes.
- ☑ Mr. Merenda chimes in stating that there is no penalty and would like to know that out of the 143 committees, how many of those have had the ethics training, or if they are just picking on the Veterans. Mr. Merenda expresses that he is not taking the training, doesn't need the ethics training, currently is not getting paid and has never gotten paid, and just wants to know out of the 143, who has cancelled their meetings due to no ethics training.
- ☑ Chairman says that he will connect with Adelup for a report and advises the commission members that we take care of ourselves and to not worry about the other commissions or boards – as long as we are in compliance. He adds that for the longest time, this commission has not been in compliance, even when he was the Administrator for GOVA from 2017-2018 and asks for the commission's cooperation.
- ☑ Treasure adds that Public Law 36-34 requires all committees, departments and agencies to follow specific guidelines which probably is the root of all this. Treasure, who is also president of the Vigilance Committee, has had to FOIA a lot of information and the issue is that if PL 36-34 is not followed and business is conducted, it can be voided by simply making one mistake on the agenda. He adds that this may be part of what's happening.

b. First Vice

↳ Nothing to report.

c. Second Vice

↳ Second Vice concurs with the ethics government and what is feasible for our group. He says that he is ready to take the training whenever it becomes available. He adds that he remembers our Commander in Chief, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, also dictated that



Guam Veterans Commission

Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500



In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

we attend that training. Second Vice says that it doesn't necessarily mean that everyone has to take it.

- ☑ Mr. Merenda chimes in stating that there is no penalty if we don't.
- ☑ Second Vice shares that in a meeting with Mike Weakly, Mr. Weakly indicated that reasons why we are not visible as a commission is because we have not been in compliance with the public law. Second Vice says that our problem was not submitting reports regularly to OPA and the Legislature on what we are doing as a commission.
- ↳ Second Vice says that they are working on making the commission members solid. He says that according to our guest, when we speak about the commission, we are talking about a small group that is comprised of merely 9 members as prescribed by chapter 67; members from organizations of each of the armed forces as well as multi-organization memberships. Second Vice says these are some of the things that we need to start thinking about and that we could potentially add more than the minimum but suggests that we keep it as is for now because if increase and have too many, we could become a different entity. He asks the commission to think about it.
- ↳ Second Vice says that there was a suggestion that together with the announcement of these meetings that if there is anyone with special needs, they be accommodated. He adds that when they do come to this meeting, they will be looked upon as guests and we should have a certain area in the meeting room for them because it's very limited. Second Vice says that they are welcome to listen in and absorb any information but cannot be made part of any official discussion, per the public law.
- ↳ Second Vice closes his report announcing that we have 12-13 members who have been consistent in making this meeting and thanks everyone for their participation.
 - ☑ Henry Manglona of American Legion - Mid-Pac Post 1 asks where we stand with title 67.
 - ☑ Second Vice says that there have been a lot of folks who have made input for amendments and all he has is the most recent which changes were made when Mr. Merenda was chairman of the commission. Second Vice says that he will look further into it and report back at another time.
 - ☑ Mr. Manglona states that the last time he was here he asked for the amendment to title 67 and his concern is that we are not operating within the law right now.
 - ☑ Mr. Merenda says that 2 years ago all the paperwork was signed and submitted to Senator Terlaje's office and nothing has been done.
 - ☑ Mr. Manglona clarifies that we are still operating against the law with regards to membership.



Guam Veterans Commission

Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500



In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

- ☑ Chairman noted Mr. Manglona's concern.
- ☑ Second Vice recites chapter 67: "Ex-Officio Members. With the recommendation of the Guam Veterans Commission, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan* may appoint as an ex-officio, non-voting member a veteran of a foreign country who has fought alongside U.S. armed forces members as allies in combat, who is representative of an established veterans organization on Guam", and refers to Mr. Stan Ko of the Korean Vietnam Veterans Association.
 - ↓ Mr. Merenda says that we made a motion voting Mr. Ko in as a voting member, to which our senate officially recognized his group. The opposition was that there were 2 senators present and said the commission is correct for Mr. Ko to be a voting member. He adds that Mr. Ko has been a voting member since.
 - ↓ Mr. Ko confirms in saying that he became a voting member when Bill Cundiff was the chairman many years ago.

d. Finance Officer

- ↳ Nothing to report as we are still status quo with no funds. He adds that if the reporting is what is required, he is more than happy to submit the report.

9. Report of Committees

- a. Roy Gamboa of GY671 reports on the committee of PTSD Awareness and Suicide Prevention, that they continue to hold their weekly Battle Buddy Talk face to face at the Sãgan Kotturan Chamoru Cultural Center (SKC), 1900 hours on Wednesdays. He reports that there are between 12-25 attendees that consists of Veterans, their spouses and/or family members as well as Veteran supporters. Mr. Gamboa says that the topic of discussion is always announced prior to the meeting and they address some of the issues Veterans are facing here on Guam. He adds that there have been positive reports from Veterans that we are helping as well as positive feedback being received from a few therapists from VA CBOC that these Veterans are able to open up. He adds that it's better to have Veterans talking to us every week instead of being 6 feet under.
- b. Mr. Gamboa reports that they are moving forward with their GEDA grant and have already placed the order for the 3 temporary houses. This will assist any Veteran who is in distress by means of domestic abuse, domestic dispute, homelessness, couch surfing, etc. These houses will provide them a temporary roof over their heads. Mr. Gamboa says that they will begin a drive for basic needs to outfit these homes and as they make more progress he will reach out. He adds that there is already a MOU in place with the Yona Mayor's Office to utilize the space next to the old police koban. He says that the intention is to have these homes in the northern,



Guam Veterans Commission

Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500



In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

central and southern region and eventually they want to create a partnership with the government to get 1-2 acres of property to build more units to include space for a Guam Trade Center to help train these Veterans to get back into the community, give them purpose and keep their minds off the thoughts and anxiety they are going through.

- c. Mr. Gamboa announces that tomorrow is Guam's summit for Together With Veterans (TWV) which is a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Program in collaboration with the Guam Vet Center, GPD, GFD, Guam National Guard, Guam Office of Veterans Affairs, Office of Homelessness Assistance and Poverty Prevention, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness, Veterans Treatment Court and other religious partners. He adds that this is a collaborative effort between all these agencies to ensure that we work together so we are able to defuse a situation when a Veteran is in distress. Mr. Gamboa further adds that this meeting will be at the Dusit Thani and is the planning efforts amongst the leads and once the overall plan is developed for the entire island it will be shared with this commission.
- d. Chairman reports on the committee of GOVA with regards to working with the state office to ensure that the personnel that they're bringing on are permanent and not limited term. Chairman says that at the cemetery there is only 1 permanent worker down there with the intent to bring 9-12 permanent personnel. Chairman says that as they shuffle the funding, his part is to follow through to make sure that the employees they bring on board at both the state office and the cemetery become permanent. He adds that we all know that when you bring an individual onboard at 180 days contract, if there's no more money when it comes time to renew, that individual will be gone which is not how we should be doing business. Chairman says that this is why the cemetery continues to struggle.

10. GOVA (Guam Office of Veterans Affairs) Report

- a. Mr. Merenda asks if there is a written report.
 - ↳ Stephanie Flores, Director of the Guam State Clearinghouse and Acting Director for GOVA points out the written report.
 - ↳ Tanya Eubanks of GOVA chimes in saying that it's included in the packets available to the commission members.
 - ↳ Chairman says that the report provided is the equipment status report but the non-appropriated fund report is still pending. He adds that when you read the law, ever quarter this report needs to be provided and October, November, December and March report will be due next month.
 - ↳ Mr. Merenda brings up that the previous meeting minutes says that the GOVA report will be emailed but that has not happened. He also adds that we all have to follow the law but they (GOVA) don't follow the law.



Guam Veterans Commission

Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500



In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

- b. Mr. Merenda says he thought there was 5 employees at the cemetery.
 - ↳ Chairman says that there is 1 employee at the cemetery with 3 or 4 temporary workers.
 - ↳ Mrs. Eubanks explains that that aside from the 1 cemetery employee, the rest are volunteers at this point and gives the floor to Ms. Stephanie to further report on the status of the employees.
 - ↳ Mr. Merenda says that 6 months ago we were hiring employees and 6 months later we still have not hired any.
- c. Ms. Flores first makes a correction to the date on the GOVA report. It should read 2021-2022 instead of 2019-2020 and requests for the amended report to be recirculated to the members of this commission.
- d. Ms. Flores reports on the following (pg. 7):



Guam Veterans Commission

Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500

In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup



Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE INVENTORY LOG SHEET 2020 - 2022

A	VETERANS AFFAIRS FUND	Balance	\$467.84
	Non Appropriated	Balance	\$ -
B	Personnel Staffing	6 Classified	
		6 Unclassified	
		4 Pending Drug Test -Documents	
		1 Pending Drug Test Results	

C Inventory
GVAO MAINTENANCE SHOP

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT/ITEM/EQUIPMENT	QUANTITY	STATUS OF EQUIPMENT/ITEM	REMARKS
1	Kawasaki Mule (Green)-4010 & (Red)-3010	2 Each	Fair	Needs Replacement-Red DEAD
2	Shindaiwa Blower (Red) EB802RT	1 Each	Fair	needs replacement
3	Chairs Office (Black)	5 Each	Fair	
4	Chairs (Folding/White)	6 Each	Fair	
5	Club Cart (White) (6 Seater)	1 Each	Fair	
6	Cement Mixer (Orange)	1 Each	Fair	
7	Riding Mower -(M2612B-Husquavna)	4 Each	remarks	1 Fair needs replacement-3 Inoperable
8	Wheelbarrow (Red)-Flat	1 Each	Old	Needs replacement
9	Dewalt 4200 PSI Waterblaster (Yellow/Black)	1 Each	Old	Pending pickup at ERC
10	Rivaflex Buffer 19140/PSI-3Q02	1 Each		Broken
11	Devalt 4200 PSI Waterblaster (Old)	1 Each	remarks	in shop ERC
12	Homelite Hedge Trimmer	1 Each	Good Operational	
13	Safety Cones (Orange)	18 Each	Fair	needs replacement
14	Magnum Spray Painter	1 Each	Fair	needs replacement
15	Grinder (Yellow) (Brand)	1 Each	Fair	needs replacement
16	Circular Saw-7 1/4 w/Laser (Brand)	1 Each	Fair	needs replacement
17	Casket Lifter (Brown)	1 Each	Inoperable-Repairable	
18	Casket Carriage	1 Each	Fair Operational	needs replacement
19	Hepburn Superior 15x15 Canopy Set (Green)	3 Each	Fair	Complete w/Pipes & Fittings-Cover Needs Replacement
20	Ladder 15 Feet (Aluminum or Fiberglass) (Brand)	1 Each	Good	
21	Cordless Drill	1 Each	Broken	Need New One
22	Red Canister (Fuel) ((2) Gasoline/(1) Diesel))	3 Each	Old	needs replacement
23	Shindawa BushCutter	3 Each	Good	

Items, Products, and/or Equipment received thru Donation not listed above: 2/23/2022

GVAO CEMETERY

YEAR	VEHICLE MAKE & MODEL	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION #	LICENSE #	QUANTITY	STATUS	REMARKS
2010	Nissan Frontier Pickup Truck (White)	V040803133A	5527	1	Not in Use	Brake Pads Needed, Tune Up and Renewal of Tags
2018	Nissan Frontier Pickup Truck (White)	1N6BDCCT7JN74	6791	1	Not in Use	Tune Up, Renewal of Tags, Engine Check

D Cemetery Compliance
Director Aguan will make a full report upon his return



Guam Veterans Commission

Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500



In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

e. Ms. Flores says for everyone's benefit that she was asked to be the Acting Director last week. She requests to go off script for a moment to give the commission some answers that they've been waiting for. Ms. Flores reports that it was brought to her attention there are 6 individuals waiting for onboarding for the cemetery. She inquired as to what the status was and what the holdup was with drug testing and was able to determine that there were some pending documents. Ms. Flores reports that those documents were completed and submitted to Department of Administration this afternoon and she requested for these individuals to be scheduled for drug testing early next week so that by the time the results come in (3-4 days for results), they are able to start full-time the following week provided that they have clean results. If everything goes well in the next 6-10 days, the 6 new workers will be secured at the cemetery and the positions are as follows:

- Heavy Equipment Operator IIII (1)
- Budling Custodian (1)
- Grounds Maintenance Worker (4)

↳ Johnny Taitano of MOPH expresses how discouraging it is going down to the cemetery every week for the last year and seeing all the equipment either broken or in bad condition. He says that they have 2 burials practically everyday and with their limited personnel, how are they able to do all this and expect more to be done moving forward. Mr. Taitano says that all this equipment is nonvalid and very discouraging.

↳ Ms. Flores says that she doesn't disagree with Mr. Taitano. She says that looking at the report, some of the equipment should be surplus and needs to be addressed immediately.

f. Ms. Flores adds that one of the other challenges that she was able to discover last week is that there's no Administrative Officer (AO) for GOVA. She explains that the role of an AO is someone who takes care of doing requisitions, ordering and ensuring those tasks get done. She adds that in her opinion an AO is a critical service slot and without one in place the office doesn't function. Ms. Flores says that there is a pending recruitment of an AO for GOVA and asked that this position be recertified, meaning that the position still is necessary and must occur. She's hoping to get this recertification by close of business day today or by noon on Monday. Ms. Flores says that there is an existing list of established individuals qualified for the AO position and will speak with Director Aguon over the weekend to let him know what she's doing as Acting Director to move things along and wants to set up interviews next week. Ms. Flores further adds that without a qualifying AO, you don't get your bills paid, equipment you need and the supplies ordered. She says that having to rely on the assistance elsewhere and borrowing personnel from other agencies, their priority will be first and your priorities are not there. Ms. Flores will ask to fast-track the AO position for GOVA. Her understanding is that the individuals on the established list have expressed an interest in working with this office and



Guam Veterans Commission



Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500

In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

they have the requisite qualification to be able to do the job. Ms. Flores says that there are some very well-intentioned people who work at the office right now but they don't have the necessary skillset to do this particular job and without this function handled professionally, you're going to continue to see the problems at GOVA and the cemetery. Ms. Flores concludes with saying that this is the plan for the next 2 weeks.

- g. Mr. Merenda mentions that the bush cutters should be taken to Marianas Irrigation and they will be fixed for free. He says that he's told the office this for 4 months now and they still haven't done so.
 - ↳ Ms. Flores says that she has one of her staff to assist with maintenance and getting those projects up to speed. She asks Mr. Merenda to give her the information offline and it will be a priority on Monday.

11. Veterans Organization Updates

- a. VVA 668
 - ↳ Nothing to report.
- b. VFW 2917
 - ↳ Mr. Merenda reports that they are doing a golf tournament in June for 4th of July.
- c. VFW 1509
 - ↳ Nothing to report.
- d. American Legion
 - ↳ Nothing to report.
- e. MOPH
 - ↳ Nothing to report.
- f. USAF Association
 - ↳ Anthony Quenga introduces Col. Tim Puzon, USAF (ret) who will be taking over representing USAFA. He extends his gratitude to the commission and commends everyone for their hard work.
 - ↳ Col. Puzon says that this is an interesting group so far and he's looking forward to be able to contribute once he gets a good sense of everything that is going on.
- g. 3rd Marine
 - ↳ Nothing to report.
- h. Navy League



Guam Veterans Commission



Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500

In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

↳ Finance Officer reports that for this coming month, the Commander for the U.S. Navy Sea Cadets program and the Captain will be here for about 4 days. He adds that they are looking forward to it and plan to have a gathering for her. Finance Officer will forward the information to Chairman.

i. Barrigada Veterans

↳ Not present.

j. Dededo Veterans

↳ Not present.

k. IAPGVP

↳ Not present.

l. Korean Vietnam Veterans

↳ Mr. Ko brings up the status about the license plate for Korean Veterans who fought alongside the U.S. He states that 10 years ago there were 7 members and now there are only 5 because of some either passing away or moving back to Korea. Mr. Ko says that at the time, Tom Ada gave a solution but still there are no license plates. He adds that he gave copies to the commission and Director Aguon, as well. Director Aguon also sent a letter to Senator Terlaje's office he has it as well and doesn't understand why there's no movement.

☑ Second Vice clarifies that Mr. Ko be given an opportunity to get a Veterans license plate and not a completely new one.

☑ Mr. Ko says that he only asked for 3 things, 1) when they die, they can use the cemetery, 2) drivers license and 3) license plate. Mr. Ko says that at the time, John Unpingco basically rejected the internment at the cemetery and he's okay with that, but at least the license plate so they're able to present it proudly.

☑ Second Vice asks if the paperwork was forwarded to Senator Terlaje.

☑ Mrs. Eubanks says yes and gives a brief overview for those who are not aware that what Mr. Ko is referring to: This is to amend the public law to include the Korean Vietnam Veterans Association for the purpose of obtaining a certification for a Veterans license plate. She adds that public law 33-96 indicates that you must have a DD Form 214 with an honorable discharge and although the Korean Vietnam Veterans fought alongside the U.S., they are not included. Mrs. Eubanks says that back in 2011 there was a proposal to amend the public law to include the Korean Veterans.

☑ Mr. Gamboa mentions that there is already precedence in other states.



Guam Veterans Commission

Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500



In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

- ☑ Mr. Ko says Georgia, Pennsylvania and some others already have it and why can't the Senator just approve so we can have it here.
- ☑ Mrs. Eubanks says that Director Aguon wrote a letter to Senator Terlaje requesting to have that bill reintroduced. She says that several months ago, Lucia Perez met with Senator Fran Blas Jr.'s office, who was the originator of the bill, and was trying to get more information from them to reintroduce it again. Mrs. Eubanks says that the status on that, as recorded on the last meeting minutes in December, remain the same. She says that their (Senator's) office was supposed to contact Mr. Ko and if they haven't, Mrs. Eubanks will follow up.
- ☑ Chairman states that this will stay under unfinished business until it's resolved. He says that when a representative comes to this meeting and they makes it sound simple but once they leave, they end up forgetting. Chairman expresses that this is very unfair. He adds that we as commission and as a state office need to look after the health and welfare of Veterans who need our help – bottom line. Chairman says that he refuses to sit here without not making any progress and this agenda needs to be pushed forward because they are only asking for 5.
- ☑ Mr. Merenda asks how hard is it to go to the director and have 5 special license plates created. He says to give him a cost and they will pay for it.
- ☑ Chairman says that the license plates are already made. The issue lies with the bill that doesn't include Korean Vietnam Veterans.
- ☑ Mr. Gamboa says that with the exception of passing the public law, one thing we can put forward is a letter from GOVA director or from some official that can say discharge papers from the Republic of Korea (ROK) is equivalent to a DD Form 214.
- ☑ Mrs. Eubanks confirms that it is on the letter from Director Aguon.
- ☑ Mr. Ko says that every time the administration changes, it seems like his request is being disregarded and it's already been 6 or 7 administrations later with no progress. Mr. Ko humbly requests for help in this matter.
- ☑ Chairman says that we are still working on it.

m. GY671

- ↳ Mr. Gamboa reports that they are continuing to work on their annual calendar in light of restrictions intending to be lifted and want to pick up on their outdoor activities such as hikes. He adds that they are looking at doing a VetBod car wash and will disseminate the information once it becomes available. Mr. Gamboa invites the commission to participate.



Guam Veterans Commission



Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500

In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

n. Fleet Reserve Association

↳ Scott Duenas reports that they've lost their meeting place up at Naval Hospital where they were using the old cemetery and now is a testing site for COVID. He says that they haven't been really meeting and with their members in older age, it's not easy to move from one place to another. Mr. Duenas says they need a place that can accommodate them.

- First Vice says they are having a meeting room built at the back of VFW Post 1509 and offers Mr. to utilize that space for their meetings once it's built.

12. Ex-Officio Members

- a. None

13. Auxiliary Members

- a. Rosie Fejeran, President of VFW Aux Post 1509, doesn't have anything to report other than that they are donating to the Gold Star Monument.

14. Unfinished Business

- a. Korean Way Veterans License Plate (GOVA)
 - ↳ Covered under Veteran Organization Updates, Korean Vietnam Veterans report.
- b. Rev and Tax Non-Profit Certification Documents
 - ↳ Covered under Report of Officers, by Second Vice.
 - ↳ Henry Manglona of American Legion asks if we need to come up with another certification.
 - ↳ Second Vice says no and they just need a letter to the commission stating that he is the representative on who the new representative will be.

15. New Business

- a. Mr. Merenda requests from Congressman's representative to provide an answer on why the new VA switched over, that there are 3 doctors on Guam that have not been paid. He adds that there are numerous increases in denial for non-managing authorizations and missing authorizations from VA so the Veterans are not being seen because the VA is not paying the doctors.
 - ↳ Mr. Bordallo asks for the number of the individuals and his office will reach out to the VA directly. The reason the individuals need to be contacted is to obtain a release form so his office can contact the VA on their behalf.

16. Community Input



Guam Veterans Commission

Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500



In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

- a. (via Zoom) Ms. Nedeog expresses her thanks to everyone and that the Veteran groups have always been very near and dear to her heart. She reports that OHAPP continues to do quite a bit of outreach and for the last couple of weeks since they've had their point-in-time count, they've gotten many referrals. While not all of them are Veterans, Ms. Nedeog requests from the commission to reach out to her so their Social Worker can go out and do an assessment to see if they are able to get housed. Ms. Nedeog says they've received a significant number of people in temporary housing with a goal to get them into permanent housing. She adds that there is so much work put into this and also extends to the commission her help in getting those in need into a better place. She will leave her contact information on the chat and thanks the commission for the opportunity to share.

↳ *Mrs. Eubanks will export the Zoom chat and attach it to the minutes.*

- b. Mr. Bordallo announces that it was brought to the Congressman's attention a few weeks ago that Veterans are having difficulties reaching the Guam CBOC. He points out that there are CBOC representatives present on Zoom and would like to yield some time to them for the opportunity to address this. The Congressional office reached out to the VA to ask what was going with CBOC and Mr. Bordallo says that they do have some good news for our Veterans.
- c. (via Zoom) Dr. Brooks reports that they have tried very hard to increase the communication between the Veterans here on Guam by establishing a user-friendly number for Veterans to call. He adds that they are trying to make sure the calls are answered and expeditiously as possible but sometimes the staff are busy and actively taking care of Veterans in the clinic so the call gets rolled over to the VA to answer. See Zoom chat export for the new numbers provided by PSA Corri Gobin.
- d. (via Zoom) Ms. Gobin reports that there are ongoing discussion with Honolulu regarding the phone situation and they recognize that it's a problem and want to make sure every call is answered in an expeditious fashion. She adds that they are working with leaderships in Hawaii to look at other ways to improve communication flow and encourage all Veterans to continue to use all VA numbers. This for both Veterans and their vendors. Ms. Gobin says that it's a challenge for Guam CBOC because not a lot of people realize that they are a primary care facility and mental health but a lot of the care on Guam is more Care in the Community which is a little outside of their scope. She adds that even though it's outside their scope, they scrap like crazy to make sure our Veterans care needs are met in every area in and outside of their scope. They are looking for more ways to improve communication and appreciates everyone's patience as they work through the technology bumps. She shares that her husband is also a Guam Veteran.

↳ Chairman requests that the officers of the commission pay a visit to CBOC to get more clarity on the services that are being provided, or should be provided.



Guam Veterans Commission



Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500

In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

↳ Dr. Brooks welcomes the officers to take a tour of the clinic and connect with Ms. Gobin to make that happen.

17. Announcements

- a. Chairman announces that H.R.3730 has passed without any resistance. This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish the Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States to provide advice and guidance to the VA on matters relating to veterans residing in American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Chairman says that this is a good step going forward and invites everyone to google it.
- b. Mr. Manglona would like to invite everyone to join their post and have fun every second Saturday of the month for steak day – porter steaks at 2lbs. are \$25. Next month will be on 13 March 2022 from 1300-1700.

18. Adjournment

- a. Mr. Merenda makes a motion to adjourn
 - ↳ Second by Mr. Manglona
- b. Chairman adjourns at 1606

19. Next Meeting

- a. 25 March 2022

20. Zoom Chat Export:

- 14:56:16 From Sarah Thomas Nededog : Buenas. Sarah Thomas Nededog here for the Office of Homelessness Assistance and Poverty Prevention (OHAPP) 👍
- 14:56:29 From Guam Office of Veterans Affairs : Buenas!!
- 14:59:01 From Guam Office of Veterans Affairs : Please mute your mics and raise your hand when you'd like to speak
- 14:59:12 From Guam Office of Veterans Affairs : 🙏
- 15:00:51 From Corri Gobin - Dept of VA - Guam CBOC : Dept of VA - Guam CBOC - Corri Gobin
- 15:01:32 From Ciera Tamayo - WestCare - SSVF : Hafa Adai, I'm Ciera Tamayo from WestCare's SSVF
- 15:02:37 From Guam Office of Veterans Affairs : Hafa Adai Corri and Ciera!!
- 15:02:45 From Corri Gobin - Dept of VA - Guam CBOC : Joining me from Dept of VA - Guam CBOC - is our CMO - Dr. Nathaniel Brooks



Guam Veterans Commission

Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500



In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

- 15:03:00 From Guam Office of Veterans Affairs : Hafa Adai Dr. Brooks!!
- 15:03:06 From Guam Office of Veterans Affairs : Welcome everyone!!
- 15:49:46 From Corri Gobin - Dept of VA - Guam CBOC : Guam CBOC established direct Guam-based fax numbers in our facility to help support information flow for Guam vendors
- 15:50:56 From Corri Gobin - Dept of VA - Guam CBOC : We also established a Guam-based fax number for Pharmacy to smooth the process for medication concerns here as well. Although Care in the Community is slightly outside of our scope - as we are Primary Care and Mental Health in the Guam CBOC - we do recognize and push forward for solutions where we can.
- 15:52:25 From Corri Gobin - Dept of VA - Guam CBOC : We also established a Guam-friendly phone number for Veterans and Vendors to reach Care in the Community - 671-475-5844 - to hopefully make the communication easier for all. Any Veteran or Vendor here can use that number to directly reach Care in the Community Call Center - without having to call off island.
- 15:53:40 From Guam Office of Veterans Affairs : Thank you for providing this information, Corri.. We appreciate you!
- 15:54:04 From Corri Gobin - Dept of VA - Guam CBOC : Thank you all for providing the opportunity for us to participate this time - it's much appreciated!
- 15:54:36 From Sarah Thomas Nededog : Sarah.nededog@guam.gov
- 15:55:03 From Sarah Thomas Nededog : (671)686-3759 Sarah Thomas-Nededog, OHAPP
- 15:56:27 From Corri Gobin - Dept of VA - Guam CBOC : Guam Direct Lines
- Guam Direct Line to CITC (671) 475-5844
 - Guam Direct Fax Line for CITC (617) 475-5844
 - Guam Direct Fax Line for Pharmacy (617) 475-5800
- 15:57:09 From Corri Gobin - Dept of VA - Guam CBOC : Hafa Adai from Guhan as well :)
- 15:59:37 From Guam Office of Veterans Affairs : Is the direct line to CTIC and the fax number the same?
- 15:59:43 From Guam Office of Veterans Affairs : Just to clarify..
- 16:00:52 From Corri Gobin - Dept of VA - Guam CBOC : My apologies - CITC dedicated fax is 671-475-5846
- 16:01:17 From Corri Gobin - Dept of VA - Guam CBOC : 800.214.1306 or 808.433.0600
New Extended Hours:



Guam Veterans Commission

Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500



In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

Sunday – Thursday 7:30am – 6:00pm

Friday 7:30am – 4:00pm

Call Center Telephone Menu Options

- Press 1 – Pharmacy (Lines open 0730 – 1600 Mon – Sat)
- Press 2 – Schedule/Cancel an appointment or information regarding Non-VA Care
- Option 2 – Primary Care Scheduling – Lines are open 7/days a week, to include ALL major holiday's 0730 – 1800
- Option 3 – Specialty Care/Direct Scheduling (Lines open Mon – Fri 0800 – 1600)
- Option 4 – Mental Health (Lines open Mon – Fri 0730 – 1600)
- Press 3 – Telephone Advise Nurse: if you are ill, injured or have a medical condition.
HON Telephone Advice Nurses are available to take the calls Mon – Fri 0745 – 1600
After 1600, Nights/Weekends/Holiday's – Calls are routed to our San Francisco Triage Nurse (this line is 24/7)

16:01:26 From Corri Gobin - Dept of VA - Guam CBOC :

- Press 4 – Health Care eligibility questions:
- Veterans must provide a completed 1010EZR in person to the nearest VA Facility or call (877) 222-8387 for Health Enrollment and Eligibility (i.e., Transportation, Address and Next of Kin changes).
- Press 5 – VA Billing inquiries
- Press 6 – Mission Act: Eligibility, Urgent Care, Copayments, Insurance, and Appeals.
- Press 7 – Veterans' Crisis & Suicide Line (or dial (800) 273-8255 #1)
- Press 8 – Care in the Community (CITC) assistance
- Option 1 – CITC PSA Representative at Call Center
- Option 2 – CITC Patient Advocate (Not same as Patient Advocate)
- Press 9 – Patient Advocate (Call lines open 0730 – 1600 Mon – Fri)
- Press 0 – Operator Assistance – Line is open 7/days a week to include ALL major holiday's 0730 – 1600

16:01:42 From Guam Office of Veterans Affairs : AWESOME!! Thank you..



Guam Veterans Commission



Minutes for 25 February 2022 at 1500

In-Person & via Zoom from Cabinet (Large) Conference Room | Governors Complex | Adelup

Chairman: Jose San Agustin | First Vice: Roland Ada | Second Vice: Dan Mendiola | Finance Officer: Lee Weber | Secretary: Tanya Eubanks

- 16:03:03 From Corri Gobin - Dept of VA - Guam CBOC : For Veterans – they can reach the Patient Advocates by calling toll free 1-800-214-1306 then Option 9 for general or if CITC specific – Option 8 then Option 2. Veterans can also Secure Message the Patient Advocates!
- 16:03:18 From Corri Gobin - Dept of VA - Guam CBOC : For issues internal to Guam CBOC - we are here on the ground on Guam - happy to assist.
- 16:03:52 From Corri Gobin - Dept of VA - Guam CBOC : Here is the information for Veterans found on the VAPHICs webpage: <https://www.va.gov/pacific-islands-health-care/health-services/patient-advocates/>
- 16:04:06 From Guam Office of Veterans Affairs : Adios everyone.. Have a safe weekend!!!