**Minutes of June 19, 2025, Village Vets Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting**

***Call to Order:***

* The meeting was called to order by Bob Bechill at 2:59 pm in the Majorca Room of the OHCC Club House. In attendance were Bob Bechill, Dave Hefler, Mike Welch, Robert “Smitty” Smith, Jim McDonough, Martin Budoff, Pat Battles, Susz Clark, Greg Coffey, Jack Shabel and Bob St Laurent. This is the second month in a row all members of the Board of Directors were present.

***Funds and Minutes:***

* **Treasurer Report:** Robert Smith presented the following report: total deposits $137, total expenses $70.81, with an ending balance of $4,848.21 and membership stands at 235. One member’s dues continue to be waived due to WWII status. Smitty announced that he has four Village Veterans shirts on hand: one medium, two large and one extra-large.
* Robert Smith will continue responding to requests for Village Veterans shirts.
* **Minutes:** May 15, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting minutes were motioned for approval by Robert Smith and seconded by Greg Coffey.

***Continuing Business:***

* The Veterans Association of North County (VANC) meeting was attended by Bob Bechill. The following are issues discussed.
  + Mission San Luis Rey (a thriving Franciscan Mission and National Historic Landmark) and Father Joe. “Father. Joe” Juracek, O.F.M.; Fr. Joe serves at Mission San Luis Rey Parish. As a former Air Force member, he is interested in helping military individuals that are experiencing Post-traumatic Stress (PTS).
  + Veterans Writing Group book releases on May 23, 2025, at VANC. If members are interested. go to <https://sites.google.com/view/veteranswritinggroup/home> for more information.
  + Memorial Day observance was superb at the VANC facility on Mission Street in Oceanside.
* Mike Welch and Martin Budoff discussed the trip to Naval Base Point Loma. A flyer was handed out at the Hot Dog Extravaganza and Mike explained the tours and trip. Planning and arrangements are progressing with 26 individuals signed up for the tours (update: as these minutes are written, a week after the BOD meeting, there are 36 signed up with 4 on the standby list). Again, Mike and Martin noted that there are no restaurant facilities on the Base; therefore, lunch will have to be at Liberty Station Market food court. Liberty Station Market is a 15-minute drive from the tour area. Planning and movement timing is ongoing for this trip. Greg Coffey offered bottled water for the bus ride to Point Loma and back. Thanks Greg!!
* For the General meeting on Thursday, 28 September, Susz Clark will be the guest speaker. (Update: as of 6/27 in an email from Susz Clark, she will be unable to present)
  + November 11, 2025, Veterans Day is planned and organized with all organizations ready to participate.
    - Challenge Coin distribution will be led by Pat Battles with Challenge Coins designed and procured by Martin Budoff. A donation for the cost of coins is provided by Debra Harper. There was a discussion on the method of distribution to Veterans with possibilities including while entering into the Abravanel Hall auditorium or by the veterans standing in the audience.
    - The Veteran Day activities and program will include Rancho Buena Vista High School band and other organizations and speakers to be determined.
    - The theme will be “The Cold War.”
  + Wednesday, June 25, 2025, there will be a special meeting in the Clubhouse for military members who seek information concerning VA burial benefits.
  + Only Yesterday Museum or La Jolla Concourse off-site trip – Museum owner, Chuck Spielman, grew up around cars. Spielman has one of San Diego’s most admired collections, a rotating collection that currently includes a 1923 fire engine, a 1934 Packard, a 1964 Shelby Cobra, a handful of vintage Corvettes and about two-dozen others. They are housed in a private Sorrento Valley Museum that also showcases thousands of items of automotive memorabilia. For the La Jolla Concourse, there are multiple classes at events, this year’s featured marqui is [Bugatti](https://www.bugatti.com/brand/history/chronicles/).
  + March Field Air Museum off-site trip – Located on the edge of the active flight line at March Field Air Reserve Base, March Field Air Museum offers an unparalleled view of the most modern military aircraft in the United States Air Force. March Field, one of the oldest military airfields in the United States, was originally founded as Alessandro Field in 1918 as one of 32 Air Service training camps following the United States’ entry into WWI.   This trip was discussed as another option for an off-site to the Riverside location. Greg Coffey “volunteered” to put this off-site trip on for next summer.
  + There was a discussion concerning sending a condolence card to the family of a Village Veterans Club member who had passed away. It’s difficult to make sure this happens as there is no system of automatic notification when this happens. We try, but sometimes word of mouth fails the intention. The card was sent belatedly, about a month late.

***Village Veterans 2025 Schedule, (all rooms and locations confirmed):***

* 1. 7/22. Off Site to Submarine Training Facility San Diego (STFSD)/SUBRON11 at Naval Base Point Loma. Mike Welch and Martin Budoff visited LCDR Hoffman at STFSD and determined the interesting value of this visit for members.
  2. 9/25 TBD. General Meeting or Off Site. Potentially a trip may be planned to visit WFW in San Diego. The organization can visit Ocean Hills Country Club or an off-site trip to their facility may be arranged. This is to be determined.
  3. 10/23 TBD. General Meeting at Abravanel Hall unless we hold elections in September. Susz Clark will take the lead on this project. (Update: It appears now that Susz Clark will be the guest speaker.)
  4. 11/11 Veterans Day Program at Abravanel Hall. The theme is still tentative but supporting participants are lined up. Colonel Scott Battles, USAF Ret. will be the principal speaker. This is nearly all set.
  5. 12/12 Holiday Party (a Friday night) This was the only night available. All the organizers from 2024 are back to organize this year's Holiday dinner and dance. Marta would be interested in obtaining and setting up decorations, Patty Coffey will be organizing much the way she did last year, and Ros Nesler will be the Holiday Party sub-committee leader. Marta called Pat Battles to ask if she could also help with decorations. For the 2025 Holiday Party, Bob suggested that Coast Guard families or persons may be the military branch we invite as our guests. The Board was enthusiastic about this suggestion.

***Additional Items:***

* Bob Bechill related that Frontwave Arena Luxury Box could be offered to the Village Vets Board of Directors to enjoy a sports or entertainment event. Stand by for further information.
* Continuing Issue: Korean conflict and Vietnam War of OHCC Veterans tribute plaques are not on display in the Clubhouse Library. These plaques would be like the WWII veterans that are currently displayed. This issue is under consideration. This item will continue to be listed in the minutes until all decisions are complete, and a volume of coins are obtained.
* Website and Bugle – no additional information or discussion

***Other Information:***

* + - * Adjournment motioned by Greg Coffey and seconded by several members. The adjournment was at 4:00 p.m.
      * The next Board Meeting will be on July 17, 2025, at 3:00 pm at the Music Room.
      * Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary, Mike Welch