**Minutes of May 15, 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. All members of the Board of Directors were present.

***Funds and Minutes:***

* **Treasurer Report:** Robert Smith presented the following report: total deposits $317, total expenses $84.71, with an ending balance of $4,782.02 and membership stands at 235. One member’s dues continue to be waived due to WWII status. Smitty announced that he will order and maintain a number of Village Veterans shirts to have on hand, and he also announced that the Honor Flight returns to San Diego International Airport on April 27 for individuals who wish to support the returning vets.
* Robert Smith will announce the availability/request if members desire a Village Vet shirt.
* **Minutes:** March 2025, Board of Directors Meeting minutes were motioned for approval by Martin Budoff and seconded by Greg Coffey.

***Continuing Business:***

* Veterans Association of North County (VANC) was attended by Bob Bechill and Martin Budoff. Veterans Writing Group book releases on May 23, 2025, at VANC. If members are interested go to <https://sites.google.com/view/veteranswritinggroup/home>. Lastly, Bob stated Memorial Day at VANC is from 10 to 12 noon and those desiring to attend should RSVP at the above web site.
* Robert Smit and Bob Bechill attended the honor flight return in April.
* Bob Bechill announced that the Pendleton Community Service Fund (CPCSF), implements projects in partnership with Rotary Clubs and other donors. The Generation-to-Generation program picks up lightly used furniture and houseware from Veterans, Rotarians, and supporters of the military. Donations are stored at, and distributed from, the Warrior Warehouse on Camp Pendleton.  The PCSF picks up items from donation homes for free.
* Hot Dog Extravaganza: There were a number of volunteers who offered to help with set up and tear down. Susz Clark and Dave Hefler were two volunteering at the BOD meeting to be in the Lanai by 11:00 a.m. Greg asked if Marta Welch will be at the Lanai to set up decorations and Mike Welch indicated that Marta has the decorations and will be there early to set up. The meal starts at 1200 noon. LCDR Tracy Owens Ret. Is the speaker and stated she will have a “fun presentation” on the Support the Enlisted Project (STEP) program. The STEP mission is stated, “Improving financial wellness to combat food insecurity, homelessness, mental health conditions, suicide, and other crisis through counseling, education, and financial support for enlisted service members, veterans and their families.” See <https://www.teamstepusa.org/gallery> for further information.
* Mike Welch and Martin Budoff had an excellent visit and found LCDR Hoffman, the XO of SUBTRAFAC, to be very accommodating. The facility will be easy to move around for OHCC members as there is an elevator and wide easy stairs in the STFSD. In addition, Mike has coordinated with SUBRON11. It may be possible to have a group of Village Vets visit SUBRON11 and another group visit STFSD on the same day and both groups could attend both tours. The Navy contacts have not yet committed to these tours. Mike and Martin noted that there are no restaurant facilities on the Base; therefore, lunch will have to be at an off-base restaurant. A flyer will be handed out at the Hot Dog Extravaganza and Mike will explain the tours and trip.
* Several of the members suggested that we track Veterans of the Korean War and OHCC members who have a history as First Responders. This issue continues to be pending.
  + Long discussion concerning purchasing OHCC Village Veterans coins to be given as a gift at the discretion of the Board for certain events or efforts involving the Village Vets, such as guest speakers at our General Membership meetings. The issue revolved around an offer by Ms. Debra Harper as a “gift” from her to thank the Vets for their service and celebrate Vets Day. It was felt that Village Vets should recognize this contribution. However, Bob Bechill felt this opens the issue of recognition of other residents or non-residents when, in the past, significant contributions have been gifted. Some suggestions were made about the current offer with recognition and past gift offers that were not formally recognized. The discussion concerned this potentially uncomfortable situation and how it should be dealt with. No resolution was made, and this may be taken up at the next Board of Directors meeting.
  + There was another discussion by Bob St Laurent and the Board members involving the technical requirement to illuminate the United States Flag posted outside during dark hours. As reported by Bob there is no consensus on how this should be done. Some residents have purchased and attached solar power “elites” to the flag post. Some are fortunate to have a streetlight in front of their house which takes care of the issue and others simply do not illuminate their flag during dark hours. The decision was made by the Board to let residents handle this the way they desire.
  + Bob St Laurent also mentioned that he would drive around and look at the condition of flags in the neighborhood. If needed to be replaced he would offer the flag for a donation of $18 for a small flag and $22 for a large flag.

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

* 1. 7/22 TBD. General Meeting at Abravanel Hall or Off Site, potentially involving the Car Museum, Midway Museum or Submarine Training Facility San Diego (STFSD)/SUBRON11 at Point Loma. Mike Welch and Martin Budoff visited LCDR Hoffman at STFSD to determine the feasibility 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. Susie will take the lead on this project.
  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:***

* Village Vet Challenge Coins – Martin related that any amount is obtainable, i.e. no limit and the cost is $7 for logos with no color coins and $12 for coins produced with color in the logo. This item will continue to be listed in the minutes until all decisions are complete.
* Village Vet name tags – Martin is also working on this issue. Several Board members had their name tags displayed on shirts.
* Movie night – Contacted PBS indicated that Village Vets can show any GI Film Festival we want. Bob Bechill related that he has the contact person’s email **and** PBS, or the Film Festival will even send a speaker to the showing event. This item will continue to be listed in the minutes until all decisions are complete, and a volume of coins are obtained.
* 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 Susz Clark and seconded by Dave Hefler. The adjournment was at 4:00 p.m.
      * The next Board Meeting will be on June 19, 2025, at 3:00 pm at the Majorca Room.
      * Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary, Mike Welch