**Minutes of July 17, 2025, Village Vets Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting**

***Call to Order:***

* The meeting was called to order by Bob Bechill at 3:00 pm on the Palm Court of the OHCC Club Facility. In attendance were Bob Bechill, Greg Coffey, Susz Clark, Jim McDonough, Mike Welch, Jack Shabel, Martin Budoff, and Bob St Laurent. Members unable to attend were Robert “Smitty” Smith, Pat Battles, and Dave Hefler. Susz Clark will be reducing her involvement on the BOD to be on the Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) Board.

***Funds and Minutes:***

* **Treasurer Report:** Robert Smith presented the following report: total deposits $542, total expenses $398.43, with an ending balance of $4,891.78 and membership stands at 240. 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:** July 19, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting minutes were motioned for approval by Greg Coffey and seconded by Martin Budoff.

***Continuing Business:***

* The Veterans Association of North County (VANC) meeting was attended by Joe Ashby who represented the Board of Directors. The following are issues discussed.
  + Ivy Ranch Equine Therapy for service members and families. (Information from the Web: “Ivy Ranch Park in Oceanside provides a program for veterans called Horses for Heroes. This is a [**Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International**](http://www.pathintl.org/) (PATH Intl.) nationwide program for America’s wounded service personnel and veterans. PATH Certified Instructors and various professionals, including physical therapists, occupational therapists, etc. strive to physically improve, emotionally empower, and socially enhance the lives of veterans with disabilities.)
  + Steven Cohen Clinic for Post-9/11 Veterans. (Information from the Web: “It is a national non-profit network of clinics which provides confidential, personalized, evidence-based mental health care to veterans, service members, and their families- including the National Guard and Reserves.)
  + “True2Gold” – Acronym for matching Golden Retriever dogs to worthy veterans. (Information from the Web: “Determined to support those who have supported our country, Operation Friendship’s “True2Gold” provides veterans with well-trained service dogs to help them navigate life’s challenges. Through companionship, emotional support, and specialized training, the program empowers veterans to reclaim their sense of peace and purpose.”

**Period of 2025/2026** ***Village Veterans 2025 Schedule, (all rooms and locations confirmed):***

* 7/22/25: Mike Welch and Martin Budoff discussed the trip on July 22, to Naval Base Point Loma. Planning and arrangements are complete with 36 individuals signed up and 9 on the standby list, there are no restaurant facilities on the Base; therefore, lunch will be at Liberty Station Market food court. Planning and movement timing, is complete for this trip, see attachment 2. Greg Coffey provided 46 bottled waters for the bus ride to Point Loma and back. Thanks again Greg!! Mike has developed blue and gold lists of participants, a timeline schedule and a map of the food court layout. Mike wrote an announcement to be used on the bus ,attachment 1 to welcome and instruct participants. The group and tour support by Navy points of contact are all set and 36 village vet members are looking forward to this opportunity.
* 9/28/2025: For the General meeting on Thursday, 23 October, the guest speaker is Colonel Suzanne “Susz” Clark, U.S. Army (Ret.). She will also be our Challenge Coin speaker and, with David Hefler, will manage the annual club officer elections.
* 11/11/2025: Veterans Day is planned and organized with all organizations ready to participate. This is nearly all set.
* Supporting participants are lined up. Colonel Scott Battles, USAF Ret. will be the principal speaker.
  + - * Challenge Coin distribution Coins designed and procured by Martin Budoff.
      * The theme will be “The Cold War.” Bob will present a schedule during the August BOD meeting.
      * The Veteran Day activities and program will include Rancho Buena Vista High School band and other organizations and speakers to be determined.
    - 12/12/2025 Holiday Party scheduled for this date, will begin with the first planning meeting of the subcommittee meeting on 22 August. The Subcommittee is made up of the same volunteers as last year Ros Nesler, Pat Battles, Marta Welch and Patty “Perf” Coffey. Tracey Owens, with Support the Enlisted Project (STEP) is working to provide military families as guests. The Board will be notified at our August meeting if guests from STEP will be able to attend.
    - 1/22/2026 First January General Meeting the guest speaker will be Robert Genat and F-14 pilot. (See update to this issue in the August BOD minutes.)
* ***Additional Business:***
* 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. This continues to be a discussion issue.
* 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.
* Village Vets name tags are still available from Martin Budoff.
* Website May and June 2025 BOD minutes will be posted on the Web by Jack.
* Bugle – no additional information or discussion.
* Golf Tourney at MCB Camp Pendelton, see <https://www.vanc.me/golf> for details.
* September Honor Flight return at San Diego International Airport, Alaska Airlines #9676 on 28 September 2025
* September 6, 2025 is the Retiree Expo at Camp Pendleton, see <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/camp-pendleton-veteran-and-retiree-expo-tickets-1027142840887> for details.

***Other Information:***

* + - * Adjournment motioned by Greg Coffey and seconded by Bob St Laurent. The adjournment was at 3:50 p.m.
      * The next Board Meeting will be on August 21, 2025, at 3:00 pm in the Music Room.
      * Attachments 1 and 2 are provided for future reference and possible templates for future tours.
      * Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary, Mike Welch

Attachment 1 to July 17 BOD Minutes

Sundance Stage Lines remarks read on Bus Speaker System

On behalf of the Village Vets Commander, retired Navy Captain Bob Brchill … Welcome, Welcome, Welcome

Introductions – I’m Mike Welch and along with Marty Budoff, we are the coordinators for this tour. I’m with Blue Group and Marty is with Gold Group. My wife, Marta, helped me considerably and, also, made up the name tags.

Our bus driver today is Jim Whitney, thank you Jim for this trip.

We should also thank the Navy Contacts for this trip: LCDR Ryan Hoffman the Executive Officer, XO, of SUBTRAFAC San Diego which stands for Submarine Training Facility San Diego. Marty and I traveled here two months ago, met with him and asked for the tour. Also, please keep in mind the PAO office at SUBRON11. Everyone you meet, from actual crew members of the submarines to the students and instructors, were tested, interviewed and met rigorous selection standers to be in this specialized area of the Navy. Please show them considerable respect.

Your $30 fee paid for half of the bus cost and the other half came out of the Village Vets Treasury.

Entry into the base for the group was a little confusing as I received three different requirements for entering the base, like for example, we needed to have a CAC card! Finally, I got the right word from SUBRON11 PAO (which stands for Public Affairs office) MC1 Smith that the retired military ID holders can sponsor the group onto the base which should make it easy – “let’s hope.”

We are going to the Navy Base Point Loma, which is one of six Navy installations on Point Loma. In San Diego, this base area is in an area termed “Ballast Point” because in years past during the era of sailing ships, after unloading cargo in port, the ships would stop here and load rocks to enable ships to better handle the open ocean. With heavy rocks in the cargo hold they would not bob and roll like a cork in open ocean swell.

You have in one of your hand outs an hour-by-hour schedule, let’s hope our activities roughly follow this schedule for Blue and Gold groups. There may be times when we must wait for the bus or rush to finish our lunch. I hope these waits and “hurry-ups” are minimal. Speaking of lunch, there used to be a wonderful club for lunch on base, but COVID got it. We are forced to go off base to Liberty Station, which is a retired Navy training facility converted to interesting civilian use with a Navy flare.

We appreciate this excellent opportunity, cooperation and understanding as we are enjoying this marvelous opportunity to learn the rigors of Navy submariner’s life. This is an interruption to their very important mission. Please express your gratitude whenever you can.

**Attachment 2 to July 17 BOD Minutes**

***Submarine Base Point Loma (SBPL) Tour Schedule for Participants - 22 July 2025***

**7:15 a.m. Arrive Overflow Parking Lot and … No later than 7:45 a.m. – Embark bus and all depart Ocean Hills.**

About 8:45 to 9:00 a.m. - Arrive Front Gate (174 Rosecrans St.). Village Vets with Retired Military ID will escort non-ID participants.

***Gold Group* - Morning - SUBRON11 / Afternoon - Submarine Training Facility**

About 9:15 a.m. Arrive at Submarine Base USS Roncador Memorial for start of tour.

9:15 to 10:45 a.m. SUBRON11 tour

10:45 Complete the tour and gather at bus pick-up location: USS Roncador Memorial.

11:00 Embark bus for Lunch at Liberty Station. Lunch is from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00p.m. After lunch embark bus at Liberty Station.

1:15 p.m. Arrive Submarine Training Facility (STFSD) after Blue Group departs for SUBRON11 tour

1:30 to 3:00 p.m.  Submarine Training Facility tour

3:15 Depart SBPL after embarking both groups.  **And a big THANK YOU!**

***Blue Group* -** **Morning - Submarine Training Facility / Afternoon - SUBRON11**

9:30 Arrive O’Kane Submarine Training Facility at White Street

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Submarine Training Facility tour

Complete the tour and gather at bus pick-up location: White Street.

11:00 Embark bus for Lunch at Liberty Station. Lunch is from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00p.m. After lunch embark bus at Liberty Station.

1:20 Arrive at USS Roncador Memorial for start of SUBRON11 tour from 1:20 to 3:00p.m.

1:20 to 3:00 p.m.  SUBRON11 tour

3:15 p.m. Depart SBPL after embarking both groups.  **And a big THANK YOU!**