

CDP Veterans Caucus
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Nov 17, 2021

1. Executive Board call to order by Ron Cohen, Chair, at 7:30 PM.
2. Ron, Chair, called Tai Sunnanon to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call: Antonio Chapa, Recording Secretary: All E-Board present. Quorum met.
4. Approval of Agenda.
Basil motioned to approve; motion was seconded. Motion to accept agenda approved.

Ron, Chair, called on Taisha Brown former Chair of the CA Dem Black Caucus.

- Taisha presented on CADEM K-12 platform. It includes black students in sections calling for a focus on improving educational outcomes for historically underserved groups. Currently over 80K Black students do not qualify for supplemental school funding because of low-income, embellish learners and that translates to about a 506-million-dollar funding gap.
- Black students are left behind because 678% of them equates to 112,000 do not read or write at grade level, to include math skills.
- K-12 platform, secondly, something called fairness patient act. If there's a cap malpractice or a doctor is negligent in any way, a person can only sue for \$250,000. This law has been in place since 1975. It's the patient's fairness act you'll hear more about it when we get to the convention, but please take the time to educate yourself on it. If you want to know about the black caucus education committee's language that we're promising for the platform, reach out to me.

5. Approval of Minutes of Aug 25 meetings.
Basil motioned to approve; motion was seconded. Motion to accept minutes approved.

6. Committee/Officer Reports

A. Corresponding Secretary/Communications: Angela Scott

- Website is down, we anticipate on obtaining a new site with new URL.
- Facebook page is live with robust information.
- Correspondence, such as newsletter and resources, is shared via email.

B. Organization Development: Tai Sunnanon (Two-year workplan)

Our two-year work plan has three parts to it.

- 1) To support legislation by reviewing and acknowledging legislation that impacts the lives of all of us here in the state of CA.
- 2) To provide resources. These are tangible resources that will go on the website. It will go onto the newsletters and all our social media outlets.
- 3) To assist in the creation of new Veterans Democratic club within the state of CA.

Item was moved and seconded. Motion approved.

C. Policy & Legislation: Diana Love

The resolution is entitled Help Keep Disabled Veterans in their Homes. It is relative to property tax exemption and the purpose is to keep all Veterans from falling into homelessness because of high cost of living including property tax bills and rent burdens.

D. Treasurer: Lizet Angulo

- Ending Balance is \$9,450.55. Current we have 200 members.
- August bill was \$500.00. Bill for this meeting is also \$500.00

7. Main Program: Cherelle Jackson, Chair for Veterans Caucus Programs.

Resources near San Francisco: The Housing Clinic, The Swords, Help USA Foundation, Sanctuary Center, and Mercy Housing. Oakland: Veterans Housing Facility and Arc of Refuge. Los Angeles: PATH, Volunteers for LA. Oceanside: Village of Sand. Sacramento: Carter homeless Veterans, Nation's Finest, Housing Alliance, Rows Homes Project, and Mercy Housing. San Diego: Veterans Village of San Diego, Community Service, Towns People, PATH, Alpha Project for the Homeless and Sister Field, Veterans Independent Project. San Marcos: Wounded Warriors.

A. Keynote Speakers Introduction: Speaker – Malia Cohen

Malia: I was talking about the Veterans exemption who own a limited amount of property and disabled Veteran's exemption, okay. The Board of Equalization also administers the non-profit exemption non-profit Veteran organizations. I am a daughter of a Veteran. I recently partnered with Diana Love to bring a resolution she and I wrote together to keep disabled Veterans in their homes. It passed unanimously several weeks ago. I'll read you some of the language of this residence illumination, again, is to keep disabled Veterans in their homes.

It is an inflation \$100,000.00 or qualified applicants with income over \$52,000.0 which reduces the property tax liability for qualified service members rated 100% disabled or compensated at 100% rate due to unemployment due to a service-connected disease. Disabled Veterans are a disadvantaged group falling into homelessness as a result of high-cost living, high property tax bills, rental burdens, this makes up a disproportionate share of - home state of CA. 31% of all the homeless Vet flattens United States live in CA. Raising the disabled Veterans limit and changing the qualified disability levels including Veterans that are disabled at the less than 100% level, could prevent more Veterans from becoming homeless and giving disabled Veterans increased opportunities to remain in dignified housing. Therefore, be it resolved that the Los Angeles Democratic Party supports increasing the threshold for the definition of low-income and increase levels of the property tax levels itself will. This is in consideration of additional disabilities below the 100% level for causing qualification and importantly inclusion of rental tax credit to assist disabled Veterans who have been injured in service to this county. That's the resolution that was passed that is now heading to the governance offices of Toni Atkins and Anthony Rendon.

Cherelle: Thank you Malia. How are you planning to support Veterans experiencing homelessness?

M: My approach to address Veteran homelessness is to volunteer, through church, collecting resources such as clean socks and other much needed basic items. As a former San Francisco Supervisor, we allocated funds to homeless programs with wrap around services. Assist with housing, prevention, and address recidivism. Lastly, I want to ensure Veterans families have access to resources.

B. Candidate slots – 2 minutes each.

Cherelle: Each Candidate will have two minutes to speak.

- David Campos, Candidate for State Assembly District 17. Medicare for all, make college free for all Californians, wants to address inequities, and education. A special election, for this office, is slated for Feb 15, 2022.
- David Dodson, Candidate for Board of Equalization District 4. Employed at Board of Equalization for 30 years – property tax assessment program. Stay to democratic values, protect property rights, housing, and homelessness.
- Ruth Luevanos, Congressional District 25, teacher of special needs children, stop deporting Veterans who served honor, build another hospital in the antelope valley, access to day care for veteran families, health care, advocate for housing for homeless Veterans.
- Quaye Quartey, Congressional District 25, Veteran – Navy, streamline, spearhead minority Veteran task force, advocate for VA facility in the antelope valley.
- Caroline Menjivar, State Senate District 20, Veteran – Marine, Queer woman of color, worked for LA City Mayor, Veteran Mental Health, address Veteran suicide and benefits claims.
- Jennifer Esteen, Assembly District 20, registered nurse – psych, VP SEIU 1021, no nurses currently in State legislator, stop drilling for oil/fracking, homelessness, need affordable housing, clean water, air, and safe housing.
- Joseph Rocha, Veteran – Marine, prosecutor, State Senate District 40, get families back on their feet, honor service to our Veterans, Rocha for congress.com
- Rick Chavez Zbur, Assembly District 51, son of a Korean Veteran, climate change, environmental justice issues, disabilities, housing, homelessness, advocate for LGBTQ Veterans to get resources and care.
- Derek Marshall, Congress District 8, Grandfathers Veterans, homelessness,
- Marisa Wood, Congress District 23, Teacher, focus on housing, healthcare, and dignified wages for Veterans.

- Reina Carrillo, Candidate for Mayor of Inglewood, gang interventionist, wife of Veteran.
- Tara Beasley-Stansberry, City Council Vallejo-District 5, LGBTQ woman. Advisory board member for a Veterans Resource Program, Veteran homelessness
- Mia Livas Porter, Assembly District 52, LA Central Committee member, Support VASH, green new deal, jobs, LGBTQI ally.
- Christy Smith, Daughter of Veteran, Congressional 25, restructure the VA, focus on housing, healthcare, and education. Veterans need access to clinics.
- Getro Elize, Assembly District 36, Veteran – Marine, address lack of medical services in District 36, better jobs for Veterans such as trade jobs.
- Sion Roy, Assembly District 50, Dr., Cardiologist, at Harbor UCLA, worked at VA as a physician/student, need to address lack of services for communities of color, environmental injustice.

C. Special Candidate Videos

- Maxine Waters, Congresswoman, spend time at Veterans Day events, US Vets, Help start new directions, Board on LGBTQ equality act – recruiting representing, opportunities to start new businesses, healthcare – need to make sure Veterans know about VA, created the Women Veterans Center at VA, assist with ratings, assist with backpay, housing for Veterans, still have a long way to go with LGBTQ Veterans.
- In Build Back Better there are funds for housing – section 8 housing vouchers. For Veterans who wish to be entrepreneurs, there is a program to assist Veterans. Currently trying to get funding for Veteran Centers, VFW and other place Veterans congregate.
- Will support Veterans of the LGBT, of color, - focus on Veterans being aware of services, Black Veterans look for services in their community – per a group of Black Veterans during a Veteran Day event, assist with review of Don't ask Don't tell.
- Alex Padilla, CA Senator, introduced legislation on deported Veterans in hope of restoring services, Build Back Better will assist Veterans in the claims processing, it will lower healthcare cost for Veterans who do not receive their healthcare from VA, boost affordable housing. To achieve any progress, we need to retain Democratic majority in the House and Senate in 2022
- Mike Levin, Congressman, Vice Chair of House Committee on Economic Opportunity, Grandson of WWII Veteran. 16 bills supporting Veterans have been signed into law, Veterans Healthcare, and Improvement Act. These legislations enhance programs at the VA. The Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 – Veteran Homelessness, Suicide prevention, healthcare and much more. With Democrats in charge...deliver real results.

8. Program back to Chair.

9. Announcements

Denton Murphy, Veteran, working to assist Afghans in Country to get out, looking for allies.
Basil, I can assist and will connect with Denton.

Raina, how can I join? \$25 caucus dues.

10. Meeting Adjourned

Basil moved to adjourned. Seconded. Moved.

11. Next Caucus Executive Board Meeting – Estimated: Dec 29, 2021

12. Next General Membership Meeting – Estimated: Mar 2, 2022