

CDP Veterans Caucus
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2022

1. Exec Board call to order: Ron Cohen, Chair, at 5:33 PM.
2. Roll Call: Antonio Chapa, Recording Secretary:
Executive Board members present: Ron Cohen, Basil Kimbrew, Angela Scott, Lizet Angulo, Diana Love, Tai Sunnanon, and Antonio Chapa.
Executive Board members absent: Cherelle Jackson and Tim Prince.
Quorum met.
3. Approval of January 10, 2022, Agenda:
Basil Kimbrew motioned to approved, motion was seconded. Motion approved.
4. Special meeting of Elected Officers:
Motion to remove Cherelle Jackson as Programs Chair. Motion was seconded.
Discussion: In the future, as position is time consuming and a need of experience, a need to better vet. Motion approved. Ron appointed Basil as acting chair for the Programs Committee, Basil agreed.
5. Approval of Minutes of November 3, 2021, meeting.
Diana Love asked for correction on item 7(C) last note - Reuben Ford is not an author of resolution. Diana Love motioned to approve with correction; motion was seconded. Motion was approved.
6. Committee/ Officer Reports:
 - A. Treasurer, Lizet Angulo:
As of December 1, 2021, beginning balance is \$5845.55. Deposits \$5625.00. Payments \$1635.00. Current balance \$9835.55.

Reimbursements \$95.00. Membership per capita 750.00. 2021 state convention \$790.00. Pending expenditures \$500.00. Current membership is 196 members.
Sent out emails to 13 members about their membership expiring.
 - B. Corresponding Secretary/ Communications, Angela Scott:
Launched the holiday newsletter – Christmas/ new year.
Thank you to Tai for draft of MLK letter. Lizet put finishing touches on MLK letter email.

Plan to send out Newsletter on a quarterly basis.

Angela yield time to Ron. Ron discussed the website. Ron debating to have a blog on website and open for comment. Any communication committee member can monitor the blog. Any committee can start a blog. Question of freedom of speech if only allowed positive comments. We need to stay in accordance with CA Dem party bylaws on blogs.

Also on website is a page Veterans Caucus bylaw, agendas, minutes, join the Caucus, two-year workplan. Executive Board profile, pictures of Elected Officials and Appointed Officials.

Lifetime members: Will check name of Ron Howard, add John Rines, and revise Antonio Chapa's name.

Cost for website's first year and domain is \$34.00. Second year cost may be \$54.00.

Tai, if we add a "s" to the URL (http) it will make our website secure. This will allow our website to be seen in a wider capacity.

Question to Ron when will website be live on CA Dem? No timeline as a request needs to happen. Ron asked for Angela's approval to request to have website on CA Dem. Angela provided approval to send. Ron will send to Emma.

C. Org Development & Listening Tour, Tai Sunnanon:

A draft spreadsheet on google drive, Angela & Diana, for listening tour. Setting up several Dem Clubs up and down the state. Been in touch with Central Committee, like Contra Costa. Hope to start this month. Meet with many Veterans in Berkeley and Oakland. Part of required by CA Dem and any new club that gets approval by central committee must have a grievance clause. Have template for bylaws and grievance clauses. Process can take from 1 to 3 months which depends on when interested club submits. Spoke with Lorene Saxson, DNC member and Officer, on historical challenges. A Veterans club was started in the Inland Empire which crossed over in Riverside. This caused issues and club was defunct. The listening tour is to hear about what Dem clubs care about Veteran issues and if they wish to start a Veterans club. Challenges to listening tour due to Omicron therefore some clubs are postponing their in-person meetings.

Angela, add listening tour to website calendar.

D. Policy & Legislation: Diana Love

Committee met on Dec 27, 2021. Committee voted in favor presenting a plaque for Veteran and an Organization of the Year Award.

Resolution for tax exemption, email sent out however have not heard back. Working with (CA State Assembly) Majority Leader Eloise Reyes and Board of Equalization to find out where we stand on money. A staff member is reaching out to the Governor's office finance department to see if we can get money from Gov office to support our efforts for that tax exemption. As waiting to find out if SB 658, which is under Senator Shannon Grove, if she is bringing that bill back before Reyes takes on the authorship to take that resolution and turn it into a bill.

At our March meeting, John will provide updates on resolutions we have discussed so far.

Listening tour "How can we help you?"

Dr. Then, she has a resolution she wants to address and plans to bring this resolution in the summer. Advised to take to Riverside County Central Committee first. Resolution title - Extended time for Americans with disabilities to speak during CA Government meetings. She has a few people who have signed on to sponsor the bill.

May need to resign some of committee members as we have not heard from Chris Bilham. He oversees the Military Program through the Contractors State License Board (CSLB). We put out a flyer with his contact information therefore we do not know if people have tried to contact us. If anyone comes across Chris, please let us know.

7. March 3-6 Endorsing Convention – membership meeting.

A. Slots (2 hour) available for Caucus Meeting:

- i. Thursday (5:00pm; 8:30pm)
- ii. Friday (8:00am; 5:30pm; 8:30pm)
- iii. Saturday (8:00am; 8:30pm)

Majority of Executive Board would like to have membership meeting on Friday at 5:30pm if in-person.

Ron shared what Senior Caucus found on update on CDP Convention COVID policy – The CDP will adhere to the vote of the Executive Board requiring both proof of vaccination and negative COVID 19 test for all attendees. The Party is also conferring with all public health officials to assist and assess the violability of a safe in-person Convention and assuming an in-person event is possible develop further safety protocols to ensure the greatest protection for our delegates, caucus members and guests.

B. Trophy & banner purchase

Program committee is proposing two trophy awards to give out. One for Veteran of the Year and one for Veteran Organization of the Year.

Basil motioned to approve. Motion was seconded. Motion approved.

Propose to use \$250.00, for each, to purchase something like a crystal trophy. Basil motioned to approve. Motion second. Discussion: Tai, does Caucus have a template for these awards or do we present something new every year. Ron, no - this is the first time Caucus will provide these types of awards. Basil, we will have a template. Ron, nothing in bylaws say we do or do not do this. No vote was taken.

Propose to expend \$175.00 for a Veteran Caucus retractable banner. Basil motioned to approve. Motion was seconded. Motion approved.

C. Program Committee: Proposed Program for March Membership meeting.

- i. Two approaches
 1. In person meeting
 2. Virtual meeting
- ii. Setup (if in person)

Basil, set-up a detail report of cost. Diane, breakdown of cost will come from Ron who will receive from CDP. Ron, I do not have any information yet however Program Committee is now aware and will have to do what we need to do.

Diana, we gave Ron a draft of a time element for the program, if we take the 5:30pm slot, program will be between 6:10pm to 6:45pm. Categories, if we meet in-person, are broken into three speaker categories, Guest Speakers, Featured Speakers, and Back-up Speakers. At this time, we do not know who speakers will be. We sent out a letter to cordial invite and waiting to hear back on who can make it. If we are virtual, we will do time slots for speakers who are able to attend or able to provide a video. We have five Guest Speakers, five Featured Speakers, and three Back-up Speakers. We asked the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Assembly Chair of Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, and some Assembly members such as Mia Bonta, plus Betty Yee our State Controller. As back-up speakers we have asked State Senator Toni Atkins and LA County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis.

Ron, how are we going to come up with and who gets the award? Diana, we put together a google form which will be sent out to membership. Membership will nominate, send form back. Program committee, along with Executive Board, will review and select. Ron, because of short turnaround to order awards, at next board meeting, Feb 3, 2022, we will need to vote on who gets award. Diana, confident we can get trophy in time.

Tai, can Congressman Ted Lieu be a speaker. Diana, yes.

Ron, will committee have awardees recommendations before next Executive Board meeting on Feb 3, 2022. Diana, yes, committee will review and have recommendations for meeting. Tai, who on Executive Board have voting privileges on awardees? Ron, Executive Board is Elected and Appointed Officers.

Diana, Antonio asked about providing a special certificate to retiring Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard. Ron, we voted on having two awards and that's it. I don't have a description on a third award. We have Veteran of the Year and Organization of the Year. We just cannot hand out certificates. We need, as an Executive Board to agree on who and why to give out a certificate. Are we giving out a certificate because she is competing or we saying thank you? Antonio, after 30 years of service in the Congress, she is retiring and want to thank her for commitment to the Veteran community. Basil requested to add on the next agenda. Ron will add to agenda with write-up on recommendation.

8. Announcements. None

9. Meeting Adjourned: Basil motioned to adjourned. Motion seconded. Motion approved.

10. Next Executive Board Meeting Feb 3, 2022, at 6:00pm (Virtual).