

DATE: Friday, 26 MAY 2017

TIME: 8:30am

LOCATION: Governor's Conference Room

Guam Veterans Commission

MINUTES

CTO BY: Dan Mendiola - Chairman

Discussion

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Opening / Call to Order**
3. **Roll Call of Officers and Members** – sign in sheet passed around
4. **Welcome / Introductions**
5. **Special Guest/s Comments** – Sen Frank Aguon, Sen Joe San Agustin, John Blas
6. **Review / Reading of 28 April 2017 Minutes** – Tabled
7. **GVAO Report** – Joe San Agustin
 - a. Report of NAF Funds
 - b. Reimbursements
 - c. Crypt Cover Repairs & Tires have been removed
 - d. Workshop cleaned out: working on final repairs and paint
 - e. GVAO employees: new permanent Admin Assistant & 4 GVC workers
 - f. 2017 Memorial Day Invitation 10am, Guam Veteran Cemetery
8. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. Review / Approval of Veteran Organization Application Submittals and define / ratify the membership based on current 10 GCA Section § 67107 and status of tax exempt documentation –
§ 67107 - Voting Members:
§ 67107 (a)(1)
 - (1) U.S. Army: No eligible organization at this time
 - (2) U.S. Air Force: missing application (Guam USAF Veterans Association)
 - (3) U.S. Navy: No eligible organization at this time
 - (4) U.S. Marine Corps: 3rd Marine Division, Guam Chapter§ 67107 (a)(2)
 - (1) Vietnam Veterans of American, Chapter 668
 - (2) Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2917
 - (3) Military Order of the Purple Heart
 - (4) Iraq, Afghanistan, Persian Gulf Veterans of the Pacific
 - (5) Women Veterans of America§ 67107 (a)(3)
 - (1) Barrigada Veterans Organization§ 67107 (a)(4) – Ex-Officio members:
 - (1) Korean Vietnam Veterans Association

Motion to accept and approve Bylaws as a whole_ – M: Brian Merenda – S: Alan Van Aken

Vote: All in favor

* Guam Motorcycle Club was not officially addressed at the meeting as did not have an application, etc. – also will need to vet this and the Commission determine which category they will go in.

Suggest adding this as part of New Business for next meeting

8b. Review / Approval of the 9 submitted Changes / Comments to the By-Laws; all 10 received a motion/discussion and vote in favor/passed.

8c. Approval / Ratification of By-Laws as a whole (as amended).

Motion to accept and approve Bylaws as a whole_ – M: Tom Devlin – S: Brian Merenda

Vote: All in favor

1. Motion to accept the changes of Bylaws section 4.1

1st Brian Merenda 2nd Jessica Kee

CHANGE:

§ 67107 4.1 – Executive Board: The Executive Board formulates strategic direction, policies, and procedures of the Commission as ratified by voting delegates.

a. Elected officers of the Executive Board shall be: 1) Chairman, 2) First Vice Chairman, 3) Second Vice Chairman, 4) Finance Officer, 5) Adjutant, and 6) Judge Advocate. The positions of Adjutant, Judge Advocate and Public Affairs Officer shall be an appointed position.

Vote: All in favor

2. Motion to accept changes of ByLaws § 67107 4.2

1st Brian Merenda 2nd Tom Devlin

CHANGE:

§ 67107 4.2 – Qualifications of Officers:

Reword to read as:

c. Positions of Chairman, First Vice Chairman, and Second Vice Chairman must shall be filled by one of the Primary any representative of a recognized organizations as outlined in Section 3.3. As such, these elected members each hold one vote which would be in addition to the appointed representative of the recognized veteran organizations. The positions of Finance Officer, Adjutant, Judge Advocate, and Public Affairs Officer may be filled by any veteran of any member organization as outlined in Sections 3.3 and 3.4 and only hold a vote if they are the appointed representative of a recognized veteran organization.

Vote: All in favor

3. Motion to Add changes to Bylaws section 4.6

1st Brian Merenda 2nd Jessica Kee

ADD:

§ 67107 4.6 – Guam Military Affairs Committee: Highly recommended that a senior staff member from the office of the Committee Chair be assigned as a legislative advisor. This position shall be a standing non-voting advisor to the Veterans Commission.

a. This advisory position is to be approved Commission Executive board based on a recommendation by the Committee Chair.

b. The Legislative Advisor will provide monthly reports on the status of the various veteran related bills and resolutions within the Guam Legislature and/or assist the Commission on veteran-related matters, as appropriate.

- Sen. Frank Aguon concerned with specific wording "will provide".

- Dave Elhers suggests making changes to adjust "will" to "may"

- WVA CH 43 suggests a commission rep be assigned to legislature for updates and communication.

- Sen. Frank Aguon suggests Commission select the Legislative Advisor.

- Sen. Joe San Agustin comments "if you think you're going to go in there to the legislature and task a Senator or the Speaker to do what you need, If he's in a bad mood, you ain't gonna get anything."

c. The Legislative Advisor will assist in providing intent of bills/resolutions and answer questions/concerns in order to help member organizations and veterans better understand the issues so that proper testimony can be provided as determined by each organization/individual.

d. The Legislative Advisor will assist the Commission in the development of proposal for resolutions and bills. Of veteran concern.

e. No Guam Veterans Affairs Office employee may hold any elected office.

Vote: 6-1 Motion Carried and Accepted

1. Motion to accept changes to Bylaws § 67107 5.8

1st Brian Merenda 2nd Jessica Kee

CHANGE: first line of Section 5.8 (as per review by S. Miller, Office of Governor) MUST CHANGE--no vote

A Commission quorum shall consist of one-third of qualified organizations to include Affiliate members. Pursuant to 10 GCA Section 67107(b)(3), for purposes of a quorum and for the official conduct of business, a minimum of five voting members on the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Vote: All in favor

2. Motion to add to Bylaws § 67107 6.2

1st Brian Merenda 2nd Jessica Kee

ADD: under Section 6.2, Issues Committee

b. Advisor: Guam Military Affairs Committee rep / Legislative Advisor (see Section 4.6)

Vote: All in favor

3. Motion to make changes to Bylaws §67107 6.6

1st Brian Merenda 2nd Jessica Kee

CHANGE: last line of §67107 6.6

Note that the Guam Veterans Commission Chairman is the official voice of the Commission and any information released to the local news communities must be coordinated and approved by with the Executive Board.

Vote: All in favor

4. Motion to add to Bylaws § 67107 6.11

1st Brian Merenda 2nd Tom Devlin

ADD:

§ 67107 6.11 – Committee members: unless specifically identified, the “at-large” members of a committee may be any veteran of any member organization as outlined in Sections 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, or 3.6; such members may be tasked by the Committee Chair with approval from the Commission Executive Board.

Vote: All in favor

5. Motion to change Bylaws section 7.3

1st Brian Merenda 2nd Jessica Kee

CHANGE. first line of § 67107 7.3

The SVC shall serve as the Membership and the Ways and Means Statistics Committee Chair and ...

Vote: All in favor

6. Motion to change Bylaws– Various

Change all instances of Secretary to Adjutant.

Vote: All in favor

7. Approval / Ratification of By-Laws as a whole

Motion to accept and approve Bylaws as a whole

1st Brian Merenda 2nd Tom Devlin

Vote: All in favor

9. New Business

- a. Open Nominations for Officer Elections (election to be at June meeting)
- b. Open floor for member interest in appointed and committee positions
- c. Memorial Day Ceremony Preparations – Joe San Agustin

10. Veteran Organizations Updates (Voting Members ONLY)

- a. all incomplete documents will be turned in to recognize the Veteran Orgs to be voting members

11. Community Input / Comments

a) WestCare: Veteran Homeless Summit, GCC Auditorium, 30 May; Custodial of the five houses near AAFB back gate has been transferred and three families moved in; Update on Homeless Count: 20 of 24 Veterans sheltered.

12. Adjourn 10:00am