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Shawn Terris - Chair
Josh Newman – 1st Vice Chair
Karen Otter – 2nd Vice Chair
Andrea Marr - Treasurer
Mark Henderson - Secretary

CDP Veterans Caucus Membership Meeting Minutes

Saturday, August 15, 2015, 6 – 8 pm

Location: Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport in Burlingame, CA

- 6:04pm Meeting called to order by Chair Terris
- 6:04-6:10 Pledge of Allegiance led by Sam Pandey; Ceremony of the Chairs; and, Verification of a Quorum
- 6:11-6:12 Motion to approve May 2016 Membership Meeting minutes – Bob Handy/Roger LaPlante; MSA
- 6:12-6:14 Two Veterans Caucus members' birthdays celebrated
- 6:14-6:17 Treasurer's report (Andrea Marr):
- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Balance: | \$3,698.61 |
| Deposits | \$1,977.00 |
| Payments | (\$1,540.80) |
| Current Balance: | \$4,134.81 |
- 6:17-6:22 Legislative Committee Chair and Caucus 1st Vice Chair's Report: Reorganizing Vets Caucus Legislative Committee; has 7 members (Dana Ferry, Ed Warren, Jim Kuehl, Joe Halper, Stan King, and Joe Halper). Questions from caucus members regarding focus and scope – priority is analyzing and taking positions on all state legislation that may affect veterans (which is approximately 200 bills a year) but will consider national legislation on a requested basis due to the volume of bills introduced annually.
- 6:22-6:25 Proposed Veterans' Plank for inclusion into the CDP's 2016 CDP Platform. Includes 2 new items: (a) Enhanced support for veteran transition and employment support; and (b) Extend prescribing authority for medical psychologists in California. Motion to approve Vets Caucus Plank as presented – Jeff Parr/Bob Handy; MSA

- 6:26-6:28 Underserved Committee Report by Chair Roger LaPlante: Provided an update and surveyed attendees for interest in assisting homeless vets
- 6:28-6:34 Chair's Report: Reviewed responsibilities of three standing vets caucus committees (Legislative, Underserved, and Organizational Development); Vets Caucus meets 3 times per year; reviewed 2 new policies adopted by Executive Board: (a) Handling of cash; and (b) Adoption of annual budget for Vets Caucus
- 6:35-7:04 Speaker: Dr. John Caccavale of Veterans United for Truth spoke on the need for legislation extending prescribing authority to medical psychologists; would reduce mental health services backlog and systemic inefficiencies currently impeding progress [interrupted briefly at 6:55pm to allow Eric Bauman, CDP Vice-Chair, to say a few words]
- 7:05-7:14 Review of proposed California Medical Psychologist Legislation (Chair Terris)
- 7:15-7:34 Speaker: Jacob Angel of the Military Health project talked about his organization, the mission, and several pieces of federal legislation that they are tracking that could have an impact on the health and well-being of veterans and active duty military members and their families.
- 7:34-7:45 Announcements:
- Roger LaPlante announced his candidacy for Congress in the 16th CD;
 - Jeff Parr, veteran and retired postal worker spoke about the need to support the USPS and its role in hiring vets and delivering VA meds to vets;
 - Doug Murray spoke about efforts to create a US Department of Peacebuilding;
 - Sam Pandey of the SF Mayor's office announced plans to hold a veterans' parade in San Francisco in the coming year;
 - Evan Thomas, Air Force vet, announced his candidacy for Congress;
 - Gabe Griess, Air Force vet, announced his candidacy for State Senate;
 - Otto Lee, USN Reserve, announced he was running for DNC delegate.
- 7:46pm Meeting adjourned – Motion Sunde/Simms – MSA

Next Caucus Membership Meeting – February 26-28, 2016 in San Jose