
Meeting Minutes

Call to order

7:15pm_ A meeting of **The Veterans Caucus** was held on a Zoom virtual conference call on **12/11/2017**.
Chair Cullen called the meeting to order

7:19pm_ Roll call taken by Ron Cohen (acting Secretary due to technical issues)

E Board members in attendance included

Chair - Cullen Tiernan

1st VC - Jody Feldman

2nd VC - Robert Leahy

Secretary - Melissa Boyd -

Treasurer - Stacey Glass Smith

7:22pm _ Quorum held

Caucus Members in attendance

Kent Smith

Richard Valdez

Porsche Middleton - Organizational Development

Derek Matthews –Legislative Committee

Susana Williams – Communications

Ron Cohen - Bylaws

Craig Baumbusch - Disabled Veterans

Basil Kimbrew

Jillyn Molina

Approval of Agenda

7:24pm_ Cullen Tiernan asked Ron Cohen to call for the vote on the adoption of the Agenda

Members asked for their vote by stating “aye”

No nays

No abstentions

7:25pm_Agenda approved by the members unanimously

Reports

7:25pm_The first report from Chair Cullen “Freemont first” given

Cullen discussed what he has been doing since the Veterans Caucus election

- Announced the existence of Caucus Chair email – wants to build relationships with other caucuses
 - Robert working with disabilities caucus
 - Womens Caucus-Christine Pelosi
 - Progressive Caucus –said support within the party is present

7:27pm_ Chair turned over Reports to 1st VC Jody Feldman

Jody discussed engaging past Caucus members on social media which has taken up most of her time.

- She has plans to attend the Sac Dem Christmas Party for networking.

7:28pm_Report completed at 7:28

7:28pm _ 2nd VC Robert Leahy gave report next

- Working with Suzanna of fixing up website
- Reaching out to Chairs of other Caucus
- Rural caucus, Latino caucus, recommends continuing our work at building bridges in 2018

Chair Cullen also mentioned Rural Caucus is about to have an election and recommended members to join the caucus if having issues or are from rural areas.

7:30pm_Secretary report began

- Melissa announced dual living areas _ San Bernardino/ Riverside and San Diego
- Reaching out on Womens’ March in San Bernardino and setting up Register to Vote
- San Diego reaching out to Progressive Dems groups and Veterans groups
- Chair Cullen suggested a few names to contact Eric Dean / Robert suggest James Aliah (?)

7:34pm_Communications report given by Stacey

- Reached out to Emma for adhering to rules
- Mentioned she was a member of 3-4 other caucuses
- Attempting to network to pull in more members
- Cullen asked which caucus she would like to take the lead on for networking
 - Stacey suggested business/professional for job resources. African American caucus is another she is willing to help on. Cullen suggested contacting Raymond Bishop, stated he was a vivacious outspoken member on Caucus Chair conference call.

7:37pm_Organizational Development report Porsche Middleton

- Sac Dem Vets had elections-Eric Matthews elected President
Talking extensively to develop framework with Ricky Rick
- Focus on Central Committees-putting Vets in Eboard positions, focus on Vets clubs
- Candidates
Working top down and reverse-
- Cullen asked about Central Committees _Stacey answered that resolutions being pushed through for Vets at Central Committees is most helpful but also getting Vets elected to Eboards

7:39pm_Quick roll call of current Central Committee positions for Eboard members

7:40pm_Derek gives the Legislative Committee report

- Priority for getting the appropriate timelines and deadlines to push platforms, endorsements, pre-endorsements
- Putting timelines together
- Once committee members are collected –plans to develop teams for more legislative measures and actions

7:44pm_Susana gives Communications report

- Sent out emails to the body-communicating is popular with members
- Many responders for call for committee members
- Access to facebook page still needed
- Website is getting finished, should be pretty much completed by end of month
- Robert is working with her to finish comms things, Zoom
- Change the passwords to most of the Accounts-One is tricky will wait for the website build
- Dropbox account – everyone on Eboard will have access
- Old gmail account still in effect. Susana to reach out to Shawn for that password.

7:48pm_Ron reports on Bylaws committee

- Changes coming to San Bernardino County Committee
- Draft of Bylaws on Google Docs-Complete enough for feedback and opinions from committee members.
- Cullen suggests tying in with young Dems for them to have experience
- Ron states he is advisor for San Bernardino young Dems so he will begin working on that

7:49pm_Underserved Chair position is vacant

- Recvd a report from Craig
- Robert gives the report that Craig sent-arranging current Disabled Veterans legislation in a document so we could advocate for new legislation.
- Robert linked him with Disabled Caucus as of this meeting.

7:52pm_Reports closed –

New business commenced

7:52pm_ 2nd VC Robert reports on Committee Recruitment survey

- Responses tallied in order
- Committees were listed
- Members accepted on mostly First come, first serve basis
- 1st choices Org. Dev committee members added were: Susana Williams, Tom Larossi and Cullen Tiernan
- Legislative committee members added: more requests for 1st choice than available spots- Robert says we could increase the number of spots, 7 member committees is what is currently hoped for and required. Extend by 2 people is possibility-Robert recommends discussion from Eboard.
- Bylaws-Ron is chair, Robert VC, no other members discussed
- Communications-Robert is a part of, Cullen is part of. Robert stresses need for more members.
- Underserved-5 people currently want to become members. In need of Chair and VC. Cullen calls for requests from call participants. Response isn't needed right now. Robert states one possible option is to call a meeting of members and have them elect their own chair and vice chair for this committee. Cullen seconds as long as membership is odd number.
- Disabilities-Craig Chair Baumbusch, Jillian Molina, Jody Feldman, Felipe Grimaldo and Ricky Rick-Robert recommends they be added now.

7:57pm_ Robert calls for vote to accept all of those 1st choices committee members mentioned except for Legislative committee because he thinks we should discuss it.

oppositions to the above vote called by Cullen

7:58pm_ Ricky Rick raises his hand-asks procedural Questions-Discussion commences about how committee chairs pick the members of their committees. Cullen wants more progressive and inclusive member participation.

7:59pm_ Robert explains to the call participants that those who are speaking are members of the leadership team/ Committee Chairs even if they are not EBoard electeds.

8:00pm_ Robert asks Derek if he prefers to stick with a 7 member committee or is he willing to go beyond that.

- Derek is willing to go beyond that. Robert recommends Derek Matthews, Eric Dean, Richard Valdez, Allison Vincent, Peter Erickson, Craig Baumbusch, Xavier Martinez, Kelsey Pressnall, Zachary Awe make up the Legislative Committee.

8:11pm_ Organizational Development Committee-Robert recommends Porsche, Susana, Tom, Cullen, Ricky Rick, Larry Lugo and Felipe Grimaldo.

Robert also has the reasons why members want to be on a committee, he can share that if requested.

8:15pm_ Bylaws committee-Robert recommends members: Chair is Ron Cohen, VC Robert, Larry Lugo, Kelsey Pressnall, Zachary Awe, Richard Valdez, Felipe Grimaldo be appointed to this committee.

8:17pm_ Communications: Cullen wants a Social Media teams, talks about “swarming”
Robert recommends Tom Larossi, Larry Lugo, Basil Kimbrough be added.
Robert and Cullen thank and recognize Basil and Richard Valdez on the call.

8:22pm_ Underserved Committee-Robert recommends adding Shawn Kumaji, Rachelanne Vander Werf, Octavia Touhey, Basil Kimbrough, and Stacey Glass to the committee. Melissa Boyd offers to fill a role in the committee member, which puts the membership at odd numbers. Additional members added would be Richard Valdez, Jillyn Molina, Felipe Grimaldo, Javier Martinez and Zachary Awe.

8:27pm_ Disabled Committee-Chair is Craig Baumbusch, members added would be Jillian Molina, Jody Feldman, Felipe Grimaldo, Ricky Rick Bareto, Octavio Tulley and Ron Coehen.

8:32pm_ Robert calls for questions or discussion on the added members to the committees

- Ron asks for emails for committee members
- Robert responds he will have the next day (Dec.12)
- Susana tells Ron she can have that in a couple of minutes.
- Robert asks for comments or questions

Cullen makes announcement about a national vision, reached out to Chairs of other Veterans Caucuses in other states so we are on our way to having a nation-wide progressive Vets representation in Dem party.

8:36pm_ Cullen opens up to committee members recommendations.

- Ricky Rick posted to regional caucus committee about “Unity conference” –limitations for Caucuses to have fundraising. Costs for the room, microphone. Robert says we have info about what we can do and can’t as far as caucus goes. Cullen suggests adding Karen to the next meeting for her insight.
- Ricky also tells the body about setting up training academies in the caucuses to get ready for the 2018 election.
- Cullen recommends we talk in future about role of Sergeant of Arms playing out over the internet.

8:38pm_ Motion to approve the committee members as discussed in this call by Robert

8:40pm_ Cullen seconds the motion, Ron Cohen starts the roll call

Robert asks for discussion before the votes are counted. For it or against it. No discussion

8:40pm_ Ron Cohen does roll call of all Eboard members: 5-0 Ayes have it

8:41pm_ Robert asks Susana to talk about the Zoom expense

- Susana paid for 1 month of zoom, Stacey has receipt. Forms need updated. Susana wants to continue with zoom. \$15/month X 12 months, which Robert states is time limit of what Eboard can approve. Cullen approved for this month. Pre-approval to approve a full year.
- Lifetime members paid \$500 and no emails were received. List of these members were screen shot to call participants
- Rules about expenditures would be brought up at or next caucus meeting. Dues, expenses, policies should be approved as standing rules.

8:43pm_ Ron adds policies to the Bylaws, Robert mentions AD hoc committee still has to review them before presented to members.

8:44pm_ Motion to approve up to \$250 to cover Zoom for next year called by Robert.

8:45pm_ Susana seconds

8:45pm_ Roll Call taken

Motion passes 5-0

Stacey mentions Emma has not given her all of the details about financing from previous Eboard.

Cullen brings up membership dues change to 1 year after the day you sign up initially.

Discussion takes place.

Robert calls for full Treasurer's report for January. More discussion about finance report coming in future meeting. Robert says review from August was never completed. Cullen states we need thorough investigation. More discussion. Cullen ultimately says that discussion about fiduciary member panels and plans for finances will be deferred to Treasurer and that more discussion is coming in the future.

8:47pm_ Announcements

Open Forum and announcements for general members of the caucus.

Member Kent Smith first to speak due to contacting the Eboard prior to the call and requesting to speak.

- Mentions he his impressed with the Eboard so far
- Wants to liason with Childrens Caucus
- Announces Vets running as candidates in 50th CD, 3 strong candidates Josh Butler, Patrick Malloy, Ammar (last name not known)
- Wants to know stance on Trump administration merging VA with DOD officials healthcare. Wants to know position.

-Cullen says that he wants to privatize it and so we need to stop that. We have to establish our caucus and bylaws and then we can be more progressive on that. We'll push official agenda after we are more established.

Member Basil speaks next-

- Announcing Vets Candidates tomorrow. Requests someone from caucus send him whom we know is running.
- Q: If we, as a caucus, raise our own money do we have to give it back to the party and then do we get it back from the party and how are funds distributed. How do we fund things that we want to do throughout the year?
- Directed at Susana-wants to get involved with sharing information so send him and his wife emails. His wife has Latino media and he has other means for getting word out.
- Cullen wants to have a master list of Vets Candidates, Robert is working on it. Applegate is mentioned. Cullen recommends contacting Legislative committee.
- Cullen also says we are working on the money and finance issue as we progress. Stresses being honest with how funds are spent. Robert says this conversation is coming and Cullen says he appreciates Basil's enthusiasm. Robert screen shots what current CDP's rules and guidelines say about how funds can be sent. Robert says the conversation will continue into January.
- Robert also gives a report on what we can spend funds on, very narrow, and wants to revisit in January.

Ricky Rick speaks next-

- Endorsements for incumbents
- CDP compliance new mandates
- Bylaws regarding endorsements
- Political Caucus vs. service Caucus
- Long range game plan needed –plans into 2020
- Support network needed for candidates through the clubs
- Suggests SCORE cards-accountability program with elected officials.

Stacey Glass

- Answer to Basil's question about spending money. We can only accept dues from members. We may not solicit funds from non-members. You can invite speakers to the meetings and pay for travel but that's it.

8:55 pm_Ron Cohen speaks next-

- Suggests at next meeting have discussion about common understanding between caucus and chartered organization. Wants added to the agenda for the next meeting
- Cullen agrees, wants to bring in voices from Karen Bernal and Carlos Sicala to learn their best practices

Robert gives contact information for Eboard members and social media information for the Caucus.

Gives his phone number out.

Cullen thanks everyone for being on the call.

8:58pm_ Motion to adjourn called by Robert

Cullen seconds

Ron calls for the vote

Ayes unanimous-

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm



Melissa Boyd

Secretary

Date of approval