



El Dorado County Committee/Commission Overview 2025

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON
AUGUST XX 2025





PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE



The Veteran Affairs Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors in the following way:

- a) Promoting, aiding and encouraging public support for veterans affairs;
- b) Promoting, aiding and encouraging public support to and recruitment for the National Guard and the Armed Forces of the United States of America;
- c) Reviewing policies and programs affecting veterans; and
- d) Providing appropriate and timely information and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the public concerning veterans affairs and the National Guard.

REVIEW OF GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

- ▶ On November 19, 1991, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 4188 establishing a Veteran Affairs Commission.
- ▶ On January 15, 2019 the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 5098 which repealed and replaced Ordinance 4188 and reflected current practices of the Veterans Affairs Commission
- ▶ The County Strategic Plan incorporates an objective directing the comprehensive review of County ordinances on file to include considerations for reducing the volume of ordinances where feasible
- ▶ At their April 11, 2019 meeting, the Commission voted to recommend that the Board be made aware of their request to modify their bylaws and, by extension, consider repealing Ordinance 5098 and instead use a Board Resolution to serve as the primary governing document for the Commission
- ▶ At their meeting on November 19, 2019, the Board approved the Introduction of Ordinance 5113 repealing Ordinance 5098 stating:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board herewith resolves to continue the Veterans Affairs Commission. The Board further resolves to adopt new bylaws attached here to Exhibit A. The Board further resolves that future amendments to the bylaws may be recommended by the Commission or staff but shall be amended by the Board by Resolution.
- ▶ Provide an update to the Board as to the efforts that have been made or are being made to review/update the governing documents.

MEMBERSHIP

Commissioners (current as of January 2025)

- **District I Member:** Todd Smith, term 1/29/13-1/1/29 (Vice Chair)
- *Alternate:* Robert Fisher Term 1/25/23-1/1/29
- **District II Member:** Roger Reynolds, term 2/23/21-1/1/29 (Chair)
- *Alternate:* Donna Mullens-Becker, term 8/16/22-1/1/29
- **District III Member:** Christopher Vinton, term 1/28/25-1/1/29
- *Alternate:* Seth Culver, term 7/30/24-1/1/29
- **District IV Member:** Ken Welch, term 2/25/20-1/1/27
- *Alternate:* Timothy “Tim” Thompson, term 11/10/20-1/1/27
- **District V Member:** Gary Norton, term 1/3/23-1/1/27
- *Alternate:* Tom Millham, term 11/12/24-1/5/27
- **Veterans Service Officer,** Jonathan Brown, Secretary Ex-Officio
- **Recording Clerk of Veteran Affairs Commission,** Courtney Frame



VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS



In general, the Commission meets on the second Thursday of the month at 12 noon. The Commission's Meeting Calendar for agendas and minutes are posted on the county website. At the request of the public to hold a Veteran Affairs Commission meeting in each respective Supervisor District, the Commission meets at the following locations:

- January, February, May, June, July, August, October, December – District III in the Supervisors' Chambers, 330 Fair Lane, and Bldg A, and Conf Room D, Placerville
- March – District II – Child Support Services Training Room, Shingle Springs
- April – District III EDC Sheriff Community Room, 200 Industrial Ave. Drive, Placerville
- September – District V – South Lake Tahoe – HHSA Large Conference Room, 3368 Sandy Way South Lake Tahoe, Ca.
- November- District I – EDH Fire Department 85, Conference Room, EDH

VETERANS AFFAIRS TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX COMMITTEE



This committee meets at least 8 of 12 months of the year, on the second Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. before the general meeting of the Veterans Affairs Commission; exceptions are the beginning of the Mini Grant Cycle which typically begins at 11:00 a.m.

FY24/25 allotment and allocation of the Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT) to the Veterans Affairs Commission was \$175,000. Also approved for allocation was \$90,700 to fund a Sr. Veteran Service Representative in the Veterans Services Division of HHS.

TOT allotted funds are managed by County of El Dorado Health and Human Services with oversight by the CAO.

Mini-Grant TOT funds and grant applications continue to be managed by the El Dorado Community Foundation.

Veterans Affairs Transient Occupancy Tax Committee sponsored a free grant writing workshop , presented by the El Dorado Community Foundation. These workshops was conducted on the Western Slope as well as in South Lake Tahoe

FY 23/24 Annual TOT Grants

Contract #	Organization Name	Approved FY 23/24 Grant Amount	Date Funding Received	Notes	Funding Out Completed	Funding Pending
#8025	Lake Tahoe Community College	\$6,000.00	N/A	Contractor did not submit invoice; contractor is expected to submit invoice once 22/23 progress reports and financial back up are final.		\$6,000.00
#8048	Snowline Hospice	\$25,000.00	N/A	Contractor did not submit invoice; contractor is expected to submit invoice once 22/23 progress reports and financial back up are final.		\$25,000.00
#8023	El Dorado County Veterans Alliance	\$10,000.00	6/20/2024		\$10,000.00	
#8024	Sierra Chaplaincy	\$4,000.00	N/A	Contractor did not submit invoice; contractor is expected to submit invoice once 22/23 progress reports and financial back up are final.		\$4,000.00
#8027	MFSG/EDVR	\$8,000.00	N/A	Contract was delayed due to documentation needed from vendor; contract request to be resubmitted		\$8,000.00
#8028	Only Kindness	\$15,000.00	1/29/2024		\$15,000.00	
#8026	El Dorado Food Bank	\$10,000.00	6/13/2024		\$10,000.00	
#8021	El Dorado Community Foundation for TOT Mini-Grant Administration	\$76,000.00	2/12/2024		\$76,000.00	
	Veteran Services General Trainee	\$21,000.00	12/1/2023		\$21,000.00	
	Total	\$175,000.00			\$132,000.00	\$43,000.00
	Total Funds Available	\$175,000.00				

2024 Veterans TOT Mini Grant Applications

App ID	Legal Name of Organization	Executive Director CEO President	Grant Title Description	Grant Amount Requested	Grant Amount Approved	Approved
4729855	Calvary chapel food ministry	Gail Archer	Caivary chapel food ministry	\$7,000	\$0	Not Approved
4722195	Center for Post Traumatic Growth	Melinda J Keenan, PhD	Veterans TOT 2024 Grant Appllcation	\$10,000	\$0	Not Approved
4693437	El Dorado Post 119, American Legion	Lauralee Flannery	Veterans Commission TOT Grant	\$10,000	\$10,000	Approved for full amount
4731036	Gilmore Hero Foundation	Chris Whitaker	Vehicles for Veterans Program	\$10,000	\$10,000	Approved for full amount
4727089	Shingle Springs Community Center	Mike Williamson	Facility Renovation	\$10,000	\$0	Not Approved
4708057	Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post 10165	Leonard McAdams	Veterans TOT Grant	\$10,000	\$2,500	Approved for \$2500 with stipulations
4716377	Veterans of Foreign Wars Sierra Nevada Post 2680	Seth Culver, Commander VFW Post 2680	Veterans TOT Grant	\$10,000	\$10,000	Approved for full amount
Total Approved Amount				\$ 32,500		

FY 24/25 Annual TOT Grants

	Organization Name	Approved FY 23/24 Grant Amount	Proposed Funding for FY 24/25	Notes
	Lake Tahoe Community College	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	
	Snowline Hospice	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	
	El Dorado County Veterans Alliance	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	
	Sierra Chaplaincy	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	
	MFSG/EDVR*	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	
	Only Kindness	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	
	El Dorado Food Bank	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	
	El Dorado Community Foundation	\$ 76,000.00	\$ 59,803.00	
	Veteran Services Office Assistant**	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 37,197.00	
	Total	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 175,000.00	

*The TOT Committee recommended and the Veteran Affairs Commission (VAC) approved at the July 13, 2023 VAC meeting to provide \$8,000 of FY 23/24 TOT funding to the Military Family Support Group (MFSG) for the FY 23/24 Annual Grants cycle. However, the contract with the MFSG was not able to be executed during FY 23/24; therefore the allocated 23/24 funds for the MFSG would be included as part of their FY 24/25 contract.

** Funding to support a permanent .50 FTE Office Assistant for the El Dorado County Veteran Services office (instead of an extra-help General Trainee) was recommended by the TOT Committee and approved by the VAC at the July 11, 2024 VAC meeting.



TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE



We are pleased to report that in August 2024, the Military Family Support Group received their TOT allotment funds for FY23-24 and began to utilize those funds by providing transportation of our veterans for medical appointments. The Veteran Affairs Commission approved the group be allotted TOT funds for FY24-25 as well.

BUDGET COMMITTEE



We began working with HHSA for the partial funding of a new position in the VSO office utilizing a portion of the allotted TOT funds the Veterans Affairs Commission received for FY24/25. This position will allow for more veterans to be assisted in the future. The position was filled on January 25, 2025.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE



The Commission continues to review and support Folsom Lake Community College and Lake Tahoe Community College in the use of TOT funds to provide supplies, books, travel and other needs of veterans seeking higher education.

Each year in September, *The Stand Down* is held at the Veterans Memorial Hall. During this event veterans can access various services as well as information on services outside the County they and their families may be eligible for.



SOCIAL MEDIA (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON THE REVISED BY- LAWS)



The social media Facebook page for the Commission reaches over 1410 followers.

The percentage of followers is:
43.70% - men 56.30% - women.

The Commission hopes to reach 2000 or more followers during FY25/26.

VETERAN MEMORIAL BUILDING



- Veterans Memorial Building House Council continues to do an exceptional job of managing the building ensuring that use is complying with Facility Use Agreement #255-O1611, effective 03/17/17-03/17/22, which included two additional 3 year terms after the initial expiration date. This agreement is funded with Discretionary Transient Occupancy Tax allocations in the amount not to exceed \$15,000.
- The Eagle Scout Project for honoring the fallen soldiers from El Dorado County has been completed and is on display at the Veterans Building in Placerville.
- The building has been repaired from the flood of 2023 and is open and being used.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN SERVICES



The following was reported to the Veteran Affairs Commission by the Veterans Services Officer;

- Through recruitment and interviews, the Veterans Services Office is fully staffed with 4 Veterans Service Representatives.
- Veterans Service Officer and Veterans Service Representatives have attended multiple training conferences throughout the year.
- Two current positions within the Veterans Services Office were accredited with Cal Vet to further assist veterans.
- Senate Bill 1124, which aims to protect veterans from predatory practices by addressing the issues of “claims sharking” was proposed to the state senate as well as VoterVoice which was introduced to help veterans engage in the legislative process.
- In December, Assembly Bill 53 was introduced that would exempt military retirements and Survivors Benefit Plan from state taxes.
- Recruitment and interviews for a new Office Assistant position began in December

EL DORADO COUNTY SENIOR OF THE YEAR

DAVID ZELENSKY



- David Zelensky was awarded the El Dorado County Senior of the Year award in May of 2024 for his work in assisting the homeless population and veterans in the community
- Vet Mentorship Program - David has provided countless hours to the support of our veterans in the Veterans Treatment Court Program
- He is to be commended for his dedication to our County's veterans and their families.

CHALLENGES

The only notable challenge facing the Veteran Affairs Commission is the ongoing discord between the Commission and the local Veterans organizations. Unfortunately, this is long standing and will require some concerted effort on both sides to work through our differences. We are committed to seeking solutions in the coming year.

GOALS

- Redefine the El Dorado County Veteran Owned Businesses program
- Boost the following of the Veterans Affairs Commission website through ongoing postings of local events and veteran's support.
- Continue to support Veterans in our County through the Mini Grant Program and annual grant program, by utilizing the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) dollars budgeted to the VAC each year.
- Invite local, state and federal agencies to speak to the Commission on veteran programs and issues.
- Encourage recipients of annual and mini grant funds to speak to the Commission on their accomplishments.

QUESTIONS?

