

**VETERANS ACCESSION HOUSE**  
**198 W 9<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Pittsburg, CA 94565**

**Board Meeting date:**September 8, 2018

**Members Present:**Nubia, Sherry, Jimmy and Leonard.

**Absent:**Mary, Daron and James.

**Call to Order:**10:30am

**Approved Minutes:**Leonard 1<sup>st</sup> and Sherry 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Financial Report:**Nubia raised \$300.00 on Facebook account. This brings the VAH account to approximately \$2,100.00.

**Old Business:**

- Leonard reported that per board request, he had reached out to a number of political appointed personalities to inform them and advance VAH name. He shared that he met with a representative Michael Sponsler from of Assemblyman's Tim Grayson's office. He called and spoke with Diana Ramirez from Senator Steven Glazer's office, with her requesting information on the VAH organization. He called and spoke with representative Ryan-Thomas Brown from Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, with a meeting planned for September 26, at 1100am. Lastly, he has secured an appointment with District five, County Board of Supervisor, Federal Glover October 3, at 3pm.
- He reported that he visited the office of Nathan Johnson, Contra Costa County from the Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office. He was not available, and brochures and business cards were left at the front counter.
- Visited Contra Costa County Junior College to meet Trinidad Ledesma, who was on the last day assigned to CCC. He is being transferred to Diablo Valley College. He accepted VAH brochures and stated that he would hand the material off to this supervisor, who was out of the office. She would need to vet the VAH Organization before they might display it for student access.

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- He visited the Martinez, HUD-VASH office and spoke with case worker James Cherry, and his supervisor, Reed Walker. She was interested in the program, and accepted literature/ brochures with an agreement to work toward supporting the VAH interest to service local veterans.
- Rough draft of a VAH business plan was presented to board members. Due to time constraints, each member took a copy home for their review and feedback to be discussed next meeting.

**New Business:**

- Repair priority – Leonard asked what the priority of repairs at the 198 W 9<sup>th</sup> St house. It was agreed that repairs of the front cement stairs entry way is in need of Immediate repairs and should be the first item fixed, with the water meter separation being second in the order of importance.
- Revisited the mailers that were sent out two months to identified veteran's organizations. Leonard reported that of the 140 sent out, approx. 30 were returned, with zero offers for donation and or services. It was proposed that because our website was not up or not stable, and being an unknown organization, that new sending be sent out using different language to appeal to the targeted audience.
- I was proposed that the established, but dormant Facebook, and Linked-in accounts, be updated, and maintained by Nubia. She agreed to take on the task and will keep the board advised of activities.
- VA Grant Per Diem funding will be made available for interested non-profits starting in November. Grant writers will be explored for the task in the coming month.
- Leonard has agreed to set up a table at the East Bay Stand Down, to be held at the Alameda County Fairground on Saturday, September 15th. He has ordered a Banner with the VAH emblem and information scrolled across it. Invitation for others to participate was opened with two possible, Jimmie and Sherry expressing interest, but will advised of availability in the coming days.
- Critical issue of expanding access criteria for VAH candidates. With the understanding that GPD would consider limiting the program to only Student Veterans, would be considered a barrier to access and disqualify the VAH for grant consideration. Further discussion with SFVAMC GPD case

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manager, Jackie Penland, will be followed up on, to gain a better understanding of common accepted practices within the transitional housing services industry. Leonard proposed to expand access to the program to include student and working veterans of the Desert Storm/Shield and 911 Veterans. Sherry and Jimmie second and thirded the proposal was adapted. How this might work will be determined and information brought back to the board for consideration at the next meeting.

- The need to set a limit of expected resident contribution was discussed. Leonard proposed a maximum amount to be set at \$600.00. This was presented as a means to encourage a draw to the program for Veterans who might consider higher rent contributions as being competitive with renting a single room in the community. Proposal Nubia first and Jimmie second the motion. The rental ceiling was adapted with the understanding that amount for rental contribution to be revisited as additional funding and donations become available. Sherry stipulated that this amount could be incorporated as part of a condition with residents to invest in a saving account to be used toward first and last month's deposits toward a goal of eventual independent living. This is in keeping with the VAH Transitional Housing statement.

**Open Discussion: What can we accomplish between now and next meeting?**

- Updating and maintain VAH Facebook. Linked and crowd share accounts.
- Leonard to look into SF Salesforce building access and use of boardroom as stated in their community agreement, to allow non-profits to use their space to conduct business.
- Review business plan for discussion next meeting.
- Nomination of new Board Member; a youthful Marine Reservist. Veteran has a Masters Degree, in business and works in his fathers tax business as an legal accountant. He will be invited to attend the next board meeting.
- Proposed changes to website to include dropdowns for donors, information, links to facebook and linkedin etc. Ideas are requested!!
- Open House for VAH possible date.

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**Adjourn:** 1:30pm

**Next Meeting:** October 13, 2018 at 1100 hours

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Nubia Ramirez**  
**Secretary, VAH Board of Directors**