

March 26, 2014

From Veterans Coordinating Council to

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

There have been changes at the Veterans Memorial Building. The signers of this letter hope that the Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara will give the Veterans Coordinating Council a provisional contract extension of one year. The County can with a 3 months notice at any time during that extension cancel that contract if the VCC and the VMB management do not perform up to the County's expectations.

With the return of a cost effective management with 15 years experience, the building today has a positive cash flow.

During our discussions of what the purpose of the building should be, the following issues have been addressed:

1. Our primary emphasis is to serve recent vets and vets into the future. Our secondary goal is to maintain the current services already in place.
2. We are changing our bylaws to admit Iraq, Afghanistan and future veteran organizations into the VCC as voting members. The Iraq and Afghanistan vets are already qualified. They are the future. Congress has not chartered any new veteran's organization since 1997. We will use a DD-214 as proof of service.
3. The VCC or special committees have to meet more often until issues are fully addressed and implemented.

There has been continuing discussions about how the building can serve the needs of all veterans and the Santa Barbara public. Here are some of those issues that individual vets and groups of vets have volunteered to implement:

- a. Two flat screen TVs and 3 computers with Internet connections are being installed in the Ocean View Room. This room will be made available for younger vets to study, have meetings or socialize.
- b. The VFW has a 2800 lumen projector with HDMI interface that make possible connection with any current computer or mobile device with Apple TV. This projector will be secured to an AV cart for security. This projector will fill the large screen in the Santa Barbara Hall room.
- c. The Santa Barbara Hall sound system, which is in very good condition, it needs a HDMI / Apple TV audio connection.

- d. The VFW has also loaned management 2 computers with which to run the building. (Mr. Magnum has helped the management get those computers functioning properly.)
- e. Some type of assisted hearing system is needed for the hard of hearing.
- f. Security cameras with recorders are needed for rooms with expensive equipment.
- g. Many vets have suggested and are willing to help restore the courtyard for economical weddings. The kitchen and reception hall make it an attractive venue. There is not all that much to do and we can obtain the materials at no cost to the County or changes to the building structure.
- h. A full size pool table is being acquired for the Harbor Room. We are making a cover for meetings as a conference table and place where vets can continue to hold their Wednesday AM coffee, various organizations have their monthly meetings and the room will be available for rentals to the public. An alternate ping pong table cover / conference table is being considered.
- i. A brochure guide for various vet services in Santa Barbara is being written and a different guide for the facilities offered to the general public.
- j. Members of 3 different organizations have made connections with the Ventura Military Collaborative to explore organizing a similar organization here in Santa Barbara.
- k. We are exploring getting Vet Center representatives from Ventura to visit Santa Barbara more often on a needed basis.
- l. In the past the VSO office has been in the VMB. Too many vets are not able to travel to the County General Hospital (?) for help.
- m. We are going to meet with our SB City Police Department Restorative Policing Officer C.J. Burleigh who often deals with vets on the edge.
- n. We are re-exploring the window upgrade with the Edison Company and County Building Administrator.
- o. South Santa Barbara County has not had a local Stand Down recently. There is a great need for vets who don't have transportation to North County.
- p. We have reestablished VMB neighborhood relations.
- q We have joined the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce.

r. We are preparing to record on video veterans stories for the Library of Congress and for the veteran's own families. It is important to do it while the older members are still able to do it. The Harbor room is ideal when not in use.

We understand that you have prepared to takeover management of the building. What we are asking is that you put those plans on hold, if that is possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

We the undersigned organizations of the Veterans Coordinating Council hereby request that our contract with The County of Santa Barbara be extended by one year with the option for you to cancel it every 3 months if we fail to perform according to your expectations.