

4/11/17

Veterans Cannabis Conference Calls

CONFERENCE CALL AGENDA AND SCHEDULE

**VCG Conference Call Updates Schedule:**

- 2nd Tuesday of the month @ 6pm PST
- Last Tuesday of the month @ 6pm PST
  
- Organizing Additional VCG Posts in CA and Other States
  - Scheduled calls are on the second Tuesday of each month at 6pm PST
  - CA is home base for the Veterans Cannabis Group. Our intent is to help organize the veterans in CA and across the nation so that we may all function as one group and work together to accomplish our mutual goals. We, the veteran community, need strong leaders to create additional VCG Posts nationwide and welcome those veterans who are interested.
  - First call scheduled for Tuesday, 4/11/17 @ 6pm PST
  
- speaking members;
  - Aaron Augustis - Founder of the Veterans Cannabis Group and US Army Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, <http://veteranscannabisgroup.com/#founder>
  
  - Michael Krawitz -  
Sergeant, disabled-retired USAF  
Executive Director VMCA  
<http://www.veteransformedicalcannabis.org/>
  
- Operation Surf
  - Santa Cruz event 3/30/17-4/5/17, Awesome Trip
  - Next Operation Surf event
    - Huntington Beach, CA
    - June 6-12th, 2017
    - Apply online - <http://amazingsurfadventures.org/programs/operation-surf/>
  - Starting a Marin/SF surf club
  
- Operation EVAC, Educating Veterans About Cannabis
  - <http://www.opecvac.org/>
  - VCG will be participating in the Operation EVAC meeting scheduled on Wednesday, April 19th, 2017 at the Apothecarium dispensary at 152 Church St, San Francisco from 6:30-8pm PST.
  - Connect Dr. Straz with Ryan Miller, referrals. Doctors and veterans
  - Job Posting for Hard Car Security
  - Looking for Marin County Operation EVAC Facilitator
    - Description of duties: Facilitate recurring 90-minute peer-led social support groups.
    - Procure, track, and report, complimentary cannabis redistribution.
    - Train dispensary staff about communication approaches that incentivize participation.
  
    - Contact Aaron Augustis and Ryan Miller

- Date to start the training
- Interested in facilitating - must go to Operation EVAC meetings
- 420 Games
  - The 420 Games are sponsoring a VCG Team! Free tickets to all VCG veteran members!
  - Weblink to follow to access the free tickets

## THE 420 GAMES SAN FRANCISCO

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**Where:** Golden Gate Park

**When:** Saturday, August 26th, 2017 | 8am – 2pm at The Spreckles Temple of Music Bandshell

*Come join The 420 Games as we hold our FOURTH ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO 420 GAMES!*

**This is a great event for all who want to exercise, listen to some beats, and partake in one of the fastest growing industries in the world!**

<https://420games.org/events/san-francisco-2017/>

- Constitutional Amendment - veterans requesting access from the VA
- Reopen IND - Investigative New Drug
- Get Trump to declare war on Veteran Suicide
- First official suggestions for state legislators - we want them to set aside some money, like the gambling sticker (if you gamble and have a problem, call this number) . If you are a veteran using medical cannabis, call this number. Recording with free veteran information, etc?
- Firearms and Medical Cannabis
  - **CAN I OWN OR BUY A GUN WITH A MEDICAL MARIJUANA CARD?**
  - <http://www.thecannabist.co/2016/08/31/federal-court-marijuana-gun-ban-second-amendment-rights/62286/>

“The federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms sent warning letters to gun dealers in 2011 warning them they could not sell to known medical marijuana users. When buying a gun, you may be asked whether you are a user of illegal drugs and/or medical marijuana.

Answering yes makes you ineligible to purchase; falsely answering no is in principle punishable as perjury. This should not affect current gun owners. Although California law does not prohibit medical marijuana users from having guns, using a gun in connection with an offense such as cultivation or possession for sale can result in additional criminal charges. Users are advised to keep their guns in a location that is separate from their marijuana.”

<http://www.canorml.org/medical-marijuana/patients-guide-to-california-law>

“Turning to federal firearms provisions, under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(3) no person “who is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance” may “possess . . . or . . . receive

any firearm or ammunition." In addition, it is unlawful for "any person to sell or otherwise dispose of any firearm or ammunition to any person knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that such person . . . is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance." Id. § 922(d)(3)."

<http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2016/08/31/14-15700.pdf>

"Firearms can result in harsher federal sentencing and may draw attention to patients. Even if your state protects patients' right to safe access to medical cannabis, the presence of firearms may increase the chances of an adverse state or federal law enforcement encounter, and harsher sentences if convicted. Again, the best law enforcement encounter is the one that never happens.

Under federal law, "any person who, during any drug trafficking crime for which the person may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, uses or carries a firearm, or who, in furtherance of any such crime, possesses a firearm, shall:

1. Be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years;
2. If the firearm is brandished, not less than 7 years; and
3. If the firearm is discharged, not less than 10 years."

Although the U.S. Constitution confers a right to carry firearms, we have seen many patients face extreme legal consequences for having firearms in addition to plants.

In addition, the memo issued by the Department of Justice in 2009, which was intended to provide the U.S. Attorneys' Offices with guidance on the prosecution of medical cannabis patients and providers, specifically mentions the presence of firearms as an example of "potential federal interest" that probably falls outside of "clear and unambiguous compliance" with underlying state law. In other words, beyond the sentencing enhancements, the presence of firearms makes patients and providers a more likely target for federal prosecution.

ASA strongly advises that, if you are a medical cannabis patient, do not carry firearms or keep them on your property or allow others to do so."

[http://www.safeaccessnow.org/knowning\\_your\\_rights](http://www.safeaccessnow.org/knowning_your_rights)

- Veterans Equal Access Amendment
  - Definition of amendment and the significance of needing it to pass this year.  
**"Language that would have allowed Veterans Administration doctors to recommend medical marijuana to patients has been stripped from a spending bill."** <http://www.benefitspro.com/2016/10/04/congress-still-denies-vets-access-to-medical-marij>
  - Action Plan - contact members of the Veterans House Oversight Committee
  - Objective - We want them to co-sponsor the Veterans Equal Access Amendment
- Discuss steps veterans should follow on VA treatment and documentation in regards to cannabis if threatened or "punished" by your doctor;
  - Veteran - release of information, get a copy of your medical file
  - Get the doctor to write it out. Demand a written copy of the rules
    - "It is unethical to be threatened to take away your medication"

- **Announcements**

- next meeting date/time and topic - Advocacy Action Steps, Organizing new Posts, networking with your local cannabis businesses and how to create partnerships

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  - Last Tuesday of the month @ 6pm PST
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- Patients Out of Time will be holding The Eleventh National Clinical Conference on Cannabis Therapeutics that will be held in Berkeley on May 18 -20.
  - There will be a Veterans support group on Wed., May 21st (all Vets welcome, hosted by local Weed for Warriors group) and a Veteran Activist meeting on Sunday, May 21 with Michael Krawitz and Jeff Staker (IL) will be leading it. More info at [www.patientsoutoftime.org](http://www.patientsoutoftime.org). POT was started by 2 Veterans)
  - Hard Car Security - job postings
    - <http://www.hardcarsecurity.com/>