



**UNITED VETERANS
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(13 DECEMBER 2011)

**MEETINGS AT VFW POST 9644
2680 W Hampden Ave
Englewood, CO 80110-1906 303-
789-9733**

West of Santa Fe on highway 285. First traffic light, turn right (Brady Court) and follow curving road to top of hill. VFW Post on left OR Turn North on Federal, and then right on Hampden and VFW Post will be on your right

- 1. CALL TO ORDER 0900 hrs**
- 2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE TO THE FLAG**
- 3. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR MIA-POW:**
- 4. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

First Time Attendees / Visitors Welcomed

1. Pamela Staves – Denver VA Med Center
2. Ben Cordova – The Ben Cordova Foundation
3. Jeffery C Johnson – Veterans Assistance League of Colo
4. Chuck Bruen – US Dept of Veterans Affairs
5. Bruce Dolan – VFW Dept Sr Vice Commander
6. Melissa Dawson – VFW Dist 1 Jr Vice Commander
7. Lewis H Entz – Homelake Advisory Committee
8. Russell Dennis – Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Guest Speaker – Pamela Staves – Nurse Practitioner, Denver VA Med Ctr., MIRECC

- The VA has transitioned from the “Suicide Prevention Hotline” to the “Veterans Crisis Line”. Same phone number. Now includes “chat on line” and “text messages”.
- The research group – MIRECC (Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center) is looking for volunteers to participate in studies. For more information please call Pamela Staves at 303-399-8020 ext 2557.

Guest Speaker – Tom Allee – Center for American Values.

- Spoke on, and distributed a DVD on, Patriots at Home Conference.
- Located at 101 South Main Street, River Walk Suite 100, Pueblo, CO. Web Site www.americanvaluescenter.org

Guest Speaker – Ben Cordova – Pres/Founder The Ben Cordova Foundation.

- Spoke on Walking Across America on April 15, 2012 for Fund and Awareness to help Veterans.

5. ROLL CALL

6. REPORTS

- Secretary – Minutes approved
- Treasurer – Financial Report approved

7. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS (not in precise order)

1. Warrior Gateway, Nathalia Magri
 - Will launch in January 2012 their GI Network For more information contact Nathalia Magri at nathalia.magri@warriorgateway.org
2. American Legion, Frank McCurdy
 - Need UVC support to overcome Colo DORA efforts to use Liquor Enforcement to control social gambling.
3. Veterans of Foreign Wars – Bruce Dolan, Dept Sr Vice Commander, Wayne Thompson, Dept Judge Advocate, Melissa Dawson, Dist 1 Sr Vice.

- The VFW is engaged with the Dept of Revenue and the Sec of State concerning allegations that VSO's and Non Profits are in violation of the State Liquor Code, specifically holding a daily drawing with is legal under our bingo/raffle licenses.
 - The Dept of VA is creating longer backlogs for veterans to obtain benefits. They have mandated re-evaluations of 100% permanent Disability vets pushing current conflict vets back of evaluations.
4. In Support of CSU Ventures – Coby Leuschke
 - ACC Automotive Tech Program Tour for Veterans Jan 6, 2012 11:00 am, Littleton campus.
 5. Home Lake Advisory Committee – Lewis Entz
 - CSVV Homelake Cemetery Enlargement with the donations of \$213,000. The area is ready for burial at the present time. Need the approval of DHS to expand. We have 6 spaces left in the existing cemetery.
- 8. UVC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – Jay Bobick**
 - Urge UVC Members and their Organization's members to attend the Veterans Appreciation Day At The Capitol on January 23, 2012.
 - Continuing work on Lottery for Veterans
 - Finalizing wording and direction of Veterans Preference Bill for 2012 session.
 - Addressing preservation of Funding Levels for Current Veterans Issues.
 - Requested support for Federal HB 2530, a bill to increase flexibility in establishing payment for nursing home care provided by State Veterans Nursing Homes be added to the UVC Legislative Goals and Priorities. This will be voted on at the next UVC meeting.
 - 9. UVC BANQUET COMMITTEE - Report by Ken Melcher**
 - Banquet to be held on April 29, 2012 at Renaissance Hotel. Please Block the date. Guest Speaker has been invited.
 - 10. UVC NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Report by George Thomas**
 - Nothing New to Report
 - 11. UVC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**
 - Nothing New to Report
 - 12. COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – Jim Stanko, Chairman**
 - Update on Annual Report to the Governor. The report will be available at the January UVC meeting.
 - Review some issues at the Veterans Cemetery at Homelake.
 - Tim Drago will report on the Colorado Veterans Monument at today's CBVA meeting.
 - 13. VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION - Report by Jay Bobick**
 - Quality Life Management and Pinon Management have joined forces in a strategic company merger.
 - The Commission Annual Report is finalized for submission to the Governor, State Legislature, and concerned citizens.
 - The Sale of the Trinidad State Nursing Home is complete.
 - All State Veterans Nursing Homes are operating in the black.
 - Construction at Rifle continues.
 - The Homelake Cemetery Beautification Project is complete at a cost of \$20,000, all of which was donated.
 - 14. VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION –**
 - No Report.
 - 15. VETERANS IN HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT - Cameron Cook, UCD**

- No Report.

16. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS.

- **Congressman Perlmutter - Bill Holen**
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- **Congressman Gardner – Absent**
- **Representative Jared Polis – Absent**
- **Congressman Lamborn - Absent**
- **Congressman Scott Tipton – Absent**
- **Representative Coffman - Absent**
- **Representative DeGette – Absent**
- **Senator Bennet – Hal Bidlack - Absent**
- **Senator Mark Udall – Carolyn Boller - Absent**
- **Governor Hickenlooper –**
 - No Report.

17. VA CEMETERIES – No Report

18. VA ECHCS – Jordan Shupbach

- Holiday Greetings from Director Roth
- Yesterday VA/HUD announced that Homeless Veterans dropped 12% in 2011, which is on track to end Veteran Homelessness by 2015. \$100M in grants.
- Excavation contracted awarded for new Denver VA Hospital.

19. VA Regional Office – No Report

20. VISN 19 – Anita Urdiales

- VISN is responsible for oversight of the 6 VAMC's and Clinics in our region. We cover 4 primary states (WY, UT, CO, MT) and portions of 5 other states. VISN 19 has 68 sites of care in our region and is led by a Network Director, Glen Grippen.
- Glenn is retiring at the end of December after 40 years of service. The position has been announced and nomination for acting ND forwarded for approval.

21. DMVA – Greg Dorman

- Military and Veterans Appreciation day at the state Capitol will be on 23 January, 2012.

22. OLD BUSINESS –

- The tabled motion “A Motion for the UVC to support, in principal, the concept of a Colorado Lottery Veterans Scratch Ticket joint resolution” was brought off the table. The Motion passed.

23. NEW BUSINESS

- None.

24. UVC PRESIDENT COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Donations Received:**
- **Sons of the American Legion - \$500**
- **Veterans of Viet Nam MC – \$100**
- **VWIN - \$75**

25. ADJOURN

Next meeting is January 10, 2012.

Submitted by Izzy Abbass, UVC Interim Secretary