



**UNITED VETERANS
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(13 SEPTEMBER 2011)

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

West of Sante 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. John Vaught – Colorado BAR Association
 2. Kathleen Duneman – CO Board of Veterans Affairs
 3. Susan Romani – Vet. Widows/Widowers International
 4. Braelin Pantel – Metro State College
 5. Tom Pritchard – Student Vets at CSU
 6. Nathalia Magri – Warrior Gateway
 - Guest Speaker – **Bruce Benson, President University Colorado. Addressed transportation issues at Fitz. Campus. Met w/UVC reps on July17, 2011 to discuss issues & possible solutions. Road issues addressed. Still issue of getting their timely. Also introduced Workforce Initiative Now program. RTD, UVC, VA and Campus working together on 225 corridor issues; R. Bozella suggested UVC subcommittee to work with CU and RTD. S. Rylant and B. Rogoff volunteered.**
5. **ROLL CALL**
6. **REPORTS**
 - Secretary – Minutes approved
 - Treasurer – Total assets as of August 31, 2011 - \$35,524.75; K. Melcher made motion to approve; Seconded by S. Rylant; Approved
7. **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS (not in precise order)**
 - Student Veterans at CSU – Tom Pritchard
 1. Veterans Week at CSU, Nov 7-12
 2. Veterans Day 5k Race; Looking for Sponsors
 3. CSU rated most veteran friendly campus in the nation by GI Jobs Magazine.
 - Colorado BAR Association
 1. Veterans Legal Clinic on 11-11-11; Pro Bono legal service to Colo. Veterans
 - Veteran's Widows/Widowers International – Susan Romani
 1. Due to Edamee Hills retirement, Susan will be representative
 - Metro State College – Braelin Pantel, Associate Dean
 1. Traveling Tribute Wall will be at Auraria Campus, Nov 4-5.
 2. Veterans Day Fireworks hosted by VFW Post 1 will be at Auraria by the Wall will be Saturday, Nov. 5 from 3-7pm
 - Women Marines Association; Columbine Chapter – Paula Sarlls
 1. 5th Annual Marine Memorial 5k to be held on 24 Sept 11 at Aurora Reservoir
 - American Legion – Gary Force
 1. National Convention held at end of August; Attended by President Obama and VA Secretary Shenseki
 2. Tom Bock, Ralph Bozella and Jim Gillis met with Schenseki & Staff on VA hospital build.

- Veterans of Foreign Wars – Steve Rylant
 1. National Convention in San Antonio Aug 27-31
 2. Next Department Council of Administration in Oct. in Ft Morgan
 - National Assoc. for Uniformed Services RM Chapter – Frank Whiteman
 1. Both Senators have co-sponsored Senate Bill 663 but not yet voted on by Senate
 2. Reps DeGette and Perlmutter have cosponsored HR 23; Remainder of delegation has not signed on. Encouraged to do so.
 3. 8,000 remaining Merchant Marines who should be eligible to receive compensation. Funds allocated in 110th Congress but not appropriated. Many need help now.
 - Air Force Sergeants Assn. – Ken Melcher
 1. Night of Honor – Nov 11 6:30-9:30pm at Colorado Community Church 3651 S. Colorado Blvd.; Recognizing Vietnam Era Vets.
 2. Veterans Salute November 2nd at Wings Over the Rockies
 - CONG Education Foundation – Bernie Rogoff
 1. MIA/POW Flags available
 2. Tuition Grants made of 25K on Sat Sept 17
 - Colorado Women Veterans Conference and Health Fair – Kathleen Duneman CBVA
 1. To be held on Setp 17th at Wings over the Rockies
 2. Job and Health Fair
 3. Room for more exhibitors and hope to make it an annual event
 - T3RG Motorcycle Schools – Colleen Boyle
 3. Invitation to Fourth Annual Civilian Top Gun Riding Competition.
 4. Event is May 15 and is a fund raiser for Veterans Issues.
- 8. UVC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – Jay Bobick**
- Working with Co Legislators in prep for 2012 session
 - UVC organizations are requested to submit issues their groups want included in UVC goals and priorities.
 - SB11-109. Motion and Second for UVC to Support the House Amendment deleting the Priority status for the new check off for Public Education. Passed Unanimously.
- 9. UVC BANQUET COMMITTEE - Report by Ken Melcher**
- Banquet prices next year will be \$50.00
 - Date and Guest have not been decided.
- 10. UVC NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Report by George Thomas**
- UVC in need of a Secretary
 - Izzy Abbass – VFW Post 1 nominated and approved at Interim Secretary
- 11. UVC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**
- Received application for National Association for Uniformed Services – Rocky Mountain Chapter.
 - Received application from City of Aurora Veteran's Affairs Commission.
- 12. COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – Robbie Robinson, Vice Chairman**
- Bi-Annual Survey's sent out – 42,000; Only 400 responses
 - Survey available online: <http://www.dmva.state.co.us/vets/>
 - Get the word out and take the survey!!
- 13. VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION - Report by Jay Bobick**
- Annual Joint Meeting of the Commission, CBVA and Board of Human Services. Commission Chair was invited to attend BHS meetings throughout the year.
 - Chair visited VNH throughout the state. All homes now operating without a loss. Staff stability is excellent.
- 14. VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION – Brad Honl**
- 15. FITZSIMONS NURSING HOME ADVISORY BOARD – Ken Melcher**
- 16. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS.**
- **Congressman Perlmutter – Excused**

- **Congressman Gardner – Peter Fendel - Absent**
- **Representative Jared Polis – Stuart Feinhor**
 - Hosted a successful Veterans Forum with Sen. Udall on Aug 23
 - Family of Gina Salazar grateful and touched by expressions of condolence
 - Military Service Academy Noms handled out of Boulder office by Christine Berg and Andy Schultheiss
 - Board of Visitors Staffer is now Stuart
 - Working on ways to inform vets on issues on GM Food created by Monsanto; Working with Veterans Green Jobs
- **Congressman Lamborn – Absent**
- **Congressman Scott Tipton – Dustin Sherer - Absent**
- **Representative Coffman – Myron Spanier - Absent**
- **Representative DeGette – Andrea Autobee - Absent**
- **Senator Bennet – Hal Bidlack - Absent**
- **Senator Mark Udall – Carolyn Boller - Absent**
- **Governor Hickenlooper – Gary Sanford**
 - No report

17. VISN 19, VARO, VA CEMETERIES, VA ECHCS, VA DALC, VA HEALTH CENTER

- VA Regional Office – Rebecca Sawyer Smith
 - Women Veterans Conference
 - 9News doing the 9 Cares for Vets on Oct 28 at studio on Speer
 - Homeless Stand Down on Nov 3 at Denver Armory
 - Still hiring/interviewing to help process veteran claims
 - Acting Director Tracey Bells here through September; No new Director named yet.
- Fort Logan National Cemetery – Joe Turnbach, Director
 - 324 Internments in August; 205 Cremations, 119 Caskets
 - Veterans Day Ceremony 11/11/11 at 1100.

18. VA Denver Acquisitions and Logistics

19. VA Health Administration Center – Glenn Johnson

20. DMVA – No Report

21. OLD BUSINESS

22. NEW BUSINESS

- UVC Breakfast at Governors Mansion on 18 Oct; Limited to 120 slots; No guests.

23. UVC PRESIDENT COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

24. ADJOURN

Next meeting is November 8, 2011.

Submitted by Izzy Abbass, UVC Secretary