



**UNITED VETERANS
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(8 MARCH 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. Danielle Hamilton – Denver Human Services Veteran Intern,
 2. Les Johnson – Veteran, Rotary Club Southeast Denver
 3. Barbara Martinez – VARO Outreach Coordinator
 4. Scott Lawson – Adams County Veterans Officer
 - Guest Speaker – Dick Young of ESGR Spoke on “Hire a Vet”.
5. **ROLL CALL**
6. **REPORTS**
 - Secretary – Minutes approved
 - Treasurer – Report accepted
7. **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS** (not in precise order)
 - VFW – Steve Rylant – Past Dept Commander
 1. VFW Dept of Colo State Officers are in Washing DC for the Legislative Conference
 2. The VFW is a Major Supporter of the 9/11 Freedom Rally.
 - MOPH – Jeff Roy – Past National Commander
 1. Reported on a Purple Heart Ceremony in Longmont on 2/22 for a Korean War Vet 60+ years after being wounded.
 - Air Force Sergeants Assoc. - Ken Melcher
 1. Ft Logan Memorial Day Celebration 30 May at 11:00 am. Fly Over has been approved and guest speakers confirmed.
8. **UVC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – Nate Gorman and Jay Bobick**
 - Passage of HB 1027 and HB 1037
 - HB 1129 was defeated but Veterans Preference legislation from Representative Pabon will be in 2012
 - Hearings 3/9 HB 1219 Voting Military Overseas Amended
 - SB 024 Veterans State Park Admission
 - SB170 need grass roots opposition.
 - Major emphasis on the hill is budget deficient ad methods to resolve.
9. **UVC BANQUET COMMITTEE** - Report by Ken Melcher and Marvin Myers
 - The UVC Awards Banquet will be held on 10 April, 2011 at the Renaissance Hotel 3801 Quebec Street. Reception 3:30 pm, Dinner 5:pm.
 - Get your ads in NLT 25 March.
 - Get your attendance NLT April 1.
10. **UVC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**
 - Narfe and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve will be voted on at next meeting.
11. **COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – Ralph Bozella, Chairman**

- The Board will meet today to discuss a new Veterans survey
 - Will hear from the Veterans Higher Education Committee headed by Izzy Abbass
 - Will hear a report on a possible Women Veterans Conference later in 2011
 - The Board and DMVA attended the ribbon cutting of the 4th Quarter Apartments. Homeless Veterans are already living in these apartments.
 - VTF Grant proposals were due March 1.
12. **VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION** - Report by Jay Bobick
- .Next meeting is March 11 at the Fitzsimons state veterans nursing home.
 - Will review/rewrite bylaws
 - Impact of SB170
 - Meet new DHS Director.
13. **VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION – Brad Honl**
- the SVNH have submitted applications for the Pay for Performance Program.
 - Fitzsimons, Home Lake and Florence submitted applications for Veterans Trust Fund
 - The new grill food options at Florence have been well received
 - Fitzsimons and Rifle continue to wait for VA Survey results.
 - All the homes have had positive contributions to the 505 fund this fiscal year
 - Fitzsimons had a very good state Survey last month
 - The Division and the Homes will be present at the UVC Banquet
 - Home Lake has admitted two more residents to the Doms.
14. **Pinon Management –**
- Rifle – Back in compliance QIS Survey
 - Continue to work with Culture change
 - Continue to provide support as needed.
15. **FITZSIMONS NURSING HOME ADVISORY BOARD – Ken Melcher**
- Meets on the 25 March at 2: PM.
16. **CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS.**
- **Congressman Perlmutter – Bill Holan**
 - CR Issue -MilClon/VA appropriation Protected
 - **Congressman Gardner –**
 - No Report.
 - **Representative Jared Polis –**
 - No Report.
 - **Congressman Lamborn –**
 - No Report.
 - **Representative Coffman – Myron Spanier**
 - Town Hall Meetings
 - Heritage Eagle Bend Club House 21 March (Aurora)
 - Ken Carlyle Ranch House 23 March (Jefco)
 - **Representative DeGette – Andrea Autobee - Aide**
 - No Report
 - **Senator Bennet – Bennie Miller**
 - No Report.
 - **Governor Hickenlooper –**
 - No Report.
17. **VISN 19, VARO, VA CEMETERIES, VA ECHCS, VA DALC, VA HEALTH CENTER**
- VA Regional Office – Rebecca Smith, Public Affairs Officer
 - Working hared on getting our work load down, especially those with one of the 3 new presumptives.

- Working on several outreach initiatives
- TeleBenefits is a program to bring veterans benefits counseling to rural veterans.
- Brought Barbara Martinez, outreach coordinator to talk about initiatives in Homeless Veterans Outreach..
- Fort Logan National Cemetery – Joe Turnbach, Director
 1. Conducted 317 interments in Feb-160 of those were cremation.
 2. The DOD will no longer supply Ft. Logan with ammunition for the All Veterans Honor Guard.
 3. Individual VSO Post's can receive ammunition directly from DOD at no charge as long as there are registered. Please call Ft. Logan at 303-761-0117 and ask for Joe Turnbach or O'Neal Hughes if you have any questions.
- ECHCS – Lynette Roth, Director
 - **Electro physiology** – started this February 22. Veterans no longer need to travel to Seattle for these procedures
 - **DaVinci – Robotics** for radical prostectomies approved and ready to go. Eventually will be able to do gynecology procedures as well
 - **Orientation new congressional Staffers/Congressman** – planning on an orientation to the Medical Center and clinics for all new Congressional Staffers
 - **Homeless Vet Forum** – held February 8. Over 50 participants from local community, VA and other state, local and county agencies
 - **Status Dom** – looking for suitable location/building for Homeless Dom
 - **Status Community Resource and Referral Center** – looking for partner for CRRC
 - **Annual Report** – many thanks to Jordan Schupbach and Shaw Fury for designing and publishing our first annual report. Ask that you give feedback to Jordan about what you would like to see in future issues
 - **Aurora Sentinel Section** – we are very pleased to see a large write up about the new facility in the Sentinel.
 - **Replacement Facility**
 - All pictures on Face Book - all information about new facility including architectural renditions are on face book.
 - WWW.facebook.com/denverva
 - Placement facility – March 15 begins renovation of UPI/Clinic Building South
 - Colorado Springs – hope to have announcement re – location any day.
 - **Status C+P and DES exams**
 - JIF – Surgeries to date – 181 exams
 - Ophthalmologist position finalized and selected.
 - Urologist – started clinics and begins procedures March 25
- VISN 19 – Anita Urdiales – Health Systems Specialist
 1. A Fact Sheet and a brochure on Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) was shared with UVC attendees. Each facility in the VISN is implementing Patient Aligned Care Teams to deliver excellence in every aspect of patient care.
 2. VA has partnered with Planetree to conduct Voice of Veteran Focus groups. The purpose is to hear the voice of Veteran users and non-users of the VA system. We are trying to ascertain what will attract and retain Veterans to our system and incorporate feedback into our strategic planning. ECHCS will be the first site in the VISN to conduct these focus groups.
 3. We are searching for 12-14 Veterans who are eligible for VA care and who are NOT using VA services to participate in a focus group. If you know of someone who would be interested in participating in an hour focus group on April 8, 2011, please contact Anita Urdiales at 3-3=639-6992 or Jordan Schupbach at 303-393-5205.

4. 1st Homeless Forum @ Cheyenne VA was held in February, 2011. VA and non-VA providers from WY and northern CO met to discuss activities underway to eliminate veteran homelessness. Approx. 40 attendees. Several from agencies throughout northern Colorado.
- Cheyenne VA Hospital Report – Andrew Ruben
 - OEF/OIF Program participated in Veterans outreach event @ Front Range Community College on 02/23, productive as several VHA 1010EZ's were distributed.
 - Tour of Ft. Collins CBOC w/ Peter Fendel (District Rep for US Congressman Cory Gardner) on 03/02/11. Received positive feedback.
 - Director's 'Whistle-Stop Tour' scheduled for FTC & Greeley on 03/16/11.

18. VA Denver Acquisitions and Logistics

19. VA Health Administration Center – Glenn Johnson

20. DMVA – Mickey Hunt, Deputy Director

21. OLD BUSINESS – Motion by Ralph Bozella, second by Wayne Thompson and tabled at the last meeting was voted on. There was one vote against it, so by rule it was defeated.

22. NEW BUSINESS –

- None.

23. UVC PRESIDENT COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please attend the UVC Banquet
- Please buy an ad in the UVC Banquet Program
- Consider sponsoring a guest at a table (\$20)
- Notify your organization members to call your Representatives and Senators to oppose SB170.

24. ADJOURN

Next meeting is April 12, 2011.

Submitted by Steve Rylant, UVC Secretary