

**UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE OF COLORADO (UVC)**

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>



**UVC**  
**P.O BOX 31261**  
**AURORA, CO 80041-1261**

MINU

**(12 OCTOBER, 2010)**

**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.

**NEW WEB ADDRESS:**

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>

**NEW Email:**

[secty@unitedveteranscommittee.com](mailto:secty@unitedveteranscommittee.com)

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. Kelly Dougherty – Veterans Green Jobs
    2. Jennifer Latini – Combat Vets Motorcycle Association
    3. Len Skovira - Horizon Bay Retirement Communities.
    4. Brad Gallup – Colorado Hire Patriots and Rocky Mountain Veterans Alliance.
  - Guest Speaker - Garrett Reppenhagen – Veterans Green Jobs.
    1. Veterans Green Jobs is a nonprofit helping veterans connect to meaningful career training and employment in jobs that serve our environment and communities.
5. **ROLL CALL**
6. **REPORTS**
  - Secretary – Minutes approved
  - Treasurer – Report
  - Money Market Account
    - Beginning Balance 10/1/2010 \$36,347.83
    - Ending Balance 10/31/2010 \$34,762.93
  - Share Draft Account
    - Beginning Balance 10/1/2010 \$ 244.59
    - Ending Balance 10/31/2010 \$ 90.01
  - Total Monetary Assets 9/30/2010 \$34,852.94
  - Accepted
7. **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS (not in precise order)**
  - American Legion – Ralph Bozella, National Executive Committee
    - The American Legion is opposed to requiring passing a test on the US Constitution for students to graduate high school. There are too many tests for school children. The American Legion sponsors the High School Oratorical Contest where students speak on the US Constitution
    - Congratulations to Frank McCurdy who led the charge for the American Legion against Amendment P. Congratulations to all who worked on this effort to defeat it.

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- VFW – Steve Rylant, Past Dept Commander and Wayne Thompson, State Legislative Chairman.
    1. The Department Officers just returned from the Western Conference in Wichita, KS.
    2. The Colorado VFW Foundation Director will be speaking at the Combined Federal campaign Kick Off tomorrow.
    3. Thank you to all for help defeating Ref P
  - Aurora Veterans Salute – Ken Melcher
    1. The Aurora Veterans Salute will be held November 10 at Wings over the Rockies. Group reservations are available though September 24.
  - Colorado Hire Patriots and Rocky Mountain Alliance, Brad Gellup.
    1. Explained the mission of his organization.
  - VFW Post 1 - Izzy Abbass, Commander
    1. VFW Post 1 will be hosting the VFW Founders Day Banquet December 5.
  - VWIN – Edmee Hills, National Chairman.
    1. All military retirees, their families, and veteran’s survivors who qualify for VA health care benefits are faced with the most critical decision the United States Congress with make in the next 20 days.
    2. Medicare SGR mandates 29.6% cuts as of Jan 1, 2011. The Congress must deal with the Medicare “Doc Fix”. Tricare rates are based on Medicare rates.
  - Horizon Bay Retirement Communities, Len Skoviar
    1. Invited veterans to a free dinner on Nov 18.
  - Retiree Activities Buckley AFB, Bob VanSciver
    1. Explained the new Biometric Identification System.
  - VA PACT – Ralph Bozella
    1. Ralph and Bernie Rogoff are representing veterans on the VA Patient Aligned Care Team PACT. Culture change with in the VA to patient centered health care.
  - Combat Vets Motorcycle Association, Bob Clements
    1. Briefed the mission of the CVMA
8. **UVC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – James Bobick, Nate Gorman,**
- UVC Goals and Priorities were passed by unanimous vote.
9. **UVC BANQUET COMMITTEE - Report by Ken Melcher.**
- The UVC Awards Banquet will be held on 10 April, 2011 at the Renaissance Hotel located at Quebec and Smith Road.
10. **UVC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**
- Motion was passed to accept for associate membership veterans Green Jobs, Forgotten Heroes Campaign, and Colorado Military History Center.
  - Application for Associate Membership was submitted by Combat Vets.
11. **COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – Ralph Bozella, Chairman**
- The Board will meet November 10 at Wings over the Rockies. We will hear reports from American Military Family for Support the Troops License Plates, VISN 19, SVNH Amin and others. The Veterans Trust Fund grants are in operation and we funded Homeless Veteran Standowns in Colo Springs, Pueblo, Grand Junction, Denver and Ft Collins. Attended the dedication of the Homelake domiciliary units. The Board received the Presidents Award from PVA and we appreciate the recognition.
12. **VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION - Report by Jay Bobick**

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- Based on the failure of the Las Animas County Ballot Measure to provide tax increase to purchase the Trinidad State Nursing Home, the Dept of Human Services has accepted the Proposed Purchase of the nursing home by C&G Health care Management based in Southeastern Colorado.

### **13. VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION – Nancy Schwalm, Pinon Management**

- Update on Pinon's continued consulting in al SVNH except Walsenburg.
- Rifle and Fitz in their Federal / State Surveys.
- All homes focused on clinical care systems, enhanced customer satisfaction and continued occupancy. Encourage UVC involvement in supporting ongoing Medicare/Medicaid funding to veterans served in SVNH.

### **14. FITZSIMONS NURSING HOME ADVISORY BOARD – Ken Melcher**

- Next meeting will be 19 Nov, 2 – 4 pm. The VA survey team is in house.

### **15. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS.**

- **Congressman Perlmutter** - Bill Holen – Congressional Staff
  - Has contacted VA sec Shinseki concerning the UVC Annual Banquet.
  - Continues to work with VA and IDC contractor to ensure Veterans and Vet owned businesses have opportunities for employment.
- **Congresswoman Markey** – Jamie Grimm
  - .
- **Representative Jared Polis** - Stuart Feinhor – Veterans Advocate
  - .
- **Congressman Lamborn** – Military Liaison Dale Anderson.
  - Met with undersecretary Muro about National Cemetery for Southern Colorado
  - Environmental Study under way, no show stoppers for Kane Ranch Site.
  - Still about 2 year away from grand opening.
- **Representative Coffman** - Myron Spanier – Staff
  - Need to pass 13 appropriations bills, keep gov't working
  - Need a tax fix
  - Congressman is looking forward to being in the majority this time around.
- **Senator Bennet** – Bennie Millner, Community Liaison
  - Thanks and appreciation for the support during Seen Bennet's Candidacy
  - A request for assistance in obtaining a furnace for a Vet W/ Stage 4 Cancer that has spread. His case is at BVA and he's in tough financial straits.
- **Governor Ritter** – Adrian Miller, Senior Analyst
  - .

### **16. VISN 19, VARO, VA CEMETERIES, VA ECHCS, VA DALC, VA HEALTH CENTER**

- VA Regional Office – Janice Jacobs, Director
  1. Homeless Standown 11/4/10 100 volunteers, 527 homeless vets served.
  2. The Denver VARO was recognized as the Best Regional Office in the West out of 15 offices, and the 6<sup>th</sup> best in the country.
  3. Expect to grow this year since the DALC is moving out of our building.
- Fort Logan National Cemetery – Joe Turnbach, Director
  1. 322 internments in October
  2. 200 Cremations

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3. Vets Day Ceremony Nov 11
  4. Moving forward with plans for a National Cemetery in El Paso County.
  - ECHCS – Lynette Roff, Director
    1. Project Eagle report
    2. CBS/UPI Report
    3. Colorado Springs Report
    4. Lakewood Report
    5. Domiciliary Report
    6. C&P Report
    7. Expanding Disability exams to Air Force
    8. Joint Incentive Fund AFA
    9. Patient Aligned Care Teams
    10. HUD/VASH .
  - Cheyenne VA Hospital – Andrew Ruben, Public Affairs Officer
    1. Reported on VISN 19.
  - VISN 19 – Andrew Ruben for Anita Urdiales
    - Oct 1 is beginning of FY11
    - VSSAN 19 will follow SECVA Transformation Initiatives
    - Some priorities are homelessness, mental health, Telehealth, patient aligned care teams, women’s health access, health care efficiencies.
- 17. VA Denver Acquisitions and Logistics**
- 18. VA Health Administration Center – Glenn Johnson**
- 19. DMVA – Mickey Hunt, Deputy Director**
- State Veterans Nursing Homes were visited by the TAG.
  - Veterans Days events attended by senior Guard leadership..
- 20. OLD BUSINESS - None**
- 21. NEW BUSINESS - None**
- 22. UVC PRESIDENT COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 23. UVC SECOND VICE PRESIDENT COMMENT**
- **When sending e-mails with attachments to be forwarded by the UVC Secretary, use .doc files , not .docx files. Many recipients do not have the newest MS Word software and can not open .docx files.**
- 24. ADJOURN**

**Next meeting is December 14, 2010.**

Submitted by Steve Rylant, UVC Secretary

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