

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

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>



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

**MINUTES**

**(9 MARCH, 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. David Keener, TREA #39
    2. Marci Smith, Major (ret) USAF, Project Sanctuary
    3. Larry Smith, Leadership Aurora / Aurora Chamber
    4. C W Conner, Lifequest Transitions
  - Guest Speakers
    1. C W Conner, Lifequest Transitions
      - a. Introduction to Eagle Quest
      - b. The program utilizes adventure based training to develop self-improvement skills
      - c. EQ is a full blown program that provides over 30 hours of training per month.
5. **ROLL CALL**
6. **REPORTS**
  - Secretary – Minutes approved
  - Treasurer – Report Approved
    - Money Market Account
      - Beginning Balance 2/1/2010 \$32,712.23
      - Ending Balance 2/28/2010 \$31,662.93
    - Share Draft Account
      - Beginning Balance 2/1/2010 \$ 93.31
      - Ending Balance 2/28/2010 \$ 2,237.27
7. **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS (not in precise order)**
  - American Legion – Jim Gillis, State Jr Vice Commander
    1. The American Legion National Commander will be in Colorado April 6 – 10, 2010
    2. Anyone wishing to meet the National Commander should contact Legion Headquarters at 303-366-5201 to get his schedule.
  - DAV – Chuck Dickerson, Past State Commander
    1. The DAV's State Convention is on May 19 – 21, Double Tree Hotel, 3203 Quebec St., Denver.
  - VFW – Steve Rylant, Past State Commander and Wayne Thompson, Legislative Chairman

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1. At this time the VFW State Officers are in Washington DC at the Legislative Conference.
  2. The Commander in Chief of the VFW is testifying in front of Congress.
  3. The State Council of Administration meeting will be on March 27 – 28 in Fort Morgan.
  4. Wayne Thompson urges everyone to support HR4241
- VWIN - Edmee Hills
    1. In 2008 Governor Ritter and former Speaker of the House Romanoff officially declared Colorado as the first state to recognize every June 28 as Veterans Widows/Widowers Day
    2. State Senator Joe Rice is working on a resolution in reference to this.
    3. On March 20 VWIN will be visiting Fitzsimons state Veterans Nursing Home to learn about eligibilities requirements for veteran's survivors.
  - Leadership Aurora / Aurora Chamber – Larry Mathis
    1. Project to renovate and furnish a home for Homeless Veterans in Transition
    2. Home located 51 Lima, Aurora
    3. Will house 15 Vets.
    4. Need donations.
  - City of Aurora Veterans Affairs Commission
    1. Memorial Day Flag and POW/MIA Ceremony
    2. May 31, noon, Aurora Municipal Center, east side
    3. With Fly Over
  - Colorado State Veterans Homes - Brad Honl
    1. Rifle State Veterans Nursing Home
      - i. Paul D Cook is the new administrator and Elizabeth Mensing, M. D., is the new Medical Director
      - ii. Betty's Place is the new ice cream parlor and is a big hit.
      - iii. A local Veterans Trust Fund & Estate gave a total of \$60,000 towards Resident Benefit Fund.
    2. McCandless State Veterans Nursing Home.
      - i. The construction project is in the final close-out
      - ii. The secured Memory Care Neighborhood has 20 beds available.
      - iii. A new kitchen and dining room have been added to the Memory Care Neighborhood
      - iv. A full kitchen and dining room renovation have been completed for the main kitchen
      - v. Landscape and parking lot improvements are complete
      - vi. Exterior finishes and a new roof are complete.
      - vii. The Culture Change Coordinator recently completed Eden Train the Trainer education.
    3. Home Lake State Veterans Nursing
      - i. The renovation of the domiciliary continues
      - ii. The 13 residents that had been temporarily housed off-site have been relocated back to their newly renovated cottage.
      - iii. The 11 residents that are housed in the Administration building will be placed back in their cottages the week of April 12.
      - iv. Completion of all cottages is planned early fall 2010.
      - v. Tours are available at this time of the renovated cottages.
      - vi. The annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for April 16.

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- vii. Memorial Day celebration is schedule for May 31.
- viii. They have received confirmation that General Mike Edwards will be their keynote speaker.

- 4. Fitzsimons State Veterans Nursing Home.
  - i. Received a \$5,000 donation from American Legion Post #1
  - ii. Moving forward with putting green. Thank you for donations.
  - iii. Census is 171

### **8. UVC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

- Jay Bobick
- The Trinidad State Nursing Home (not a State Veterans Nursing Home) remains an issue in the Legislature
- HV 1217 passed by committee to withdraw transfer authority for the transfer of the Trinidad State Nursing Home.
- The bill not only creates a general fund requirement, but also threatens VA funding provided by the 505 fund.

### **9. UVC BANQUET COMMITTEE**

- Report by Ken Melcher. The UVC Banquet will be April 25, 2010 at the Red Lion Hotel at I-255 and Parker Road. Social Hour 3:30 pm, Dinner 5:00 pm. Handout is available to RSVP for attendance and to purchase Ads. It is also on the UVC Web Site. This is the only fund raiser the UVC has, so please support it.

### **10. UVC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE –**

- No Report.

### **11. COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

- Report by Ralph Bozella
- Jay Bobick, Jim Stanko and Franklin Jackson received confirmation from the Senate State and Veterans Committee.
- Board members Jay Bobick and George Thomas met with the state Veterans Nursing Home Commission to discuss concerns within the Department of Human Services, Division of State Veterans Nursing Homes, and the SVNH Commission.

### **12. VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION**

- Report by Jay Bobick
- Continuing to address Trinidad State Nursing Home issues.
- Commission Officer Elections were held.
- Alexandria Hall is the new President.
- She has formed a committee to improve communication with the CBVA and other Veterans Organizations.

### **13. VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION**

### **14. FITZSIMONS NURSING HOME ADVISORY BOARD**

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

- **Congressman Perlmutter**
- **Representative Coffman**
- **Congressman Markey**
  - Ken Bennett – District Director
  - Watching funding for Denver VA Hospital. \$10 Million for PTSD Clinic.
  - Helping Vets in rural areas access information and seminars.
  - Requesting Arlington burial for Navajo Code Talker.

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

- VARO Rebecca S Smith – Public Affairs Officer

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1. This week the Assistant Director is at the Directors Conference focusing on claims processing
2. VA Secretary Shinseki announced that the VA will automate claims processing for new claims based on 3 new presumptives:
  - a. Parkinson's disease
  - b. Ischemic Heart Disease
  - c. B Cell & Leukemia
- Fort Logan National Cemetery – Kathy Silva – Assistant Director
  1. Fort Logan / Fort Lyons National Cemeteries Interments for Feb 2010 were 231.
  2. They have 2 burial options currently:
    - In Ground Casketed
    - In Ground Cremated.
  3. Memorial Day Ceremony on 5/31 at 11:00 AM at Fort Logan.
- ECHCS – Jordan Schupbach – Public Affairs Director
  1. DCCA audit of Project Eagle expected to conclude this week; award of contract end of the month.
  2. 7 new rural health initiative proposals
  3. Expanding Colorado Springs clinic C & P exams
  4. Wheelchair Games events:
    - a. Applebees Breakfast 4/24
    - b. Golf Tournament 6/10
    - c. Bowling 4/11
- VISN 19 – Anita Urdiales – Health Systems Specialist
  1. Please review the VISN 19 Network Director's Monthly Update for news on Vi19 Feb issue coming out this week
  2. Five of 10 Rural Health Clinics on track
  3. Ms LaVonne Liversage has been selected as Deputy Network Director V19.

### **17. DMVA/DVA**

- Greg Dorman – Legislative Liaison
  1. HB1205 Status and impact to the State.
  2. Need to support to show support to the military to those outside of the State.

### **18. OLD BUSINESS**

- None

### **19. NEW BUSINESS**

- None

### **20. UVC PRESIDENT COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **VFW State Convention is being hosted by Post 9644**
- **Remember UVC Banquet 25 April**
- **Remember the Tax Check off for the State Veterans Cemetery in Grand Junction.**

### **21. ADJOURN**

Submitted by Steve Rylant, UVC Secretary

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