

## UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE OF COLORADO (UVC)

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>



**UVC**  
**P.O. Box 31261**  
**Aurora, CO 80041-1261**

### Minutes

(08 April 2008)

**MEETINGS AT VFW POST 9644**  
**0900 hours**  
**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>

**Email:** [uvcorg@comcast.net](mailto:uvcorg@comcast.net)

1. CALL TO ORDER: 0901 hrs
2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
3. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR POW/MIA's.
4. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
  - First Time Attendees/Visitors welcomed:
    - John Hutchins, Commander, Dept of Colo, American Ex-POWs introduced introduced Art Meyers, Commander of the Mile High Chapter and his spouse Joy Meyers.
  - Special Speakers – Bob Dawes ([bobdawes@yahoo.com](mailto:bobdawes@yahoo.com), 303-570-6695) & Meg Ryan ([mryan@outwardbound.com](mailto:mryan@outwardbound.com)) presented a slideshow and spoke about a special outward bound program that has been fully funded to allow zero cost for veterans. All they need, and seek, are veteran participants. Pass their contact information to your interested members.
5. ROLL CALL – quorum present (sign in roster was not circulated).
6. REPORTS:
  - a) Secretary – minutes approved as published
  - b) Treasurer – No Report – receipts & expenses from banquet still being tallied.
7. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:
  - Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation** – Paula Sarlls, Secty, asked attendees to remember the foundation for donations, and invited everyone to check out their website at [www.CFMF.org](http://www.CFMF.org)
  - VWIN** – Edmee Hills thanked Gov Ritter, Senate President Groff, and House Speaker Romanoff for establishing in law June 28<sup>th</sup> as Veterans' widows/widowers Day of Recognition for the State of Colorado. In 2008, June 28<sup>th</sup> is a Saturday and the Capitol will be closed so this year's celebration will be held on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Edmee also announced that she had secured promises from Sect'y Peake & his senior adviser Hal Blair to review three crucial veterans' survivors benefits: the 10 -year waiting period, new death benefits of \$½ million for spouses of OEF/OIF deceased, and Sen Landrieu's upcoming legislation for an Office of Veterans' Survivors.
  - USO** – Hedy Margolis announced that ground has been broken for a new USO at Fort Carson and passed out brochures for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual NDIA, AFA, USO Golf Tournament. This USO fundraiser will be @ Inverness Golf Club & Hotel on Monday June 16<sup>th</sup>, and everyone is invited to support this fundraising event. The brochure details sponsorship opportunities. Individuals and teams can sign up on-line at [www.defensetournament.golfreg.com](http://www.defensetournament.golfreg.com)
  - Veterans Memorial Day Tribute** – Louetta Smith distributed a flyer and announced that the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Tribute will be Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup> and invited everyone to attend to show support for our heroes past and present. She requested volunteer labor and contributions of funds and materials, or leads thereto.
  - Retiree Affairs Office @ Buckley AFB** – Bob van Sriver announced that the base ORI will result in a base closure for retirees 7-24 April except for emergencies. He also announced that a new website, [www.retirees.af.mil](http://www.retirees.af.mil) offers information on SBP, RAO's worldwide, a link to subscribe to e-afterburner, and assorted other link of interest to retirees.
  - VFW** – Warren Telgren recognized Marvin Meyers as UVC veteran of the Year and had several announcements:
    - State VFW memorial at Fort Logan National Cemetery will be on May 17 @ 10 AM
    - State VFW Convention will be @ Gunnison June 19-22
    - VFW 9644 will install officers on May 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm. (Warren is Commander –elect.)
    - **AVC** will meet on April 14<sup>th</sup> @10 AM at VFW 9644 to plan Memorial Day Observance Agenda
    - The **Medal of Honor Society** convention will be September 16-20. For info call 303-986-0123.

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**PVA** – Laura Holman announced that April 13-19 is PVA Awareness Week, with hundreds of events to be held across the country to raise community awareness of veterans affected by spinal cord injury or disease. Among the local events, UVC members were invited to attend the Mt States Chapter Open House on April 14<sup>th</sup> from 11AM to 1 PM. She called our attention to the Informational flyers available on the tables and invited us to visit the website [www.mscpva.org](http://www.mscpva.org) for a list of all their events.

**American GI Forum** – Lou Cordova solicited Flag Day budget support.

**Air Force Sergeants Association** – Ken Melcher announced that the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon will be on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn, I-70 & Chambers Rd, at 11:30 AM. He also reminded us of the next AVC meeting, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM at VFW Post 9644.

**Marine Corps League** – Barry Georgopoulos announced that a memorial Service will be held on Memorial Day, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 1400 hours at the Marine Memorial, US Hwy 6 @ US Hwy 40, Golden.

### 8. UVC COMMITTEES

- Legislative Committee – Marvin Meyers
  - Announced that Gov Ritter has proclaimed April 2008 as United Veterans Committee of Colorado Month, and provided the hard-copy proclamation for our archives.
  - Advised that Gov Ritter reads e-mails and requested that we use discretion in our language and word choice to minimize the need for damage control efforts by the Legislative Committee.
  - Requested a mass turnout to support the resolution to Congress to support the new GI Bill.
  - Announced that in the afternoon the State senate would hear the bill regarding home tax exemptions for surviving spouses and invited member attendance.
- Banquet Committee – Ken Melcher
  - Advised us that Aurora is the only local community that has a Defense Council
  - Reported that the Banquet was our largest ever – attendance was 480 people.
- Membership Committee – George Palmateer announced that the submariners will be joining UVC.

9. COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – George Thomas announced that the board would be meeting at 1:00 that day at the Fitzsimmons State Veterans Nursing Home and will have three guest speakers: Colo Dept of Labor, NG family support, and American Military Family. The next meeting, May 14<sup>th</sup> in Craig, CO will be an open meeting for any veteran in that area. George asked that we encourage our members to attend.

10. VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION – Jeff Jerebker (Pinon Management) reported that Florence is stable and that Home Lake is showing improvement. Pinon is concerned with the effects the oil & gas boom driven labor shortages are having on Rifle. Trinidad still has some fiscal issues, and there is some concern that the turnover in several key positions may impact the upcoming VA inspection @ Fitzsimmons.

11. VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION – John Johnson reported that Fitzsimmons would have its Survey the following week, that Florence had completed their VA survey 2 weeks earlier, and that State surveys were completed for Rifle, Trinidad, Walsenberg, and Homelake.

12. FITZSIMMONS NURSING HOME ADVISORY BOARD – Ken Melcher reported that the census is up, that a new director of Nursing has been hired, and they are working to get the in-house pharmacy up and running.

### 13. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS

Senator Allard's Office –

Senator Salazar's Office – Bennie Milliner reported on an ad hoc productive meeting at the banquet reception with Secty Peake, Senator Salazar, Lynette Roff, and Glen Grip pen regarding the new VA Hospital – it is competing with New Orleans and Boston for funding and the Secty got a good presentation on the importance of proceeding aggressively on the project. Secty Peake wants a 21<sup>st</sup> century plan for service delivery to meet current needs, not a rehashed 20<sup>th</sup> century plan to meet historical needs. Sen Salazar will meet with the Secty on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Congressional Dist. 1 – DeGette –

Congressional Dist. 2 – Udall –

Congressional Dist. 3 – Salazar –

Congressional Dist. 4 – Musgrave –

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Congressional Dist. 5 – Lamborn –

Congressional Dist. 6 – Tancredo – Terry van Keuren reported that

- Rep Tancredo participated in the Rolling Thunder ride in Morrison on April 5<sup>th</sup> and enjoyed the Banquet.
- Rep Tancredo is looking into the case of the Littleton Navy SEAL, Danny Dietz, who was killed. Subsequent inquiry suggests that his heroism may have been under-reported and under recognized.
- Rep Tancredo thinks that what happened in Basra will happen elsewhere if we pull out of Iraq suddenly.

Congressional Dist. 7 – Perlmutter –

14. VISN 19, VARO, VA National Cemetery NCA, VA ECHCS, VA DALC, Fort Logan

1.) VISN 19 – Anita Urdiales reported that Secty Peake had attended the National Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass last week. Participants were ages 21-81 and included OEF/OIF returnees.

2.) VARO –

Kay Collins provided the following updates:

- Rehab will be moving off Fort Carson and into Colo Springs at the end of May, but a small group for claims processing will remain on-base.
- Toll free phone lines will be routed to large call centers outside of Colorado in May
- Disability claims continue to grow in number – over 8800 now pending.
- VARO Denver/Cheyenne recognized for outstanding claims processing service by VA for January and February
- The winter Sports event in Snowmass honored a VARO employee as an outstanding team leader for her group of athletes.

Kathy Malin reported that with 8891 claims pending in Colorado and Wyoming they are concentrating on working claims quickly in a quality fashion, and the veterans service center is increasing their staffing to 181 employees. Presently they are meeting or are within 10% of 24 goals.

3.) Ft. Logan –

4.) ECHCS –

5.) Cheyenne VAMC – David Kilpatrick reported that the new Greeley Clinic opened on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 2001 70<sup>th</sup> Ave Suite 200. The official grand opening will be April 29<sup>th</sup> @ 0930. The Fort Collins clinic will open, hopefully in Dec 08.

15. DMVA / DVA – Les Kennedy reports that grant requests from VSOs and the Nursing homes to be funded by the Veterans Trust Fund total \$1,118,000, but there is only \$570,000 available for distribution.

16. OLD BUSINESS: None

17. NEW BUSINESS: None

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS –

- Mike Shapiro announced that in addition to the traveling Vietnam Memorial that Olinger's will have in Boulder in July (see last month's minutes), the VA advises that another traveling replica will be in the Denver area in June. Dates and location to be announced.
- President Bobick advised that on April 14<sup>th</sup> beginning @ 9:00 Am in the State Capital House Chamber, and followed immediately by the State Senate, there will be ceremonies commemorating the fallen OEF/OIF service members and a joint resolution recognizing the MIAs and captured. At approximately 11:00 AM there will be a reception on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor by the old Supreme Court.
- Jay also requested that member organizations put a line item in their budget for a donation to UVC.
- Marvin Meyers added that member organizations can also budget for Ads in the Banquet program book, and for Tables at the banquet.

19. ADJOURN 1050 hrs.

20. Next Meeting 13 May 2008

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Respectfully submitted,

**Michael Shapiro, Secretary, UVC (27 April 2008)**

*James C. Bobick, UVC President, 303-699-1575*

*George Dale Thomas, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, 303-751-8252*

*Ralph Bozella, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; 303-776-3890*

*Warren Tellgren, Immediate Past Commander, 303-912-4927*

*Michael N. Shapiro, Secretary, 303-619-2276*

*Daniel Tauriello, Treasurer, 303 343 7507*

*Marvin Meyers, Legislative Committee Chairman, 303-694-9022;*

*Nathan M. Gorman, Legislative Liaison, 303-221-2231.*

*Larry Carrol, Judge Advocate 303-794-2894*

*Budget Committee – Ken Melcher, 303-341-9170*

*Nominating Committee – Warren Tellgren, Immediate Past Commander, 303-912-4927*

*Awards Banquet Committee – Ken Melcher, 303-341-9170*

*Membership Committee – George Palmateer, 303-279-7593*

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