

UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE OF COLORADO (UVC)

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>



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

Minutes

(09 September 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

1. CALL TO ORDER 0903 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 (too numerous to list individually)
 - Special Speakers – (joint presentation)
 1. Jennifer Heilveil, Program Coordinator, her supervisor, Colleen Fitzgerald, and Dennis Gordon, all from Boulder Parks and Recreation, discussed their EXPAND program to provide sport opportunities for injured servicemembers. Contact Jen Heilveil @ 303-413-7474, or heilveilj@bouldercolorado.gov
 2. Dawna Callahan, US Paralympics Military Coordinator, USOC, advised us of the US Paralympics Military Program, the DOD grant supporting it, and their community Programs. (dawna.callahan@usoc.org)
5. ROLL CALL – quorum present
6. REPORTS:
 - a) Secretary – minutes approved as ammended
 - b) Treasurer – Ken Melcher's interim report accepted. A new Treasurer has been identified, but could not attend this meeting so will be introduced at a later time.
7. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lost and Found Inc – reminded us of the upcoming Dinner with a Hero, and the Remembrance Run/Walk and Rally.

American legion – Jim Gillis reported on:

 - Convention, June 27-29, 2008 – new Commander Gar Williams
 - Legion will continue their support for Veterans, Military Personnel, and youth programs
 - Need for membership growth to support greater impact with elected officials
 - Legion's National Convention resolution to urge our Colorado congressional delegation to not support the VA's "hospital within a hospital", and for the Dept of Colorado to demand reinstatement of the plan for a stand-alone hospital with a separate spinal cord unit.

VWIN – Endee J.Hills reported that Senator Landrieu's Legislative Committee has joinedwith H.R.5892 which aims to modernize VA disability compensation, and to create an "Office of Survivors Assistance". The bill has passed the House and was before the Senate.

Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) – Clyde "Marty" Martinez, Denver Coordinator, Project Healing Waters, addressed their program to teach Fly Fishing, Fly Tying, and fishing for vets.

Colorado Sr. Lobby – Bob Epstein reminded us that CSL advised members of CO veteran bills to support or oppose and is available for assistance during legislative sessions. He also announced the Douglas County Sr. Day on Sat Sep 13, from 9:00-1:00, and advised that soace is available for rent @ 1470 Ogden St, Denver.

Community College of Aurora (CCA) –

 - Angie Tiedeman, Director of Student Life, announced that for Buckley AFB they offer on-base classes, CLEP and DANTES testing, and Student Services. They are in Bldg 306, Rm 112, education Office.
 - Tom Drury, Veterans Advisor, announced that CCA seeks to expand outreach to Veterans interested in furthering their education, and to provide whatever services they need to meet their goals.

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American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) – Clark Valles announced that AMMV is now a National Affiliate of NAUS.

NAUS – Frank Whiteman announced that:

- Bill Cozad fell and was recovering @ Swedish Med Center, 501 E. Hampden
- Frank is now President of NAUS Ch 1, and Treas of AMMV.

Friends of Historical Trinidad Inc – Tom Allen reports they are setting up a 501(c)3 to facilitate the acquisition of Memorial Square for use by all veterans and their groups. The complex was built by WPA in the 1930's for veterans. (tomsallen@msn.com)

Blue Water Navy Assoc.- John Rossi advised of HR6562 to reinstate BWN in presumptive exposure to Agent Orange during Vietnam War.

JEFFCO VSO – Tom Zunker, announced a pilot state financial award through fy ending 6/30/09 to 5 counties (Jeffco, Denver, Arapahoe, El Paso, Mesa) to enhance outreach to our veterans so that they and their eligible dependents may learn about and receive services and benefits for which they are eligible.

Please help by referring vets to your county VSOs.

CAP – Patti Sampers publicized a program to donate automobiles or other vehicles to the CAP Foundation. Cap picks up vehicles, handles al paperwork, and proceeds support scholarships for Colorado CAP volunteers.

VFW –

Warren Telgren reported on:

- Nat'l VFW Legislative Committee meeting in Washington DC 13-17 Sep 08
- AVC needs support of new VSOs
- Dist 10, VFW dept of Colorado will observe Veterans Day, 11/11/08 @ Ft Logan Nat'l cemetery
- Portraits of Valor – CMH awardees display going on in Cherry Creek Mall in conjunction with the MOH Society convention in Denver. Encouraged all who had not yet viewed it to stop by.
- New BI Bill passed to afford War on Terror Vets education benefits comparable to what the Greatest Generation enjoyed – 4-years of college tuition, books, fees, living stipend, etc.

Wayne Thompson requested that guest speakers limit their comments and include details of their specific programs on handouts.

PVA- James Sack advised that Combat Vets Motorcycle Ass'n & PVA are hosting the 4th annual "All Patriots Run" on Sep 13. Final stop will be in Golden for a BBQ, Live music, and nut fry.

AFSA – Ken Melcher reported that MEPS (Military entrance processing Command, 721 19th St suite 275) is looking for volunteers, and left a flyer. Contact Lt. Espirito, 303-623-1020 x245 or x237. Ken also reminded us of the Hoedown for Heroes event on sep 27.

8. UVC COMMITTEES

- Legislative Committee – Announced the upcoming Candidates Forum on Oct 1: Complimentary Continental Breakfast and "meet & greet" 0800-0900, then Candidate presentations 0900-1130. This program will be in Lieu of our regular meeting. Bring along additional members to hear the candidates.
- Banquet Committee – 2009 banquet will be April 26 @ the Red Lion (formerly Radisson), 1225 & Parker
- Membership Committee – George Palmateer – no report

9. COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – George Thomas announced the September meeting would be on 9/10 in Ft Collins. CBVA is currently looking at Funding needs for Veterans and will work with UVC to develop the list. CBVA provided grants of approximately \$1/2 million in 2008.

- VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION – No report

10. VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION – Brad Honl announced that Fitzsimmons now has an on-site Pharmacy and it is staffed, and provided handouts of the Fitzsimmons newsletter.

11. Fitzsimmons Nursing Home Advisory Board – Ken Melcher reported that the Pharmacy is billing insurance and contributing to the 505 fund.

12. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS

Senator Allard's Office – No report

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Senator Salazar's Office – Bennie Milliner reported on

- feedback from the HVAC staffers 8/20/08 (info gathering – no real input)
- feedback from the SVAC visit (good understanding of Veterans' concerns regarding the VA position and the lack of communications to Vets.
- VSOs have expressed concerns w/VISN 19 / VA continued push on implementation of expansion plan. Prudent Action funding available to a point. Final Appropriation pending – more discussion needed. Design functions for ambulatory care facility will not be lost.
- Thanked all vet organization for continued expressions of concern, and efforts to keep members informed.

Congressional Dist. 1 – DeGette – No Report

Congressional Dist. 2 – Udall – NR

Congressional Dist. 3 – Salazar – NR

Congressional Dist. 4 – Musgrave - NR

Congressional Dist. 5 – Lamborn – NR

Congressional Dist. 6 – Tancredo – Terry Van Keuren announced that the service academy nomination process is now open.

Congressional Dist. 7 – Perlmutter – Bill Holen reported on

- the letter from the Colorado Congressional Delegation to the VA supporting a standalone VAMC.
- The home has been built for Afghan vet Sgt Travis Strong
- House & Senate Vet Committees staff briefings at Fitzsimmons by VISN-19 and CV Staff.
- VSO meeting with Cong Perlmutter & HCAC Staff.

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

1.) VISN 19 – Glen W. Grippen reported on

- Expansion plans for services and care in FY'08. 2pg summary will be sent in weekly update.
- Program for voter registration assistance
- Concerns over suicide prevention – article distributed for repro in member org newsletters.
- VA hospital – aware of controversy, but it is a National decision & VISN does its best to communicate with the stakeholders.

2.) VARO – Janice Jacobs reported that they rated 3700 claims in Jul-Aug vs. a goal of 2900, with a 96 day claims pending average vs. 102 day goal. Also, Ft Carson will be part of a joint DOD/VA pilot program, and the VA is expediting plans for the VA to go paperless.

3.) Ft. Logan – Joe Turnbach reported 912 internments during Jun-Aug, including 524 cremations, and Veterans Day Observance Planning is underway.

4.) ECHCS – Christina White reported that

- a new Assistant Director, Mark Stephenson, has been appointed to manage and support ECHCS CBOCs
- Mr. Terry Atienza, ECHCS Assoc. dir, has been appointed as Director of the grand Junction VA, and will join them in November
- Quilts of Luck will host a quilting event at the Colorado History museum on Sep 27th, 10:00-4:00 to complete over 40 quilts to be auctioned March 27th, with proceeds going to PVA and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.
- POW remembrance ceremony will be held in the Denver VAMC Auditorium, 10 am, with Rick Crandall as speaker
- A DES Pilot program with VHA & VBA as partners in the new Disability exam System. An Office will be established by May 31, 2009 on Ft Carson or in Colorado Springs, depending on space availability.

14. DMVA / DVA – no report

15. OLD BUSINESS - none

16. NEW BUSINESS: none

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17. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS – Jay Bobick Thanked Brad Honl for providing the donuts today.

18. ADJOURN 1102 hours).

19. Next Meeting October 14, 2008 Candidates Forum, Bring along some friends. Normal Agenda suspended.

November Meeting: Because of Veteran's Day, Nov meeting will be Nov 18th at Olingers Crown Hill.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Shapiro Secretary UVC October 7, 2008

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

George Dale Thomas, 1st VP, 303-751-8252

Ralph Bozella, 2nd 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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