

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



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

**Minutes**

**(11 November 2007)**

**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>**

1. CALL TO ORDER (0900)
2. INVOCATION
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.
4. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR POW/MIA's.
5. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
  - a) First Time Attendees:
    - Don Smith, new Commander, Dept of Colorado, VFW
    - Stephen K. Gourley, new Commander, Mile High Chapter, AFA
  - b) Visitor:
    - Jay R. Vargas, San Diego VA, spoke briefly about VA outreach programs to underserved Veteran populations such as Native Americans, POWs, Homeless, etc
6. GUEST SPEAKER – Linda Olson, Lost and Found, Inc, briefly described the organization's prevention, intervention, and treatment programs for at-risk youth, individuals and families, and went on to describe a new initiative focusing families and returnees impacted by the current conflict. She provided brochures for all attendees with contact information (303-420-8080, [inquiry@lfninc.org](mailto:inquiry@lfninc.org), [www.lostandfoundinc.org](http://www.lostandfoundinc.org))
7. ROLL CALL – quorum present
8. REPORTS:
  - a) Secretary – minutes approved as published (corrections provided after the meeting)
  - b) Treasurer – Hard copy report provided, approved
9. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:
  - VWIN** – Edmee J. Hills reported that State Rep Andrew Romanoff, speaker of the House, will introduce legislation making Colorado the 1<sup>st</sup> state in the Union to celebrate each June 28<sup>th</sup> as Veterans' Widows, Widowers Day. Legislation is being drafted and plans are under way for June 28, 2008 to honor our "Molly Pitchers" as first recognized by George Washington in 1778.
  - American Legion** – Jim Gillis, Legion Boys State Chairman, reported on Legion support for Veterans, Active Duty, and youth programs. 2007-2008 will see a special push to increase youth enrollments in Boys State, Base Ball, and Jr Shooting by visiting High Schools, churches and other youth gatherings. Requested UVC member organizations help spread the word.
  - Douglas County** – Henry Bohne, Mgr, Office of Veterans Affairs, announced offers from community businesses for free care such as Yoga, Accupuncture. Sample "I owe you" poster was on display at the meeting. Request an e-mail copy (you can change the text for your organization) from [Veterans\\_Services@douglas.co.us](mailto:Veterans_Services@douglas.co.us).
10. COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – George Thomas, Chair, reported that the Board continues to work on its Strategic Plan. Board met with The Adjutant General (TAG) in October @ Dept Mil Affairs. Last week Board presented the final draft Strategic Plan at Wings Over the Rockies. Desired final copy release is in December.
11. VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION – Ralph Bozella, Past Chairman, reported that the newly appointed Commission will meet Dec 4, 2007 @ 1100 at Fitzsimmons to elect officers, get organized, and tour the Fitz SVNH. They had previously met Oct 26, when one resigned and two were absent.
12. VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION –
  - a. Division of State Veteran Nursing Homes – John Johnson, Director, reported that the homes are getting good survey results and that Florence and Trinidad will be getting Medicare certification.
  - b. Pinon Management – Jeff Jerebker, President, provided a status overview of State Veteran Nursing

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Homes

- c. Colorado State Veterans' Home – Brad Honl, Administrator, thanked all the UVC members who attended or supported the Veterans Day open house that recognized and honored all Veterans and celebrated the facility's 5<sup>th</sup> year of service to Veterans and their spouses

### 13. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS

Senator Allard's Office – Bennie Milliner:

- a. Added to Ms Boller's comments and requested assistance to get VA & DOD to better coordinate records receipt and distribution.
- b. Announced a Military / Veterans Affairs Committee to be organized in early 2008
- c. Reflect on season of Thanksgiving and expressed appreciation to the many UVC members/attendees for their counsel, input, help and assistance.

Senator Salazar's Office – no input

Congressional Dist. 1 – DeGette – no input

Congressional Dist. 2 – Udall – Carolyn Boller:

- Reported that she, along with the reps from Sen Salazar, Cong Perlmutter, and Boulder county VSO visited the National Personnel Records Center in St Louis, MO where they got a full day tour including the records storage area and the fire area records storage and preservation effort.
- Encouraged members to visit the Center if/when in St Louis.

Congressional Dist. 3 – Salazar – no input

Congressional Dist. 4 – Musgrave – no input

Congressional Dist. 5 – Lamborn – no input

Congressional Dist. 6 – Tancredo – no input

Congressional Dist. 7 – Perlmutter – Bill Holen discussed the district's Oral History Project as announced by the Congressman at the Fitz Open House, and solicited inputs.

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

a.) VISN 19 – Lee Logan, Deputy network Director provided an end-of year review for VISN19

- Received Carey Award for Achievement (2<sup>nd</sup> time)
- Planning to receive Category 8 if authorized
- Field visit by Office of Rural health
- Gaps analysis held with all Medical Center Directors
  - Rural Health Care
  - Sites of care
  - Mental health needs
  - Staff retention
  - Specialty Care

b.)VARO – Janice Jacobs, Director reported:

- New Assistant Director assigned – Kay Collins
- Homeless Standown
  - 250 Volunteers
  - 48 VARO employees
  - 417 homeless Vets seen
- Channel 9 call-in – 368 calls over 2 days (Homeless, Agent Orange, Diabetes)
- 4 Voc Rehab counselors added
- A current employee was VA's 2007 counselor of the year
- New job development with Coors for vets.

Kay E. Collins, Ass't Director reported:

- 7700 disability claims pending, CO & WY average days to complete is 176 – better than National average and determined to improve
- Surviving Spouse claims average days to complete is 109
- Percent of claims over 1 yr is 1.5% compared to 4.5% nationally
- Claims accuracy very solid, top 1/4 of all offices
- Staff cared and will work to hard to provide better and better claims service

c.) Ft. Logan – Joe Turnbach, Director reported 329 internments in October, and the Project to raise & realign headstones is 899% complete.

d.) ECHCS – Lenette Roff, Director provided an end-of-year summary – FY07 was a good year

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- Improved access
  - Expanded clinic – New Fitzsimmons
  - Expanded Colo Sprgs CBOC
  - Started OEF/IOF clinic
  - Added 120 FTEE staff
  - For 2008 expect expanded rural health and more services at CBOCs
  - Requested support for 2010 Wheel Chair games – Financial, committee chairs, volunteers
- e.) DALC – Jeff Luginbuel reported details of DALC participation in the local veterans stand down and in the Veterans Day parade.
15. DMVA / DVA – No Inputs
16. UVC COMMITTEES
- Legislative Committee – Marvin Meyers
    - presented the newly revised 2008 Draft Legislative goals. Voted and accepted.
    - Announced that \$2.2 million restoration to the tobacco fund has been included in the Governor's budget
  - Banquet Committee – Ken Melcher
    - Banquet date changed to April 6<sup>th</sup>. Reception at 1530, dinner at 1730
    - Frontier is again providing two pair of tickets for the raffle
    - Marvin Meyers asked Jay Vargas to help in securing the new VA secretary be the speaker.
  - Membership Committee – George Palmateer requested members to speak to their friends in inactive member organizations and encourage them to submit reregistration forms.
17. OLD BUSINESS - None
18. NEW BUSINESS: President Jay Bobick announced that the allocations of the Governor's breakfast tickets will be forthcoming
19. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS –
- a. Jay Bobick requested that we refer to ourselves as the United Veterans Committee of Colorado, not by the initials UVC. It seems that there is another group that uses UVC and they are viewed less favorably. We want to distance ourselves from them.
  - b. The new website is up: [unitedveteranscommittee.com](http://unitedveteranscommittee.com). Please visit and provide comment and feedback
20. ADJOURNED at 1140 hours.
21. Next Meeting

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Michael Shapiro Secretary UVC (15 November, 2007)**

*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 Co-Chairman, 303-694-9022;*

*George Thomas, Legislative Committee Co-Chairman, 303-751-8252;*

*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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