



**UNITED VETERANS
COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES

(14 JUNE 2011)

**MEETINGS AT VFW POST 9644
2680 W. Hampden Ave.
Englewood, CO 80110-1906
303-789-9733**

West of Sante Fe on Highway 285. Right at first traffic light onto Brady Court. Follow curving road to top of hill. VFW Post on left. OR turn north on Federal, and then right on Hampden. VFW Post will be on the right.

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Moment of Silence for POW/MIA
4. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. First Time Attendees / Visitors Welcomed
 1. Sean Marsh – Veterans Legal Services of Denver
 2. Dustin Charapata – Veterans Legal Services of Denver
 3. Tom Klein – Bo Matthews Center for Excellence
 4. Allan Kirkman – Denver VA Fisher House
 - b. Guest Speakers
 1. **JJ Margiotta, chairman of the 9/11 Freedom Rally Colorado Charity Alliance**, spoke about the activities planned for the 9/11 Freedom Rally and offered a booth at the event to all UVC members.
 2. **Allen Kirkman, president of the Denver VA Fisher House Board of Directors**, gave an overview of the program: “The Fisher House program is a unique private-public partnership that supports America’s military families in their time of need by providing a ‘home-away-from-home,’ free-of-charge lodging. A new Fisher House will be built near the new VA hospital.”
5. Roll Call
6. Reports
 - a. Secretary – minutes of 10 May 2011 meeting approved
 - b. Treasurer – report accepted
7. **Organizational Reports and Announcements (not in precise order)**
 - a. Associated Veterans of Colorado – Warren Tellgren, President
 - 72nd service by AVC
 - Over 3,000 in attendance
 - Students put flag out on Friday, and adults took it in on Tuesday.
 - Outstanding FLNC staff support. “It takes all agencies to have a successful event.”
 - b. Colorado Senior Lobby – Bob Epstein, President
 - The CO Senior Lobby has relocated to 655 Broadway, Suite 580, Denver, CO 80203.
 - c. American Legion – Tom Bock, Past National Commander
 - Boys’ State: 162 boys attended at CSU Pueblo
 - State Convention: June 23-26 at the Colorado Springs Doubletree Hotel
 - National Convention: August 25 – September 2 in Minneapolis
 - d. Air Force Sergeants Association – Ken Melcher
 - Veterans Salute: November 2, 2011 – Registration for groups will be online starting August 1. Registrants must pay for the seats reserved at time of

UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE OF COLORADO (UVC)

A nonprofit coalition of 50 chartered service organizations representing over 465,000 veterans and family members in Colorado

www.unitedveteranscommittee.com

- registration. Black Tie is handling the registration process.
- e. Bo Matthews Center for Excellence – Tom Klein, Executive Director
 - Provides 25 units of permanent housing for homeless veterans through a project called “The 4th Quarter,” located at 31st and Downing.
 - f. VFW – Steve Rylant, Past Department Commander
 - VFW State Convention: June 15-19 in Colorado Springs
 - VFW National Convention: August 27 – September 1 in San Antonio, TX
 - VFW is a principal sponsor of the 9/11 Freedom Rally.
 - The Memorial Day participation at Fort Logan was much appreciated.
 - g. Veterans Green Jobs (VGJ) – Dr. William Doe, CEO
 - VGJ recently testified in DC before the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs regarding issues of veterans’ unemployment.
 - VGJ currently provides “boots on the ground” jobs for veterans in energy efficiency and conservation.
 - VGJ recently opened a 40,000-square-foot “Go Green Warehouse” at 2627 W. 6th Avenue to sell recycled home improvement goods. The warehouse is open to the public Tuesday-Saturday.
 - h. Retiree Appreciation Day – Bob VanSeiver, Director of Retiree Activities
 - Retiree Day at Buckley: July 23, 2011
 - Need volunteers at RAO office
 - i. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve – Richard Young, State Chair
 - “Thank you” to UVC members for their support and assistance for the 3-day Military and Veterans Employment Expo
8. **UVC Legislative Committee** – Report by Nate Gorman
- a. Provided an overview to the membership of how legislation dealing with veterans’ issues fared in the 2011 session of the 65th General Assembly, which concluded on May 11
9. **UVC Banquet Committee** – Report by Ken Melcher
- a. Working on next year’s banquet
 - b. “Thanks” to all who attended the 2011 banquet
 - c. “It’s not too early to start working on next year’s ads for the program book.”
10. **UVC Membership Committee**
- a. Veterans of Vietnam Motorcycle Club was approved for associate membership.
11. **UVC Nominating Committee**
- a. UVC Secretary: On motion and second, nomination of Geneva Templeton was approved.
12. **Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs** – Report by Ralph Bozella
- a. VTF grant proposals
 - At the May meeting, the Board reviewed the proposals, totaling \$1.8M in requests from 67 proposals.
 - Used a priority system targeting proposals that met basic needs of vets (food, clothing, housing, job training, homelessness, and medical appointments)
 - Funded \$802,000 out of \$808,000 available.
 - Many “good proposals through quality organizations” unfunded

- b. Next Board meeting: June 15, 2011, at VFW in Burlington, CO
 - Tour of VA Telehealth Clinic (appreciate support of Jordan Schupbach and Anita Uridales)
 - Election of new officers for 2-year term: nomination slate is Jim Stanko, Chair; Robby Robinson, Vice Chair; Jay Bobick, Secretary

13. Veterans Nursing Home Commission

14. Veterans Nursing Home Administration – Report by Vickie Jennings

- a. Homelake
 - Continuing to market domiciliary and nursing home to physicians, nurses, clinics, etc. – Census is rising for both.
 - Finishing last year's Veterans Trust Fund grant for a raised garden bed with irrigation for use by residents
 - Expecting state survey any time; VA survey scheduled for July
- b. Rifle
 - Open Dining implemented June 1
 - Upcoming project to provide new nurse call system, remodeled nursing stations, enlarged SCU, and grounds improvements
- c. Walsenburg
 - Contractor has broken ground on \$2.5M Quality of Life Improvement Project.
- d. Fitzsimmons
 - Now Eden-registered – 2nd in Colorado and 4th in the nation
- e. Florence
 - Grant from VTF to fund remodeling of resident shower rooms

15. Fitzsimmons Nursing Home Advisory Board – Report by Ken Melcher

- a. Next meeting: June 24 at 10 a.m.

16. Congressional and Gubernatorial Staffers

- a. Congressman Coffman
- b. Congresswoman DeGette
- c. Congressman Gardner
- d. Congressman Lamborn
- e. Congressman Perlmutter – report by Bill Holen
 - Site visit of UPI Building
 - House Appropriations reported Mil/Con Bill - \$42M for VAMC
 - Anticipate release of infrastructure work package in July (on schedule)
 - Letter from Perlmutter, Udall and Bennet going to JV Team, encouraging the hiring of vet and vet-disabled businesses and direct hiring of vet construction workers
 - Production begun of Iwo Jima veteran film with CCA Film School and Congressman Perlmutter
- f. Congressman Polis – report by Stuart Feinhor
 - HR 2055 – Military Construction/Vets Affairs Appropriations Bill: funds the Dept. of VA, DoD military construction, and related agencies; also increases overall funding for veterans' health benefits (2012 allocation is \$72.5B, which is \$1.25B below President's request.) – Hoping for passing vote today.

- Rocky Mountain Hyperbaric Institute in Boulder: Visited site with Carolyn Boller (Udall) and Dale Anderson (Lamborn) – provides hyperbaric oxygen therapy to vets with PTSD, TBI, and other combat-related conditions, all with varying levels of success. HR 396, Hyperbaric Treatment Act, directs the SecDef and VA Secretary to carry out a pilot program for PTSD and TBI using this therapy.
 - Resource Fair to be held in July or August
 - Vets History Project underway with our Youth Advisory Council
- g. Congressman Tipton
- h. Senator Bennet – report by Bennie Milliner
- Sen. Bennet observed Memorial weekend in southern CO with veteran forums in Colorado Springs and Pueblo, hoping to develop tangible means to aid vets and service organizations in helping meet vets’ needs – will continue these types of interactions and work on variety of ideas, i.e. Veteran Support Foundation and clearinghouse for organizations servicing or wanting to provide services to veterans
 - DoD budget cuts – urging organizations to stay aware, be pro-active
- i. Senator Udall
- j. Governor Hickenlooper
- 17. VISN 19, VARO, VA Cemeteries, VA ECHCS, VA DALC, VA Health Center**
- a. VISN 19
- Hosted several VIP visits in the past few months
 1. May – Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for management: highlighted TH, finance tools, consolidated fee processing
 2. June
 - a. VA Secretary – Rural Health Advisory Council meeting held in Helena, MT, and hosted by ORH
 - b. SVAC team visit to VISN, ECHCS, HAC, NCA
 3. July – Glen Grippen scheduled to return to VISN 19 on July 5
- b. VARO – report by Rebecca Sawyer Smith, Public Affairs Officer
- Janice S. Jacobs moving to DC as Deputy Undersecretary of Disability Assistance under reorganized VBA. New Undersecretary for Benefits is retired Brig. Gen. Allison A. Hickey, 27-year Air Force veteran.
 - VARO participated in the successful CO Military and Veterans Employment Expo held May 23-25 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. Over 500 veterans and members of the military participated along with 75 organizations offering jobs.
 - VARO participated in the Community and Veterans Celebration on May 22. 9 Health was a partner in the event.
 - VARO held several well-received and attended Town Halls in southwest Colorado – Hermosa, Pagosa Springs, Ignacio Indian Casino (Ute), Durango, Cortez, Delta, Montrose, and Gunnison
 - Women Veterans Expo: September 24 at Wings Over the Rockies
- c. ECHCS – report by Jordan Schupbach, Public Affairs Officer
- Project Eagle brochures are printed and being distributed.

- Project Eagle updates will continue through September.
- Facebook and Twitter site updates: www.facebook.com/DenverVAMC and www.twitter.com/VADenver

18. DMVA/DVA

19. Old Business

20. New Business – Installation of 2011-2013 officers

21. UVC President Comments and Announcements

- a. “My personal thanks to all members for your support of the UVC during the past year.”

22. Adjourn

Next meeting date: 13 September 2011

Minutes respectfully submitted by Geneva Templeton, UVC Secretary