



**UNITED VETERANS  
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**(8 FEBRUARY 2011)**

**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

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. John Nobil – The Nobil Group,
    2. Bob Reichardt – Colorado Hire Patriots
  - Guest Speaker – John Nobil – Canine Support for Veterans
    - Active Service and Discharged Vets could greatly benefit from the canine corp of the military establishing a program for training these animals and enabling those wounded or disabled vets to keep the service dogs and access assisted animal therapy.
5. **ROLL CALL**
6. **REPORTS**
  - Secretary – Minutes approved
  - Treasurer – Report accepted
7. **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS (not in precise order)**
  - American Legion – Frank McCurdy – Past Dept Commander.
    1. Amrican Legion Washington Conference Mar 19 – 23.
    2. Boys State June 5 – 11
    3. State Convention June 24 - 26
  - VFW – Steve Rylant – Past Dept Commander
    1. VFW Washington Conference March 5 – 7.
  - Korea War Vet Chapter 195 – Bill Baldaccini.
    1. Update on the “Proud to be an American” program.
  - Senior Lobby – Bob Epstein, President.
    1. Senior Day February 23, 2011 8 – 12 Old Supreme Ct Chambers
    2. Free Continental Breakfast Lunch \$10 St Pauls Lutheran Church
    3. 16 & Grant - RSP.
  - VFW Post 1 – Izzy Abbass, Post Commander
    1. 21,000 Student Vets
    2. 118 Campuses
    3. 4.3% Update on the Veteran Population in Colorado are students.
8. **UVC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – Nate Gorman,**
  - Honor and remember Flag bill
  - Trinidad State Nursing Home Sale
  - WWII Vet Legislative Recognition
  - Possible UVC member table displays at Capitol
9. **UVC BANQUET COMMITTEE - Report by Ken Melcher and Marvin Myers**
  - The UVC Awards Banquet will be held on 10 April, 2011 at the Renaissance Hotel 3801 Quebec Street. Reception 3:30 pm, Dinner 5:pm.

- Awards Announced by Marvin Myers
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- **United Veterans' Committee of Colorado Awards**
- **2011 Recipients**
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- **Dean K. Phillips Founders - James C. Bobick**
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- **Veteran of the Year - Charles G. Watkins**
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- **Distinguished Legislators:**
- **State Senator Bill Cadman**
- **State Senator Rollie Heath**
- **State Representative Larry Liston**
- **State Representative B. J. Nikkel**
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- **Distinguished Service:**
- **Dr. Herb Nagamoto**
- **Dr. Donna Blake**
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- **Meritorious Achievement:**
- **Frank McCurty**
- **Wayne Thompson**
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- **Meritorious Service:**
- **Sheila Anthony**
- **Brad Honl**
- **Barbara Moore**
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- **Legislative Service:**
- **Dale Anderson**
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- **Outstanding Veteran Service:**
- **Rich De Blasio**
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- **Outstanding Veteran Service Officer:**
- **Walter Curran**
- **Terry Jacobson**
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- **Outstanding Service:**
- **Amanda Echman**
- **Jason Crow**
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- **Outstanding Organization:**
- **NG Family Support Program**
- **PVA**
- **Project Sanctuary**

**10. UVC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

- .Vote to accept as Associate Members – Military Event US, Challenge America
- Narfe will be voted on at next meeting.

**11. COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – Ralph Bozella, Chairman**

- Board continues to work updating the strategic plan at a work session Feb 4
- Veterans Trust Fund Grants Applications and budget are due March 1
- At the Jan 11 meeting the Board created a committee to study Veterans in Higher Education.
- The Board is also working with Challenge America to facilitate the Veterans Clearinghouse..

**12. VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION - Report by Jay Bobick**

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**13. VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION –**

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**14. FITZSIMONS NURSING HOME ADVISORY BOARD – Ken Melcher**

- Meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 2:00 pm.

**15. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS.**

- **Congressman Perlmutter – Bill Holan**
  - No Report.
- **Congressman Gardner –**
  - No Report.
- **Representative Jared Polis –**
  - No Report.
- **Congressman Lamborn –**
  - No Report.
- **Representative Coffman –**
  - No Report.
- **Representative DeGette – Andrea Autobee - Aide**
  - No Report
- **Senator Bennet – Bennie Miller**
  - No Report.
- **Governor Hickenlooper –**
  - No Report.

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

- VA Regional Office – Rebecca Smith, Public Affairs Officer
  - We are still under a hiring freeze, but do look forward to the ability to hire more decision makers to help reduce our backlog.
  - We have a new pilot program with the Grand Junction VA Medical Center. Utilizing the existing TeleHealth technology, we are able to connect rural veterans with a veterans benefits counselor live for personal counseling on VA benefits. This pilot kicked off February 1st at the Craig CBOC and is also available at the Montrose and Glenwood Springs Clinics, as well as the Grand Junction VA Medical Center. More information will be provided at the next UVC Meeting.
- Fort Logan National Cemetery – Joe Turnbach, Director
  - 1. No Report.
- ECHCS – Jordan Schupbach, Public Affairs Officer
  - ECHCS hosted a homeless forum bringing together nearly 100 individuals from around Denver who lead homeless programs. This event, the first of its kind, provided an opportunity for brainstorming and collaboration in an effort to eliminate homelessness among Veterans.
  - ECHCS is preparing for a National American Legion “System Worth Saving” visit, Feb 15-16.

- VA Surgical Services at AFA is now performed over 152 , and recently expanded services to included ophthalmology and urology.
- VA Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass, CO is coming up from March 28-April 1. Let us know if you're interested in more information
- Second solicitation underway for Homeless Dom to determine location. Steering Committee continues to hold regular meetings as this project moves rapidly forward.
- Project Eagle Design and Development stage 3 (final stage) is drawing to a close. Visible construction on the UPI building will begin in March, and on the rest of the site this summer.
- Colorado Springs CBOC announcement is imminent.
- VISN 19 – Anita Urdiales – Health Systems Specialist
  - No Report.

**17. VA Denver Acquisitions and Logistics**

**18. VA Health Administration Center – Glenn Johnson**

**19. DMVA – Mickey Hunt, Deputy Director**

**20. OLD BUSINESS - None**

**21. NEW BUSINESS –**

- **Motion by Ralph Bozella, second by Wayne Thompson, that the UVC does not support any legislation or mandate calling for any flag other than the US Flag to be publicly displayed, without careful consideration and a vote of the body. Tabled until the next meeting.**

**22. UVC PRESIDENT COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Anyone interested in serving as Secretary or Treasurer see Glen Kataoka.**
- **Banquet 10 April, will try to get forms out within 2 weeks.**

**23. ADJOURN**

**Next meeting is February 11, 2011.**

Submitted by Steve Rylant, UVC Secretary