

UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE OF COLORADO (UVC)

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>



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

Minutes

(12 May 2009)

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
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
 1. Susan Grace distributed a flyer announcing an Operation Silver Spurs free event and Bar-B-Q on Saturday May 16th, and invited all to attend
 2. James Cox, Hire Green (see below under item 7.)
 3. Sheila Anthony, Aurora Center for Active Adults announced the 2009 Veteran's Salute and Distributed a flyer (see below under item 7)
 4. Jim Augliera, Wheelers for the Wounded (see below under item 7)
 - Special Speakers – MajGen Bill Branson, Army, US, Ret, and Dignity Memorial National Coordinator, distributed literature and spoke about homeless veterans and the benefits available to them.
 1. There are about 200,000 homeless Vets nationwide
 2. VA Headstones can have a phrase like "proud to serve" or "going home", etc.
 3. The local Dignity contact for more info is Christopher.conroy@sci-us.com or (c) 303-520-2003, (o) 303-445-4144, or (f) 303-445-4133.
5. ROLL CALL – quorum present
6. REPORTS:
 - a) Secretary – minutes approved as published
 - b) Treasurer – Report accepted
7. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: (not in precise order)

Special Presentation – Jeff Jerebker, Pinon Mgt, and Brad Honl, Fitzsimons Nursing Home, presented a promotional video on the Fitzsimons Nursing Home. The Video was narrated by Marvin Meyers.

Hire Green LLC – James Cox expressed his gratification for the pivotal work done by UVC on behalf of Veterans and reported that Hire Green

 - Looks forward to working with all concerned parties to promote veterans advocacy and employment in Colorado.
 - Views renewable energy as key to Colorado's future and seeks partnerships to promote veterans retraining and reemployment in the renewable energy industry.
 - Requested input for how he could help drive membership or support for UVC or its member organizations. Contact him at 888-779-1510 x704, or (cell) 720-375-6923, or james.cox@hire-green.com

Aurora Center for Active Adults - Sheila Anthony had to leave early but provided the following announcement:

The 15th Annual Aurora Veterans Salute, proudly presented by the Aurora Center for Active Adults, will take place on **Wednesday, November 4, 2009 from 9 a.m.-1:30 .m. at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum**. The celebration includes a sponsor social and museum tours, Carrabba's lunch, Veteran's Tribute and special recognition Honoring the Fallen. KEZW AM 1430's Rick Crandall is the Master of Ceremonies. Groups of 10 or more can make reservations NOW by calling 303-739-7954. Group pricing is \$15 per person. Registration and

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payment due Sept. 25, 2009. Those interested in participating as sponsors should contact Sheila Anthony at santhony@auroragov.org or by phone at 303-739-7943.

Aurora Veterans Affairs Commission- Paula Sarlls announced

- the Memorial Day event at the Aurora Municipal Center. (Details had previously been distributed via e-blast)
- the Women Marines 5k run/walk, which will be on Oct25th, starting at the Marine Corps Memorial, and she is still working on the Women Marines History Project
- the Denver Memorial Day Parade on Saturday May 23 will feature Paula as the Grand Marshal.

The Boston House - Henry T. Wagner distributed a brochure and reported that the Boston House is an assisted living facility located at 1744 Boston St in Aurora. It services veterans. Contact then at 303-367-8864 or (fax) 303-377-2991

Selective service System – Paul Baldwin asked the assembly and got approval to present a survey at the June meeting regarding continuation of the selective service system.

VFW- Steve Rylant announced

- the State Convention will be June 10-13 in Evans CO. Chris Conroy of Dignity will make a presentation, and Gov Ritter will also attend.
- National convention will be in Phoenix, AZ August 15-20.

VWIN- Edmee J Hills thanked UVC for the award she received at our annual Banquet and reported that

- Feedback from Senator Landrieu's office reflects very favorably on Gen Shinseki's "commitment to turning the VA into the best organization for veterans and survivors in the world."
- VWIM is busy mapping next fall's visit to the Capitol and their meetings with the House & Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs regarding survivor benefits.

Wheeler's for the Wounded- Jim Augliera announced a Veterans event on July 18th in the Buena Vista Area and distributed a flyer. Five different 4wd clubs will support the event. For more info contact him at dr350jja@lycos.com or go to www.wheelersforthewounded.org

American Legion- Frank McCurdy

- Nat'l Commander met with President Obama and the president has reversed his position advocating that veterans' private insurance rather than VA should cover service connected injuries. National Commander also met with Homeland Security.
- State Convention will be Jun 19-21
- Boy's State will be June 6-13

Hire Green – James Cox distributed a brochure and reported that Hire Green has submitted a grant proposal for Revamp Colorado, a program to involve veterans in renewable energy projects.

8. UVC COMMITTEES

- Legislative Committee – Marvin Meyers reported that despite the state's budget challenges, veterans accounts and funding for veterans issues survived intact, and the military Remains bill passed. Nate Gorman advised us of the June 2nd bill signing event that veterans should attend, and summarized the session results:
 - Veterans assistance clearing house passed
 - In-State tuition for service members and their families
 - Guard Tuition assistance
 - Increased Veteran's Trust Fund Spending Authority
 - Unemployment benefits for spouses of deceased service members
 - Military Absentee Voting overseas.
- Banquet Committee – Ken Melcher reported that all invoices are not yet settled, so our bottom line is not yet determined. Jay Bobick commented on the Special presentation orchestrated by Senator Udall to recognize the UVC's efforts to help secure the new VA hospital, and provided these updates:
 - Official groundbreaking is planned for mid- to late August. (UVC will publish date when known)
 - Site demolition will begin in June
 - Credit union building will be used for office space until the hospital is completed.
- Membership Committee – George Palmateer presented three organizations (Naval Reserve, Coalition for Homeless, Conifer Mountain Resource Center) for membership consideration. They will be voted next meeting.

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- Nominating Committee – George Palmateer presented the 2009-2011 slate announced at the last meeting. There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was accepted by acclamation. The 2009-2011 officers will be installed during the June meeting.
9. COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – The May meeting will be in Grand Junction on May 13th at the American Legion. The June 9th meeting at DMVA will address grants from the VTF – approximately \$1,000,000 has been requested.
10. VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION – No Report
11. VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION – Jeff Jerebker, Pinon Mgt, reported
- that he is glad that contracts for consulting have been continued
 - Rifle is accepting applications for an administrator
 - The Trinidad Community has first rights to buy the facility if the state decides to close it.
- Brad Honl reported that
- State homes are now budgeting for next year and thanked UVC for support to stave off the budget cuts.
 - National Nursing Home Week was currently occurring
 - Homelake was prepping for its survey, scheduled to start on May 11. Fitzsimons and Rifle have had their re-survey and are in compliance.
 - Construction continues at Rifle, Homelake, and Florence.
 - No H1N1 virus reported at any state facility.
 - All facilities received a Medicaid increase and adjustment.
12. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS
- Senator Udall's Office – No report
Senator Bennett's Office – No report
Congressional Dist. 1 – DeGette – No report
Congressional Dist. 2 – Polis – Gina Salazar reported that Cong Polis supported the bill for the VA Advance funding, and also signed onto the letter to the HBC Chair asking that the VA Advance be included in the budget.
Congressional Dist. 3 – Salazar – No report
Congressional Dist. 4 – Markey – Jamie Grim
- thanked UVC for being invited to our Banquet
 - announced that the 4th District is establishing a Veterans' Advisory Council
 - reported that Rep Markey is co-sponsoring HR174, HR303, HR 347, & HR816
 - advised that any questions or comments may be directed to Jamie.grim@mail.house.gov
- Congressional Dist. 5 – Lamborn – Dale Anderson addressed the Pinon Canyon Maneuver site. UVC voted to ask the Governor to veto the bill restricting sale of state lands for the site.
Congressional Dist. 6 – Coffman – Andy Merritt reported that Cong Coffman supports new legislation to protect Guardsmen's jobs when they are called to service.
Congressional Dist. 7 – Perlmutter –
13. VA Agencies
- 1.) VISN 19 – Anita Urdiales congratulated UVC on our successful Banquet and announced that
- Secretary Shinseki has developed a transformational framework based on three principles to guide future action.
 1. people centric
 2. results oriented
 3. forward looking
 - V19 hosted the WESTERN VISN Cluster meeting on 4/28
 - No decision yet on rural health proposals
 - Network director's updates were distributed via email
- 2.) VARO – Greg Bittle thanked UVC for his award at the Banquet, and
- a. reported that the disability compensation backlog is still challenging
 - b. mentioned the new Ch 33 GI Bill sponsored by Sen Webb.

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- c. made available Vocational rehab and Load Guaranty pamphlets
- 3.) Ft. Logan – Joe Turnbach – reported 320 interments in April, announced the annual ceremony on May 25th at 11:00 am, and requested help with flag pickups on May 26.
- reported 320 interments in April
 - reminded us that the Memorial Day Ceremony would be Monday, May 25th @ 11:00 AM
 - Requested assistance on Tuesday May 26th for flag pickup.
- 4.) ECHCS – No Report

14. DMVA / DVA – No report

15. OLD BUSINESS - None

16. NEW BUSINESS - None

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS – None

18. ADJOURN 1106 hrs.

19. Next Meeting: 09 June 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Shapiro Secretary UVC June 4, 2009

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

Glenn Kataoka, Treasurer, 303-795-4343

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

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 – George Palmateer, 303-279-7593

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

Membership Committee – George Palmateer, 303-279-7593

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