

UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE OF COLORADO (UVC)

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>



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

Minutes

(rev 2to correct typing & spelling errors)
10 June 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 0900
2. INVOCATION
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
4. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR POW/MIA's.
5. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
 - President Jay Bobick welcomed attendees, visitors, and guests
Doug Vollmer, PVA National Officer is in town to assist with the new VA Hospital issues
 - First Time Attendees/Visitors welcomed– Tom Allee announced the Medal of Honor Society Convention in Denver Sep 16-19, solicited volunteers, and distributed an agenda.
6. GUEST SPEAKERS
 - Special Speakers
 - Peter Gaytan – National Director of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee for American Legion came in to explain the timeline of events regarding the VA hospital and encourage all organizations to make their voices heard on this issue.
 - Ralph Bozella talked about a meeting last night between the organizations that spoke at the May 30th meeting at Fitzsimmons and Congressional Reps and presented a statement to be adopted by the UVC. He spoke on the concerns about the new hospital and said we are now in a crisis situation.
 - Tom Bock brought his shovel and introduced an initiative to dig our own foundation and get the media involved. Details to be announced.
- 6 a. Tom Bock made a motion to accept the statement Ralph Bozella read and a copy was handed out to all. The motion was seconded. Wayne Thompson offered an amendment to make it begin with UVC vs. CO Veteran Leadership. Ralph called for a vote on the initial motion and it passed. Then the vote on the amendment was presented for vote and failed. The statement will be used as passed. (see attached)
7. ROLL CALL – quorum present
8. SECRETARY REPORT– minutes approved as published
9. TREASURER – REPORT accepted as Ken Melcher presented it
10. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:
 - Operation Lost & Found** – Linda Olson – announced a 5K Remembrance Run/Walk on Saturday September 13 and distributed a flyer. More info @ lostandfoundinc.org
 - VFW** – Don Smith – Expressed VFW's support for the statement to be sent to the VA and will support the shovel effort to dig the VA hospital foundation. He invited attendees to attend the upcoming VFW State convention.
 - Faith Bible Chapel** – Bill Swink – followed up on last month's announcement regarding the Vietnam Memorial Wall replica that will be at Faith Bible Chapel Jun 17-21. Additional info @ www.fbc.org
 - DAV** – Chuck Dickerson – Introduced Brian Austin, new supervisor, DAV National Service Officer for Denver and Rob Lougee, incoming Exec Director, DAV Dept of Colorado (Mike Terry is retiring). He thanked the American Legion and PVA for taking the lead in the response to the VA plan and said that DAV supports the action of UVC in this matter.
 - United Spinal Assoc** – Artie Guerrero discussed the lack of progress on the VA hospital and encouraged efforts to do something about it.
 - VFW 9644** – Warren Tellgren announced that an Eagle Scout candidate is conducting a flag disposal (burning) ceremony at the Post on June 14 @ 10 AM followed by lunch and invited attendance.

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- E-9ers** – Cal Keil – commented that at the Anschutz Hospital (UCHCC at Fitzsimmons) they have a Spinal Care unit but veterans are the lowest priority for care/service – a situation that must be remedied by a proper VA SCI/D unit.
- VWIN** – Edmee Hills – distributed a flyer regarding the upcoming Colorado observance (see flyer attached to separate e-mail for details) and reported that Rep Tancredo has asked the President to declare June 28 a National day of recognition for veterans widows and widowers. She also announced an initiative to have the Vietnam “in Memory” plaque on the wall relocated and upgraded.
- Legion Post 103** – Jay Arcuri – announced that 25 members of Post 103 AVHG will be on hand, with shovels, to help support the new VA medical center. Also passed out a brochure from Dignity Memorial regarding veterans’ funeral and cremation benefits.
- American Legion** – Ralph Bozella – announced their state convention will be Jun 26-29 at the Crown Plaza in Colo Springs. All are Welcome. More info @ 303-366-5201.
- National Soujourners** – Richard Cook – Congratulated the city of Westminster for their successful dedication of the Veteran’s Memorial Garden at 104th & Hwy 36 on May 17th (Armed Forces Day). Several Thousand people turned out.
11. UVC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – Marvin gave an update/summary – see web site for details. Many thanks to Nate Gorman for his efforts as Legislative Liaison and to the Legislative Committee President Bobick thanked Marvin for his work.
 12. UVC BANQUET COMMITTEE – profit was approx \$26,000 and we have \$150 to collect – Ken Melcher working on it
 13. UVC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – no report
 14. COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – meeting at CBOC in Craig hosted by the VA was enlightening and there was a demo of telemedicine. Meeting today and then next meeting on July 11
 15. VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION – Jeff Jerebker - announced John Johnson is retiring. He’s a long time friend of this organization and a great friend of veterans Fitzsimmons is stable, Trinidad is doing better, but Rifle N/H is in crisis with 14 documented deficiencies in state review (5 serious).
 16. VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION –
 17. FITZSIMMONS NURSING HOME ADVISORY BOARD – Wayne Thompson gave report that Fitz is doing well and concerns about other advisory boards in the state that may need help. The Fitz Pharmacy will open July 1.
 18. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS
Rep. Perlmutter – Bill Holen announced:
Terry Van Keuren (Rep Tancredo) had hand surgery & will return in Sept – best wishes for a speedy recovery.
Thanked attendees at the May 30th meeting
Reviewed the content of Rep Permutters ½ hour phone conversation with Gen Peake to include lack of communication with the local vets, lack of progress, SCI bed count (Gen Peake will get back to him on that)
HR2818 addressing a VA Epilepsy center of excellence to help make funds available for treatment/
 19. VISN 19, VARO, VA National Cemetery NCA, VA ECHCS, VA DALC, Fort Logan
 - 1.) VISN 19 – Lee Logan introduced Jeff Lowe who explained telehealth and brought an example of it with him
 - 2.) VARO – Janice Jacobs formed working groups on service members transitioning out of the military. Increased presence in CO Springs. The Secretary is hiring 10 Regional Employment Coordinators to help vets get jobs in Denver, but that position may go to the Springs where the need is greater.
- She introduced Mike Kibacle – service center manager who said our 1-800 calls will now be centralized and answered in Salt Lake or Phoenix. Fiduciary benefits also consolidated to Salt Lake. There are 9200 pending claims up 1000 from last year and 115 days average handling time.
 - 3.) Ft. Logan – Joe Turnbach reported 3 internments in April and 183 cremations. Memorial Day ceremonies were a success and many thanks to all. Warren Telgren thanked the Cemetery folks for their efforts and they received a round of applause.
 - 4.) ECHCS – Lynette Roff reported on
 - Reiterate that dialog continue and vets will be included
 - Technology is available in Europe for telesurgery and she’s seen it demonstrated!
 - July 16th open house at Aurora CBOC from 12:30-4:00 pm, 13701 E Mississippi

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(Christina White 303-704-8445 for more info)

- Dr Boris Draznin (research chief) will be retiring in July. Search committee formed and recruitment will begin soon.
- Recruiting in progress for an Assistant Director to cover the expansion in Colorado Springs.
- Will be requesting UVC appoint a rep to sit on their Strategic Planning committee to help with planning for the upcoming fiscal year and other work groups for planning the design of replacement facilities.
- Dr. Robert Freedman has received an award for his research in schizophrenia
- Recent visiting team reviews have found Research and Lab/Pathology programs excellent.
- Denver and Buckley officials are developing a collaboration & integration model for the planned Fitzsimmons facility. Col Chryek & Ms Roff will present the model to the VA/DOD Joint exec Committee in Wash DC on July 23.
- Invited attendance at the Harley Heroes Independence Day celebration July 5th for the Denver Community Living Center residents 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

5.) DALC – Jeff Lingenbuel doing as well as could be expected– best wishes for a speedy recovery

20. DMVA / DVA – no report

21. INFINISHED BUSINESS - None

22. NEW BUSINESS:

- Ralph offered a resolution to accept Senator Entz's plan to Human Services to fix the cemetery at Home Lake – motion made, 2nd and Passed. (see Attached)
- The State Historical Museum is moving and plans to have a Veterans military wing– Brandon Schaeffer Will make the legislation and motion to support his legislation was made, 2nd, and carried.

23. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS –

- Military Retiree Appreciation Day is July 19th at Buckley. Contact Bob Van Sciver at the Retirees Office at Buckley
- **November meeting will be on the 18th at Olinger Crown Hill with lunch afterwards. Mark your calendars**
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24. ADJOURN 1105 hours

25. Next Meeting September 9, 2008 at Post 9644

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Sarlls & Michael Shapiro Secretary UVC June 10, 2008 (rev 2, Sep 04, 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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Attachment 1. Unified Statement

F_VAMC Unified Statement

Colorado veteran leadership has concerns with the VA VISN 19 Veteran-Centric plan for a new VA Medical Center, because of insufficient information. It is impossible for veterans to support the plan until details are presented.

We applaud the proposed meeting with Deputy Secretary Gordon Mansfield to involve veterans in the detailed planning process. It is to the benefit of all to resolve outstanding issues. We look forward to a timely plan for a new VA Medical Center at Fitzsimons that meets the needs as identified by CARES.

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Attachment 2: Homelake Resolution

The United Veterans Committee of Colorado
10 June 2008

Title: Homelake Cemetery Renovation 2008

Whereas, The State Veterans Center at Homelake was established in 1889 to care for Civil War veterans; and has cared for veterans of all wars and conflicts since then with great distinction and pride; and

Whereas, A portion of the land and mission at Homelake included a State Veterans Cemetery; and

Whereas, Veterans have been laid to rest with honor in the hallowed portion known as the Homelake Cemetery; and

Whereas, The land for the cemetery has met its limit and now has only eight burial spaces remaining; and

Whereas, Veterans from the Global War on Terror, and from other conflicts are still requesting burial space in the Homelake Cemetery; and

Whereas, The State of Colorado Department of Human Services owns 17 acres of land immediately adjacent to the north of the cemetery; and

Whereas, The Department of Human Services has been asked to provide a plan and funding for a Homelake Veterans Cemetery expansion, to include a columbarium; and

Whereas, The Department of Human Services timeline will not coincide with the burial requests, resulting in a stoppage of burials in the very near future; and

Whereas, Local farmers and ranchers led by former State Senator Lewis Entz, from Hooper, Colorado have submitted an offer to the Department of Human Services to allow them to offer, free of charge, their equipment and expertise to grade enough acreage immediately north of the cemetery to allow for an additional 300 graves and a columbarium; and

Whereas, This same group and local some merchants are also providing irrigation materials and installation as part of their offer; and

Whereas, The Department of Humans Services has turned down their offer for these free services, now therefore be it

Resolved, By The Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs at its regular meeting June 10, 2008, that the Colorado Department of Human Services accept the offer of local farmers and allow this work to take place during the summer of 2008; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Human Service submit a plan, with time lines and request adequate funding for a planned expansion of the Homelake State Veterans Cemetery by the summer of 2008.

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