

UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE OF COLORADO (UVC)

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>



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

Minutes

11 March, 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 AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
3. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR POW/MIA's.
4. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
 - First Time Attendees/Visitors welcomed
David Robbins, Golden Lending
Bette Lutkes & Margie A'Hearn, Society of Military Widows
Henry Mondragon, Arapahoe County VSO
Valerie Purser, Director, Arapahoe County Services
 - Special Speakers – Jay Arcuri & Christopher Conroy, Dignity Memorial/ Olinger
Spoke about bringing the traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC to Boulder's Mountain View Memorial Park July 18-20 2008. They showed a video and provided a handout and signup forms to volunteer to assist. Contact jay.arcuri@sci-us.com or 303-445-4115 (1-888-276-9645)
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)

VWIN – Edmee Hills circulated a flyer and announced that on March 17th at a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda, House speaker Romanoff and Senate President Groff will announce June 28th as an annual observance of Veterans' Widows and Widowers appreciation Day, and Governor Ritter will sign the proclamation for June 28th, 2008. She invited everyone to attend.

VFW – Warren Tellgren reported on progress of the VFW legislative conference in Washington DC and asked members to urge Senator Allard to co-sign onto Bill S-22, the GI Bill for the 21st Century that will pay for all college expenses for returning combat troops.

AVC – Warren Tellgren announced that the next meeting will be on April 6th @ VFW, 2680 W. Hampden to plan for the Fort Logan Cemetery Memorial Day Service on May 26th @ 11 AM.

Aurora Veteran's Affairs Commission- Announced the 2nd annual Veterans forum on March 13, 2008, invited everyone's attendance and left flyers with details of time and location.

VSO, DOUGLAS COUNTY – Henry Bohne reported that www.homesforourtroops.org is building a handicap accessible home for Matthew Keil in Parker, and needs donations of cash, materials, and labor. Pulte Homes is the lead, and Debbie Quackenbush with AMF is also involved.

Colorado Senior Lobby – Bob Epstein thanked everyone for supporting Senior Day at the capitol, and reported on bills affecting seniors.

American Legion – Ralph Bozella reported that the legion would be making its annual legislative visit to Washington DC and asked the congressional staffers to please ask their bosses to find time to meet with the delegation. The Legion will follow-up on SB-22, the 21st century GI Bill.
8. OTHER REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aurora Chamber of Commerce – George Peck provided a descriptive handout and reservation form and announced the annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon on Friday May 16, 2008 at the Holiday Inn DIA. He discussed the positive emotional responses of prior year honorees and their spouses
9. UVC COMMITTEES
 - Legislative Committee
 - Marvin Meyers and Jay Bobick praised Nate Gorman's work as our Legislative liaison.

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- Marvin distributed copies of Nate's Bill Tracking Summary and reminded everyone that the summary is disturbed weekly via e-mail, and updated weekly on the website as a link on the 'Legislative Agenda' page
 - Marvin also updated us on HB 1068 and 1078. UVC voted to take a position against HB1182 because of negative impacts on the proposed southern Colorado Veterans Cemetery.
 - Banquet Committee
 - Jay Bobick appealed to members to sell ads and seats at the tables, and announced the award recipients.
 - Ken Melcher reminded everyone of the date (April 6), place (Radisson SE, I-25 at Parker) and reminded everyone that ad copy is required by March 21 to allow journal setup and production.
 - Marvin Meyers updated us on the possibilities of a receiving/reception line for Gen Peake, and the possibilities of a organizational leaders meeting on Monday April 7.
 - Membership Committee – Ken Melcher & Mike Shapiro are trying to update our contact information.
10. COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – George Thomas announced the next meeting would be on March 12th 10AM at the DMA (Revere St), with the April meeting at Fitzsimmons and the May meeting in Craig on May 14. There will be a get-together on Tuesday evening May 13, place and time TBD, with local constituents of UVC members organizations invited.
11. VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION and VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION – Jeff Jerebker
- Commented that the Commission has many new member without long term care background, but they are learning.
 - The Facilities are showing progress in most indicators. Trinidad is still a concern, but costs are improving, and Florence is making good progress toward Medicare certification.
 - The oil and gas boom is affecting staffing – state compensation rates are not competitive.
 - Pinon Management supports HB 1114 which impacts 505 funds.
 - Brad Honl advised that Fitzsimmons has offered a local nurse the Director of Nursing position, to begin in May 2008, and that the census remain high with a 95% occupancy rate, which translates to a strong financial showing.
12. Fitzsimmons Nursing Home advisory Board – Ken Melcher provided an update
13. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS
- Senator Allard's Office – no report
- Senator Salazar's Office – Bennie Milliner
- Discussed issue of encroachment on military installations– they are economic generators.
- Discussed earmarks – not all earmarks are 'pork'. Some are legitimate, such as an Interchange on I-225 to support increased Fitzsimmons traffic for children's Hospital, VA Hospital, etc.
- Congressional Dist. 1 – DeGette – no report
- Congressional Dist. 2 – Udall – no report
- Congressional Dist. 3 – Salazar – no report
- Congressional Dist. 4 – Musgrave – no report
- Congressional Dist. 5 – Lamborn – no report
- Congressional Dist. 6 – Tancredo – no report
- Congressional Dist. 7 – Perlmutter – Bill Holen,
- On behalf of Tim Drago, thanked UVC for supporting the Colorado Monument Foundation fundraiser earlier in the month, and announced that the city has agreed to a use fee for Lincoln Park to support Monument maintenance.
 - Reported progress in getting folks for the living history project.
 - Reminded folks to apply for economic stimulus if they do not file taxes because of disability.
14. VISA 19, VARO, VA National Cemetery NCA, VA ECHCS, VA DALC, Fort Logan
- VISA 19 & ECHCS** – Lee Anderson
- a. Sec Peake has made his first field visit to our region (Montana and Utah)
 - b. Office of Rural Health is gearing up RFAs for new centers.
 - c. Advances include expansion of polytrauma (in Grand Junction) and elsewhere, Women's Health, OEF/OIF expanded services, Colorado springs CBOC expansion in process, and Aurora CBOC now open.

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Ft. Logan – Joe Turnbach

- d. 329 internments in February
- e. Ass't Director, John Rosentrater, is moving to take over a National Cemetery in Florida.
- f. Memorial Day planning is going well.

15. DMVA / DVA – no reports

16. OLD BUSINESS – Jay Bobick reminded folks to put their e-mail address on the attendance roster.

17. NEW BUSINESS: Ralph Bozella reminded folks that they can put an entry on their state taxes to support the Veterans cemetery Fund.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS – Jay Bobick

- Announced the a Planning meeting for the Memorial Day Tribute (24 May, 2008) will take place 6:30 PM on Tuesday, 18 March, 2008 at the VFW Post 2461, 1350 S. Broadway (across from Winchell's doughnuts) and invited interested parties to attend.
- thanked everyone for attending and being patient as we ran overtime.

19. ADJOURN 1046 hours.

20. Next Meeting 8 APRIL 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Shapiro Secretary UVC March 31, 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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