

## UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE OF COLORADO (UVC)

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>



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

### Minutes

**13 May 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](mailto: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
  - President Jay Bobick welcomed attendees, visitors, and guests and commented on the thank you note from VA Secretary Peake, our recent Banquet speaker, and a contribution from state Senator Wiens.
  - First Time Attendees/Visitors welcomed
    - Dr Mars Robinson, Coordinator of Operation Restoration, Lost and Found Inc.
    - Pamela Bennet, Aurora Veterans affairs Commission
    - Judy Nogg, Veterans Helping Veterans Now
  - Special Speakers
    - Paul Baldwin, Colorado State Director for Selective Service provided a refresher and update on the Selective Service system and reminded us that volunteers are needed as local Board members to replace incumbents who are reaching 20 year term limits.
    - Debbie Quackenbush, American Military Family, announced a pro-veterans event to be held at the Budweiser Events Center, Sat 30 Aug, 11AM– 11PM, and distributed an AMF brochure. More information on the event to follow.
    - Lawrence Mack, Senior Patrol Leader, BSA Troop 92 is looking for a veteran-related Eagle Scout project. He may be reached at 303-781-9915, or [dinosaur21@msn.com](mailto:dinosaur21@msn.com).
    - Tommy Joe Kuka, Faith Bible Chapel International ([fbci.org](http://fbci.org)) announced that FBC will be hosting a ½ scale replica of "the wall that heals" (The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC) as a service to the Denver Metro Community and in celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Of the Tet Victory in Vietnam. The distributed literature stated that the exhibit will be open to the public for free 24 hours per day beginning at sunrise June 19 through sunset on June 22 at Faith Bible Chapel, W. 62nd Ave @ Ward Rd, Arvada.
    - Glen Grippen, VISN 19, discussed the VISN 19 21<sup>st</sup> Century Integrated Health Care Plan, and the new concept for the VA Hospital that had previously been addressed at a meeting at the VA Hospital, and distributed a handout.  
(There were strong reactions from the America Legion which distributed a copy of their Letter to the Editor on the topic, and from PVA, among others).
5. ROLL CALL – quorum present
6. REPORTS:
  - a) Secretary – minutes approved as published
  - b) Treasurer – Report accepted
7. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**DAV** – Ken Cammell announced the state DAV convention 28-30 May at the Doubletree hotel on Quebec, and invited everyone to attend, and thanked UVC for honoring him at the Banquet with the Veterans Service Award.

**VWIN** – Edmee J. Hills reminded us of the kickoff reception to take place at the Capitol West Foyer at 2:30 to inaugurate the first celebration of Veterans' Widows/ers Day. More info to follow. She also announced that Mr. Al Bocchicchio, VA Executive Management Officer, Office of Field Operations has advised her that the VA office to address Survivors Benefits inquiries is about to become reality, and that

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the MOAA chapter in Colorado springs has requested VWIN assistance to organize a forum for new and older Veterans Widows/ers in the area.

**American Legion** – Jim Gillis announced

- the first in the nation Internet Café & Veterans Ed Center opened at the Denver Vet Center on April 7th. Computers provided and set up by the American Legion. The Legion will also provide ongoing support.
- Legion Boys State will be June 9-13 at USC Pueblo. It has about 140 applications, and he provided contact info for more applications (cutoff was May 15).
- Legion annual Convention will be June 26-29 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs. More info to come, or visit the Legion website

**Blue Water Navy Assoc.** – John Rossie advised that there has been a Court ruling that benefits for Agent Orange Contamination do not apply to folks who did not have “boots on the ground” in Vietnam. This ruling applies to sailors and merchantmen offshore, aircrews who sprayed it, and the munitions storage folks who handled and loaded it for transport. Much discussion followed.

**Aurora Veterans Affairs Commission** – Pamela Bennet introduced herself. (See above first time attendee. The AVAC is now an Associate Member)

**American Legion** – Tom Bock announced that the Medal of Honor Society will hold their annual Convention in Denver from Sept 16-20 and is seeking volunteers to assist with the program. More info and volunteer at [www.medalofhonor2008.org](http://www.medalofhonor2008.org)

**National Soujourners** – Dick Cook announced that the City of Westminster will dedicate a Veteran's Tribute Garden at 104<sup>th</sup> and Sheridan on Sat May 17<sup>th</sup> at 1000 hrs.

**PVA** – James Sack, President, commented that PVA's expectations are that a SCI Center will be incorporated in the new VA hospital as originally planned, and that PVA supports the American Legion's Letter to the Editor. Tom Wheaton, Hospital Liaison, commented that the VISN Healthcare Plan is a blatant disregard for specialized services, and circumvents the VA's own detailed assessment of Veterans care needs in 2020 and beyond.

**AFSA** – Ken Melcher announced the 2008 Aurora Veterans Salute will be November 12 at Wings over the Rockies Museum.

### 8. UVC COMMITTEES

- Legislative Committee – (Marvin is on vacation) It was announced that the \$2.9 Tobacco Fund reimbursement has been approved and will be signed May 16 at the Armed Forces Luncheon.
- Banquet Committee – Ken Melcher provided a hard copy report of the Banquet. Projected income will be approximately \$26000 to fund UVC activities.
- Membership Committee – George Palmateer reported on new member applications received.

9. COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – George Thomas announced that the Board would have a reception this evening in Craig at the American Legion, 6:30-8:30, with a meeting tomorrow (May 14) at the Craig VFW, 9:00-11:00. The June meeting will be at DMA to review grant requests. >\$1M requested, but only about \$500,000 is available for distribution.

10. VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION – Jeff Jerebker summarized status of the various homes. Key points:

- Fitzsimmons – Good VA survey, Strong Financial performance, New Dir of Nursing to start in two days, still have staff openings
- Trinidad – Showing Improvement but still losing money, Increase in medical reimbursements and census, Better cost control
- Rifle – State of crisis – labor shortages from local oil & gas boom, expensive temporary help, poor State survey results, Freeze on new admissions, management & leadership issues. Pinonis doing a root cause analysis.

11. VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION – John Johnson reiterated some of Jeff's comments and reported that Homelake will get a renovation – State and federal funds have been approved, and they are prepping for their VA survey.

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12. FITZSIMMONS NURSING HOME ADVISORY BOARD – Ken Melcher invited all to the upcoming monthly meeting.
13. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS
  - Senator Allard's Office –
  - Senator Salazar's Office – Bennie Milliner reported that the National defense Authorization act of 2008 provides medical retirement equity for those forced out before 20 years for CRSC and commented that Medicare rate reductions ripple to Tricare with result that fewer physicians will be willing to accept Tricare.
  - Congressional Dist. 1 – DeGette –
  - Congressional Dist. 2 – Udall –
  - Congressional Dist. 3 – Salazar –
  - Congressional Dist. 4 – Musgrave –
  - Congressional Dist. 5 – Lamborn –
  - Congressional Dist. 6 – Tancredo – Terry Van Keuren commented on the book Lone Survivor that addresses Danny Dietz' heroism, and reported that Rep Tancredo thinks that Dietz should get the Medal of Honor (see the May addition of the American Legion Magazine for more information)
  - Congressional Dist. 7 – Perlmutter – Bill Holen reported on the Congressman's tour of the VA Regional Office, and reminded attendees of the Armed Forces luncheon in Aurora.
14. VISN 19, VARO, VA National Cemetery NCA, VA ECHCS, VA DALC, Fort Logan
  - 1.) VISN 19 – (See above – Special Speakers)
  - 2.) VARO – Janice Jacobs reported 8000 claims pending with the average days to process a claim now 112, with a goal of 110. VARO has been meeting with Ft Carson and AFA to make the seamless transition process more efficient.
    - Greg Bittle provided a brief overview of VA's Voc Rehab program, and passed out a booklet. The program applies to active duty also. He also mentioned the Coors and Home Depot programs to employ Vets.
  - 3.) Ft. Logan – Joe Turnbach reported 328 internments in April and 177 cremations. Memorial Day ceremonies will be 11:00 Am on Monday May 26, hosted by Associated Veterans of Colorado. A flyer was distributed. Joe also mentioned that AVC could use some help to pick up flags after Memorial Day.
  - 4.) ECHCS – Lynette Roff reported on
    - the new ACOS for ambulatory care, and Dr Don Weinskeiner
    - OEF/OIF clinic in Colorado Springs
    - Superclinic in Colorado Springs, interviewing for two cardiologists for Colorado Springs and the I-25 Corridor south
    - Plans to expand the Lakewood clinic
    - Polytrauma/low vision clinic under design
  5. VAMC, Cheyenne – David Kilpatrick thanked Ralph Bozella for attending the Greeley clinic re-opening and reported that the Fort Collins lease has been signed and should be opening in December.
15. DMVA / DVA – no report
16. OLD BUSINESS - None
17. NEW BUSINESS: Announcement that the fallen warrior license plate is available at no extra charge
18. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS –
  - Rep Nancy Todd will be holding a Town Hall meeting at Heather Gardens auditorium on May 14 @ 7PM
  - Jay Bobick announced the Weld county Veterans memorial fundraiser to include a flagpole. (Information had previously been distributed via our e-mail)
19. ADJOURN 1105 hours
20. Next Meeting June 10, 2008

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Respectfully submitted,

**Michael Shapiro Secretary UVC    June 02, 2008**

*James C. Bobick, UVC President, 303-699-1575*

*George Dale Thomas, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, 303-751-8252*

*Ralph Bozella, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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