

UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE OF COLORADO (UVC)

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>



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

Minutes (rev 2) (18 November 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 0902 (at Dignity Memorial)
2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
3. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR POW/MIA's.
4. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
 - Bill Mitchell – VA new hire
 - Charlie Flowers – new TREA National President
 - Special Speakers
 - Christopher Conroy, Dignity Memorial, our host welcomed us and provided an overview of services available from Olinger's/Dignity for veterans.
 - Ralph Bozella addressed final Arrangements for Jeff Luginbuel.
 - Marvin Meyer's commented on Rio Lucas' passing.
5. ROLL CALL – quorum present
6. REPORTS:
 - a) Secretary – minutes of September meeting approved as published. No minutes in October because of the candidates forum.
 - b) Treasurer – Report submitted by Ken Melcher, acting Treasurer, accepted. Jay introduced Glenn Kataoka, the Alt rep designee from the Navy league as our new Treasurer. Membership voted to accept Glenn as treasurer.
7. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: (not in precise order)
 - Brookdale Sr Living** – Lizabeth Geiser, discussed the VA's Aid and Attendance Pension Program and provided handouts. (Handouts have been scanned and e-mailed out, also posted on our website).
 - American Legion** – Jim Gillis announced the mid-year conference will be Jan 23-25 @ the Radisson on Quebec. Everyone is invited. More info @ Dec meeting.
 - Sons of the American Legion** – Randy Emeterio announced their annual awards dinner to be held Saturday, Nov 22, 6pm @ American Legion Post 1, I-25 & Yale.
 - VFW** – Warren Tellgren announced the Free Annual Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner, 11/22/08 noon to 2pm @ VFW 9644, and invited all to attend.
 - The Retired Enlisted Association** – C D Rice had previously introduced TREA's new National President, and now apologized for Charlie Flowers' absence as he had a prior commitment, but passed along Mr. Flowers thanks for UVC's continued support of TREA.
 - Arapahoe County VSO** – Henry Mongragon reminded attendees that county VSO's provide at NO CHARGE the same Aid and Attendance services described by Ms Geiseras well as other services, and commented that VSOs do make home visits, and facility (nursing home) visits.
8. UVC COMMITTEES
 - Legislative Committee – Marvin Meyers presented the 2008-09 legislative goals and priorities. The membership accepted them and they will be posted to the website.
 - Banquet Committee – Ken Melcher reported that the 2009 banquet will be April 26th at the Red Lion (same hotel, new name)
 - Membership Committee – The Navy League has been reinstated by membership vote.
9. COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – Ralph Bozella reported that the board met on 11/12 at Wings over the Rockies prior to the Aurora Veterans Salute. The board discussed the UVC legislative priorities, the New VA hospital issue, and the State Veterans Cemetery at Homelake. The next State Board meeting is Tuesday 12/9 @ 1:00 pm @ DMVA.

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10. VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION – Jeff Jerebker updated Nursing Home Status:
 - Rifle – Still a concern because of staffing challenges resulting from oil & gas industry labor demands. Admissions freeze is off.
 - Trinidad - A state (not Federal) home but part of the 505 fund, it continues to lack “urgency”.
 - Fitzsimmons – very successful rehab program – 20-40 days and discharge. Medicare pays 100% for the first 20 days. For 20+ days, VA and Medicare co-cover expenses.Ralph Bozella called for a representative from DHS to attend meetings.
11. FITZSIMMONS ADVISORY BOARD - Ken Melcher reported that the pharmacy is up and running for residents, and nursing staff vacancies exist.
12. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS
 - Congressional Dist. 7 – Perlmutter – Bill Holen thanked UVC for its support of the US Library of Congress Veterans History Project. The first disc is ready for showing, and more interviews will take place after the first of the year as an on-going project with the Community College of Aurora. He also provided an update on the VA hospital.
13. VISN 19, VARO, VA National Cemetery NCA, VA ECHCS, VA DALC, Fort Logan
 - 1.) VISN 19 – Anita Urdiales
 - VISN19 completed FY08 ranked 4th of 21 VISNs, and remain committed to quality of care.
 - Priorities for 2009 include Access, Uniform Mental Health Benefits Package, Expansion of Homeless Programs, and Growth
 - Colorado Springs health Care Center estimated 115,000 sq. ft projected to open in 2012.
 - Denver Hospital – Senator AKAKA visited 10/24 and wrote a letter to Sec. Peake. VISN will share the response when they get it.
 - Plans for CBOCs in Colorado – ECHCS is studying their market area – working on sites in Utah and looking at Glenwood springs and Gunnison.
 - Travel reimbursement increased effective 11/17 from \$285/mi to \$.415/mi
 - 2.) VARO –
 - Kay Collins reported that 9,000 claim backlog is down to 7400 (150 days average processing time with a goal of <100 days) and 50 more claims processors than a couple of years ago.
 - Bruce Newton provided handouts and an update on VA Home Loan Benefit Changes
 - VA Loans are not Sub-prime
 - Veterans with conventional loan problems should contact the VA Regional office in Lakewood (155 Van Gordon St – 1-888-349-7541). VA can work with existing lenders.
 - VA loan Cap increase - \$144, 000. 100% refinance now available
 - Hybrid adjustable rate (VA) locked for 1st 3 years (program will be available for the next 12 years)
 - VA can help with “short sell” and VA will pay the difference
 - www.mortgage.x.com lists lenders who work with VA
 - For service connected disability of 10% or higher, the origination fee is waived.
 - 3.) ECHCS – Christina White reported that
 - DES – Dr. D’Arcy, the compensation and Pension physician, and Mark Stevenson, Assistant Director are in Washington to learn about implementing the pilot program in Washington
 - The Space Plan for the Health Care Center @ Fitzsimmons to be finalized the week of 11/17. The Joint Venture team is working on a demolition plan and offsite utilities package. ECHCS is awaiting further guidance on next steps from the Secretary’s office.
 - An advertisement for 15-20 acres of land to build/lease a Colorado Springs Health Care Center was published last week. ECHCS is hoping to review potential sites the 2nd week in Dec.
 - Strategic planning will focus on Rural health Care, Mental health, Increasing inpatient and operating room capacity, Women’s health, Expanding tele-health programs, alternatives to institutional and palliative care programs.
 - The search for an Associate Director has concluded and awaiting concurrence from VA central Office
 - Search for an Associate Director for Patient Focused Care has begun, with an anticipated appointment in January '09.

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14. DMVA / DVA - Reminder that there will be a 5.8% increase in military pensions and social security in January.
15. OLD BUSINESS – Nate Gorman, our Legislative liaison has been extended for another year
16. NEW BUSINESS - none
17. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS – none
18. ADJOURN 1119 hours.
19. Next Meeting : 12/9 at VFW 9644

January Meeting (tentative) 1/13 @ Governor's Mansion by invitation

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Shapiro Secretary UVC (12/2/2008, revised 12/9/2008)

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

Glenn kataoka, Treasurer, 303-795-4343

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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