

**UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE OF COLORADO (UVC)**

<http://unitedveteranscommittee.com>



**UVC  
P.O BOX 31261  
AURORA, CO 80041-1261**

**MINUTES**

**(8 JUNE, 2010)**

**MEETINGS AT VFW POST 9644  
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>

**NEW Email:**

[secty@unitedveteranscommittee.com](mailto:secty@unitedveteranscommittee.com)

1. **CALL TO ORDER 0900 hrs**
2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE TO THE FLAG**
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR MIA-POW:**
4. **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**
  - First Time Attendees / Visitors Welcomed
    1. Linda Rawers. Women Veteran Program Manager, ECHCS, VISN 19
    2. Rhonda Sharbini, Program Assistant, Denver VA Women's Program
    3. Mark Pieffer, President, Colorado Technical University
  - Guest Speakers - Women Veterans Program, ECHS, VISN 19, Linda Rawers and Rhonda Sharbini
    1. Women Veterans Program, health care. There are an increasing number of enrollees and women serving. This requires readiness on the VA's part to provide competent, caring and skilled women's primary care. Stressed the importance of outreach and provider education, veteran centered care. Please send your female veterans to their office at the VA Hospital, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, room 5B116, phone 303-399-8020 Ext 3880.
5. **ROLL CALL**
6. **REPORTS**
  - Secretary – Minutes approved
  - Treasurer Report – Accepted
7. **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS (not in precise order)**
  - VFW – Warren Tellgren, Past Dept Commander
    1. The VFW Ladies Auxiliary raised \$10K for the Wheel Chair Games.
    2. VFW Sate Convention will be at Post 9644 June 14 - 17.
    3. Memorial Day at Ft Logan had a crowd of 3500 plus, great speakers, great weather.
  - Aurora Veterans Salute – Ken Melcher
    1. The aurora Veterans Salute will be held November 10 at Wings over the Rockies. Group reservations are available though September 24.
  - Forgotten Heroes Campaign – Izzy Abbass, Vice Chairman
    1. Pushing to raise awareness of the program and have organizations contact us.
  - Senior Vets – Carolyn Beller
    1. On May 18 the staff members and delegation met with the unit in Salt Lade City regarding issues surrounding the criteria for assisting vets. The result was the GAO report was corrected. Nest stop is the Secretary of the VA.
  - Project Sanctuary – Kristi Kinnison, Director of Development.

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1. Helped 10 more military families reconnect during our 11<sup>th</sup> 5 night therapeutic retreat.
  2. President Obama announced a directive to help military families, next 90 days to find our need and partner with organizations to help families.
8. **UVC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** - Marvin Meyers, Nate Goreman
- Introduced Adrian Miller, Sr. Policy Advisor to Governor Bill Ritter.
  - Reviewed issue affecting use of 505 funds raised on behalf of the five Colorado Veterans Nursing Homes and spent for deficits at the Trinidad State Nursing Home.
  - Veterans are advocating to stop the inappropriate use of these funds.
  - Governor's office will see if there are state funds to replace the 505 funds for Trinidad.
  - Discussed Candidates Forum to be held at the September UVC meeting. All member organizations are urged to attend. Candidates are asked to bring campaign literature.
  - The UVC Legislative Update was distributed.
  - Wayne Thompson – VFW, AL and other VSO's oppose the transfer of the Bingo licensing and regulation authority from the Secretary of State to Department of Revenue. Additional Revenues will be taken from non-profits, increased taxes, and reduced available funds available to serve our communities.
9. **UVC BANQUET COMMITTEE** - Report by Ken Melcher.
- The UVC Banquet committee met with the UVC Executive Committee and established the next banquet date of April 10, 2011.
10. **UVC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**
- USO request for Associate Membership was tabled until the September meeting.
11. **COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** - Report by **George Thomas, member**
- Next board meeting 22 June at VFW in Grand Junction
  - Grants have been decided and grantees are being notified.
  - \$50,000 awarded to NWC Games.
12. **VETERANS NURSING HOME COMMISSION** - Report by Jay Bobick
- See Legislative Report on Trinidad
  - Next Commission Meeting is 9 July with CBVA and DHS.
  - Priority is Fitzsimons NH Domiciliary
13. **VETERANS NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION** - Jeff Jerbecker, Pinion Management, Brad Honl, Fitzsimons administrator
- Pinion Contract Renewal
  - **Rifle:**
  - Has received all furniture from the Veterans Trust Fund Grant
  - Census has been consistently increasing since October
  - Rifle had a profit in April, 1<sup>st</sup> time in the past 1.5 years
  - **Homelake:**
  - Construction continues on DOM cottages
  - The Colorado Department of Health survey report was received on May 11.
  - Hosted National Nursing Home week.
  - Colorado Adjutant General Michael Edwards was the keynote speaker at the Memorial Day event.
  - **Fitzsimons:**
  - Census 170
  - Continue to contribute positively to 505 fund.
  - 80% veterans
  - **All homes:**

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- Putting together budgets for 2010 / 2011
- 14. **FITZSIMONS NURSING HOME ADVISORY BOARD** – Ken Melcher
  - Announced the next meeting will be June 25<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM.
- 15. **CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS.**
  - **Congressman Perlmutter** - Bill Holen – Congressional Staff
    - VA HUD Washington VASH Award to Aurora Housing Authority
  - **Congresswoman Markey** – Jamie Grimm
    - The Congresswoman introduced the Honor Act Amendment to the Defense Authorization Act. This creates a scholarship for veterans who wish to pursue a post secondary degree in behavioral health sciences. The amendment was passed.
  - **Representative Jared Polis** - Stuart Feinhor – Veterans Advocate
    - No Report
  - **Representative Coffman** - Myron Spanier – Staff
  - **Senator Bennet** – Bennie Millner, Community Liaison
  - **Governor Ritter** – Adrian Miller, Senior Analyst
    - Todd Saliman, the Governor’s budget director, will assess the options available to address the Trinidad State Nursing Home situation. He is waiting to see how much is available in the budget after the June 20<sup>th</sup> forecast. We don’t want to continue to drain the 505 fund.
    - The state cannot continue to support the Trinidad State Nursing Home and we don’t want it to close.
- 16. **VISN 19, VARO, VA CEMETERIES, VA ECHCS, VA DALC, VA HEALTH CENTER**
  - VA Regional Office – Rebecca Sawyer, Public Affairs
    1. VA Secretary Shinseki goals:
    2. By 2015 all claims worked in under 125 days with 98% accuracy
    3. Eliminate Veterans homeless in 5 years
    4. e-Benefits – links to military and veteran benefits, provides access to applications, shows benefit status and payment history.
    5. Propose rule for Agent Orange for presumptives. Add B cell leukemia, Parkinson’s Disease and Ischemic Heart Disease. Final rule expected by late summer or fall..
  - Fort Logan National Cemetery – Kathy Silva, Assistant Director
    1. Burials for May 2010 – 334, (224 cremations, 120 casketed)
    2. Thanks for help during Memorial Day Activities, special thanks to Associated Veterans of Colorado.
  - ECHCS – Lynette Roth
    1. Replacement Facility
      - Continuing user group meetings
      - Anticipate Integrated Design Contract award end of June
      - Actual construction anticipated March 2011
    2. Colorado Springs
      - Advertised delineated area for location of replacement facility.
    3. Lakewood
      - Requested to replace and expand clinic
    4. Homeless Domiciliary
      - Advertising for Program Director for 40 bed unit.

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5. Wheel Chair Games
  - Received \$50 K grants for Colo Veterans Trust. Thank you!
6. VSO meetings
  - Next will be June 30
  - Will cancel July and August meetings.
7. C&PE evaluations
  - Working down claims
  - Added new providers
  - Processing time now at 50 days.
8. DES
  - Received National Attention
  - Visit from SVAC last Friday
9. JIF Ambulatory Surgery
  - Kick off June 17<sup>th</sup>
10. Fisher House
  - On list for replacement
  - Constructed in conjunction with the new facility
- VISN 19 – Anita Urdiales, Health System Specialist
  1. Mr. Grippen, Network Director, was recently honored as one of the recipients of the Presidential Rank Award.
  2. Two Network Directors have been asked to participate in the SVAC Hearing on rural health. Mr. Grippen will attend the 6/16 hearing.
  3. Joint Commission has visited 2 of our VISN Facilities. Went well.
  4. Ft Carson DES Project has continued to receive attention.
  5. Please remember to check N.D. update (WWW.VISN19.GOV)
- 17. DMVA/DVA – Michael "Mickey" Hunt, Deputy Director**
  - VSO training was accomplished over 4 days by DVA.
  - There is a Air and Army Guard Live Fire exercise this Saturday at Fort Carson. Some local legislators will be attending.
  - Gov. Ritter will be getting an F-16 back seat ride on next Tuesday.
  - 22 June at 1315 will be the Ground Breaking Ceremony in Grand Junction, attended by the Governor and many legislators.
- 18. VA Denver Acquisitions and Logistics – Kimberly Lohorton**
  - The DALC and Hearing Aid business continues to increase at a rate of 23% over the previous year.
  - It is serving many new veterans with hearing aids, batteries and accessories as well as repairs
  - Repairmen from our electronics lab are attending several VSO Conventions this summer.
- 19. OLD BUSINESS - None**
- 20. NEW BUSINESS - None**
- 21. UVC PRESIDENT COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 22. ADJOURN**

**Next meeting is September 14 and will be the Candidates Forum**

Submitted by Steve Rylant, UVC Secretary

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