



General Meeting, April 9, 2019

Call to order 9:00 – President James Craig

Invocation – Dennis Orr

Pledge – Dennis Orr

First Time Attendees: Will Striper, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services, Washington DC; Nate Smith, VA Office of Community Care; Roberta Vigil Moreno, Rocky Mountain Veterans Advocacy Program and American GI Forum; Tony Archer, Congressman Lamborn’s Senior Veterans Liaison; Michael Sinclair, Combat Veteran/Combat Medic; Greg Morton, National Service Officer, Winged Warrior Project; Jeremy Iman, Congressman Perlmutter’s Office

Presentation: Nate Smith – VA Office of Community Care, National Provider Experience Manager. Team of nine, provider experience team. Four main functions: Case/issue resolution; provider outreach and education; and network advocacy.

Community Care – since end of WWII, VA has the need to pay for veteran care. FY 2017, 36% of all VA appointments, a program that has grown over the years. Purchase care in community – travel, exceeds the VA capacity, staffing, space or specialty care, wait time, to make sure it is cost effective. A service-connected veteran overseas what is to be paid by VA, to the veteran. The veteran does have to be enrolled in VA healthcare before being services paid. The facility will manage all the facility questions, coordinate all the health care needed and the forms for payment. All veteran’s care requires advanced authorization. Exception being emergency services. Service connected vs. non-service connected is how the pay is divided out. Emergency medical care – no need to check with VA. Should seek care at the nearest care facility and VA to be notified by service provider within 72 hours. The information is on the VA website. VA is always the second provider. There will be six regions when full capacity. (Visit UVCOC.ORG for slide show presentation for full details)

Presentation: Will Striper, Will Striper, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services

Serves veterans with disabilities of 10 percent or greater.

Types of Services:

- Reemployment – come back and your situation has changed and want to go back to work with your same employer. They will help provide training to bridge the gap.

- Rapid Access to Employment – good skills for education and training – may require additional training
- Employment through long-term services – changing occupations and provide education and a stipend for up to four years.
- Self-employment for veterans who may now no be suited for a regular work week and rigid employment – entrepreneurial in nature
- Independent living – helps veterans who are not ready to live on their own – provides goal ensuring they are not disengaged from the community – be as independent as they can.
- Chapter 36 Program – within a year of being fully discharged – provides expertise and benefits that will result in the veteran is successful.
- Vets success on campus – assist an veteran attending school on GI bill or chapter 31
- IDES counselors – 87 across the country – going through med boards – Does a lot to overcome gaps for the veterans by providing appropriate technology.

Timeline for eligibility is 12 years of your initial disability from VA or an increase in your disability that would date of rating. Removed the 12-year date. Access for benefits through VA.gov. Apply on line. 48 months of entitlement.

Outreach is going to be extensive. Chapter 31 or vocational plan please turn to someone with expertise to help you navigate the system to get the best outcome for each veteran. It is a funded program that is mandatory funding. Can't double dip

Three-year modernization effort – in the middle of this. Now offers teleconferencing services.

Roll Call by Dick Wilson

Legislation Update: Dick Young: 3 weeks left in session. Nurses pay in living centers will be in the final stages of the long bill. License plate for women's is passed to go before the finance at April 16 at 2:00. Suicide efforts is a main concern for many veteran organizations. The Governor's challenge is to get all involved. Training individuals to indicate suicide of veterans. Our job is to identify to get help that is there. Next legislative meeting is Tuesday April 25 at 2:00 American Legion Post.

New memberships

- Wellness Tech Plus Applied for Associate membership, first meeting
- Submarine veterans, in attendance. Has attended before. Steve Ryant moved to be accepted as an associate membership. Bernie Rogoff seconded. Passed unanimously
- Rocky Mountain Veterans Outreach Program – first meeting. Russel Lopez. Presented a \$200 donation to the UVC.
- Brighton VFW – second meeting. Steve Ryant moved to accept as an associate member. Seconded by Bernie Rogoff. Passed unanimously.
- Marcus Institute, second meeting. Bernie Rogoff moved to accept as an associate member, Dick Young seconded. Passed unanimously.

Banquet Update: – Bernie – full, productive, positive and successful. Next banquet tentatively set for April 5, 2020. \$2500 from Auction.

Regional Reps: Shelley excused

Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs: Summit county – town hall – suicide prevention. Grand County – Thursday. May 9 – to meet in Grand Junction. 9:00 and then meeting at 11:00

Department of Military Affairs – not in attendance.

No VSOs in attendance for announcements

Elected Officials

- No Governor Representative in attendance
- Tom Farrell with Sen. Bennet's office: His prognosis is good – thanks UVC for banquet.
- Steve with Cory Gardner's, office. March 22 hosted ceremony for Korean war veterans. 12 folks going to the Air Force Academy
- Daniel with Rep. Crow's office: Had a great time at the banquet. Looking for applicants for the academies. Congressman co-sponsoring VA search act – clinical research for cannabis use. Send letter
- Kim Red – Rep. Neguse's office: Supporting HR553 – military surviving veterans act. Working with northern Colorado group Imagine Zero. Working with health registry in other office.
- Jeremy Iman – Perlmutter. New rep. Nothing to report right now. The Congressman enjoyed banquet
- Tony Archer – Lamborn's office – just started two weeks ago

COC Administration – no update – find the Rifle, Colorado story 101 year-old survivor of USS Arizona

COC Commission – looking at the long-term liability to study the model that would allow nursing homes

Vista 19 - last week national disabled veterans Sports for Vets social media.

VA regional office – just left

Cemetery Matt Williams:

- May 27, 11:00 flag ceremony. Overwhelming support of putting out flags.
- 50 acres, proceeding in June with an environmental assessment
- Ft Logan has two safelights
- Two new world cemeteries

Health care – Kristy – thank for yesterday, SCI ribbon cutting March 9 – celebrated Viet Nam veteran day.

- April 14 is now following under the VA system
- April 16 – ground breaking for Fischer House
- Rich Termain – retiring April 12 – new director of Colorado Veterans State of Affairs – retirement party 2:00. Rocky Mountain Regional UVC auditorium

Frank McCarty: Be electing new officers in June. Need volunteers to do other things. First and second vice president positions are open.

Tribute to Viet Nam Veterans – traveling or healing wall in Arvada, Colorado, between June 19th and 24th, at the Faith Bible Chapel on Ward Road. Open 24 hours. Children welcome. Volunteers and ambassadors needed. Do not forget those who have served!