

**United Veterans Coalition
General Meeting
September 10, 2019
Verle Huffman VFW Post**

MINUTES

Call to Order – Dennis Orr

Invocation and Moment of Silence for POWs & MIAs – Pastor John Altland

Pledge of Allegiance – Dick Young

Introduction of people attending their first meeting – Dennis Orr

Roll Call – Karen Hone

Installation of Officers, Ralph Bozella presiding: Karen Hone, Assistant Secretary; Paul Gremse, Treasurer; and Larry Carroll, Judge Advocate and Legal Counsel

Communications Committee Report – Dennis C. described the failure to communicate information about UVC in this way: Steve Bender sends out the very informative newsletter to member organizations, and it never gets circulated down the line to their own members. This committee is committed to calling attention to that fact and see if we can address it. Another issue is making sure it's going to the right folks within our member organizations. If you have a name to add, call Steve Bender at 719-310-9930.

Stephanie Vivirski will be working on updating the Facebook page. Members of this committee are Stephanie, Dennis C., Dick Young, Diane Young, Russell Dennis and Karen Hone.

Website under renovation – The Executive Committee voted to terminate the lease with MemberClicks. Diane Young has volunteered to re-create UVC's page. The address will still be www.uvcoc.org As we go along with the new page, suggestions are welcome.

Guest Speaker Chris Kniss – Doose Outfitters Ministry – Chris and his wife use hunting and fishing to share the gospel with active and retired military veterans to try and prevent suicide. The program is 100% free to participants. They always can use monetary donations. They have good relationships with other agencies focusing on preventing suicide. Getting the veterans back into the outdoors is effective. They are haunted by demons, e.g. "what I should have done" or "what I couldn't do". They share their belief that God is the ultimate healer and restorer. Flashbacks are a moment in time. They photograph the hunt so when they get down they can look back at a positive experience in recent times.

1st Marine Division Association and Coopers Troopers. They have launched a movement to promote hyperbaric oxygen therapy (H-bot) which has proven successful in treating Traumatic Brain Injuries, PTSD, and suicidal thoughts. They have published a book, "Healing the Signature Wounds of War". This therapy drives oxygen where it's needed in the brain. There are 44 suicide attempts/day and 20 completions. They are asking for UVC's support in sponsoring a bill that would authorize certain medical professionals to use this therapy, along with spouse involvement and exercise.

Ralph noted that there still is not enough research to prove its effectiveness. It would just be permissive. Not one thing helps everyone...but this therapy helps a lot. The U.S. is way behind in using this. Steve Rylant invited them to attend the next Legislative Committee meeting and present language for a possible bill.

Medal of Honor Museum – Jeff Kraft and Nikki Maloney presented the possibility of locating a Medal of Honor Museum in downtown Denver. Denver is a finalist vs. Arlington, Texas. The not-for-profit group supporting this includes 4 past-presidents. Looked at cities throughout the states...want to be in middle of the country to increase access. Parking lot at Colfax & Lincoln is the potential site, a great site next to the Capitol. Colo. Has tremendous military heritage. Help by 1. Letters of support, 2. Holding community rally to show grassroots support. Sept 17th at 1:30 would love vet organizations to be there to show passion, support, military history of our state. It is a great opportunity for Colorado. If more information is needed, contact nikki.maloney@state.co.us by Monday, Sept. 16, or call 303-882-2713.

Budget Committee Report – Glenn Kataoka reminded everyone that donations from member organizations are critical and welcome.

State Legislative Committee – Robby invited anyone interested to attend their next meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at American Legion Post 1, at 9:00am

Banquet – Bernie and Karen are working on this; they are developing new graphics for this year. They are also enlisting members' help in making corporate contacts.

Regional Reps

Stephanie Vivirski is working on attracting younger veterans, and will be setting goals for how to attract them. Organizations such as Team Red, White & Blue, Team Rubicon, Mission Continue will be contacted. She doesn't believe that they know or realize what UVC can do legislatively. We need to get their ideas on what legislation would benefit them. Meetings on Tuesday morning will not work for them....she wants to invite them to monthly "mixers" in the evening to educate them about UVC.

Jim Craig reported that the regional rep in Cortez....gone to Durango and Albuquerque VA to introduce himself. More information to come.

Colo Board VA – meets 4 Oct 0900 McCandless living center in Florence (Sheila Scanlon reported)

DMVA – Ben Mestas announced that the women veterans' license plate will be available 1/1/20 \$50 fee. The Department has received some "left Over" money that will be used for additional grants. One grantee needs assistance storing furniture or they cannot complete the grant. They held a Division- wide training conference, 106 attendees thanks to VBA and other VA support 12/1 – 3/1 open up grant cycle....veterans assistance grants...please apply

Program at Metro has 30 students in 19 majors....looking for mentors for student veterans...help guide, transition them as smoothly as they can. Call the coordinator to volunteer: 303-315 7299

Womens Marine Association - Paula Sarlls – they are trying to fill a gap for vets who have exhausted all resources....have applied for a state grant They are supporting the Marine Corps USMC Foundation....to upgrade the memorial in Golden.

Wreaths Across America -Steve Best – he’s co-chair at the national level . Encouraged organizations to participate.

Ralph Bozella – American Legion act passed...any veterans who served honorably since 1941 now eligible to join American Legion

Congressional Representatives – After the recess, everyone is getting back into action. Numerous congressional members have supported the repeal of the Widow’s tax, and they are starting interviews for the service academies.

VCLC – no report

Ralph Gigliotti VISN 19 – UVC is unparalleled in all the 4 other states he supervises. Michael Kilmer, current VA director in Grand Junction will replace Sallie. There will be a welcome reception Oct. 4, and invitations will be sent out. This means they have a vacancy in Grand Junction and Patrick Hull will serve as acting. Job post closes Oct 9...hope to fill by end of January. Mission Act implemented in June...their internal workload has gone up 5-7% Overall implementation had been outstanding. They are embarking on a market analysis that will consider the physical conditions of buildings, the vet population quality and the quality and quantity of community providers.

Chris Holly - Encouraged Blue Water Navy veterans to go ahead and apply for a claim....get in the queue. They removed the limit on a loan guarantee.

Khristie Barker of ECHCS announced that RMR will be a nonsmoking campus soon.

Oct 10 standdown at Colo. convention center

Oct 4 – Reception to welcome Michael Kilmer as RMR Director

At the October 8th General Meeting the VA is offering free flu shots (only for veterans)

Membership

Veterans Squaring Away Veterans - Vsav.org Headquartered in Colorado Springs. They assist vets with peer advisors, one on one with vet and their families. Individual stays with the veteran throughout the process. In business 5 years. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the VSAV organization was approved as an Associate Member Organization.

Wreaths Across America has turned in an application for Associate Membership. Steve Best described what they have done since 1992, placing thousands of wreaths on gravesites. They will be voted on in October.

Thanked Post #101 for their \$100 donation!

