

**United Veterans Coalition of Colorado**  
**General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 11, 2020**  
**VFW Post 9644**  
**9:00am**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order** – President Dennis Orr at 9:20am due to bad weather.

**Invocation, Moment of Silence**

**Pledge of Allegiance** – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Dick Young

**1<sup>st</sup> Time Attending Introductions**

Sasha Benne, Mary Volenec, Kelly Watson, SCL Lutheran Hospice  
Rita Case, Metro State University  
Carissa Snyder, DMVA

**Roll Call** – Karen Hone

All primary organization representatives were absent, except:  
Patti Sampers, Gold Star Wives  
Bernie Rogoff, Jewish War Veterans  
Shelly Kalkowski, MOAA  
Jim Sack, PVA  
Paula Sarlls, Women Marines Association  
Jim Craig was excused.

**Treasurer's Report** – Paul Gremse read off the donations and banquet income for January.

**Budget Committee** – Glenn noted that UVC is in good shape financially as of now. Questions still remain about the Banquet's fundraising success.

**State Legislative Committee** – Robby Robinson gave a status report on the legislation that UVC is monitoring.

**Colorado State Board of Veterans Affairs** – Sheila Scanlon reported that they are sending a letter to state legislators. Next meeting is March 8, 9:00am at the VA Regional Medical Center.

**Jewish War Veterans** – Jim Barnard, Commander of Post #344, encouraged new members to join the Post (they do need to be Jewish). He clarified that as Saturdays are the Jewish Sabbath, their members often cannot participate in veterans' events on that day.

**Banquet** – Karen Hone reviewed the list of sponsors to date. She is soliciting donations for the Silent Auction. Individual ticket sales are slow to come in this year. Thanks to Dick Young, Lockheed Martin will be the Presenting Sponsor for \$5,000. Dick Young reported that a professional portrait photographer will be attending, and offering a photo session for just \$89, a very discounted rate.

## **Guest Presentations**

### **Rita Case, Director of Veteran and Military Student Services Metro State University**

This program serves over 1300 students each year. Their focus is to match available resources with the students who need them. If they are a “new” veteran, many have no idea of the breadth of services available in many areas, e.g. healthcare, education & training, vet courts, mental health or housing, to name a few. Shelly noted that the student population spends \$22 million in Colorado, just in tuition alone. UVC should convey this economic impact to the state legislators. Rita sees many opportunities for collaboration, and encouraged UVC member organizations to contact her if they have ideas.

### **Elizabeth Escobedo, Co-Investigator, Veterans Legacy Program University of Denver**

The DU Veterans Legacy Program researches and documents the lives and legacies of veterans buried at Ft. Logan National Cemetery. Faculty and students have created exhibits and a website, [www.morethanaheadstone.org](http://www.morethanaheadstone.org) and are working on a mobile app that will provide cemetery tours. Steve Best encouraged everyone to find out more about this program.

### **Tom Larson Motorcycle Relief Project**

This project provides relief rides – 5-day motorcycle adventure tours that are specifically designed to provide relief to veterans and first responders with PTSD and other invisible injuries. Participants learn simple techniques for relaxing and dealing with trauma that can help them better manage their internal stress and move toward recovery. There is no cost to participants.

**DMVA** – Carissa Snyder brought greetings from Rich Tremaine, Director of the DMVA. She reminded everyone that the March 1 deadline for the veterans’ trust fund grants is fast approaching. Applications have to be submitted by Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, because the 1<sup>st</sup> is on a Sunday and the office will be closed.

## **VSO’s, Associate and Affiliate Announcements**

**Buckley AFB Veterans Council** – Curt Koenig is the contact.

### **Congressional Aides Reporting Updates on Activities**

Maria Secrest – Sen. Cory Gardner  
Brenden Konczal - Sen. Michael Bennet  
Adam Zarrin – Gov. Jared Polis  
Terrell Horton & Emily Amador – Rep. Jason Crow

**VCLC** – Rose Campbell reminded the group that their specialty is short-term rehab. Her staff are available to talk to any group about their services.

**VISN 19 – Michelle Sieverson** – Reported on their National Salute program that involves community groups collaborating to honor veterans.

**Blue Water Navy** – Chris Holly noted that they didn't have the mass of claims they were expecting.

**Rocky Mountain Regional Medical Center** – Khristie Barker announced the simulation training center is open, there is a stakeholder meeting in Pueblo on Feb. 26, and census workers will register folks March 16-17 at the hospital.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

**UVC April 14, 2020 Meeting will be held at the VA Regional Office (VARO) 155 Van Gordon St., Lakewood, 80228.**

8:30am – Networking

9:00am – 11:00am Meeting

**Next UVC General Meeting is March 10, 2020 at VFW Post 9644, 2680 W. Hampden Ave.**

**Karen A. Hone**  
**Secretary**