

United Veterans Coalition of Colorado
General Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2020
VFW Post 9644
9:00am

MINUTES

Call to Order – President Dennis Orr at 9:15

Dennis announced that Ed Aitken has had to resign due to health matters. He has appointed Tony Jones to fill the position of 2nd Vice President until the next election

Invocation, Moment of Silence – Lt. Col. Dianne Ricci

Pledge of Allegiance – 1st Vice President Dick Young

1st time Attendee Introductions

Raymond Johnson
Brian Johnson, Warrior Now
Kelly Wulf, Comeback Yoga

Roll Call – Dick Wilson

All primary organizations were present, except for:
Military Order of the Purple Heart, PVA, TREA, and Wounded Warrior Project
Qualified Listeners absent, so will be voted on next month

Treasurer's Report – Balance in checking account is \$37,431.27

Budget Report – Glenn has asked all committee chairs to submit estimated expenses so he can prepare the 2021 budget.

DMVA – Sheila Scanlon reported that they have completed the letter to all county commissioners regarding supporting their county VSO's and clarifying the reimbursement they bring to the counties. They are also writing to Colorado's congressional delegation on the same topic.

State Legislative Report – Robby Robinson and Shelly Kalkowski briefed the group on the status of legislation. In addition to any needed "call to action" notes, they are circulating a "Bills to Watch" list every week.

Federal Legislative Report – Steve Kjonaas reported that Cong. Ken Buck is having a town hall by phone tonight. See Steve for directions on connecting.

Banquet Report – Karen said all planning was going well. This year there at 15 sponsors, 11 Silver (\$1750), 2 Gold (\$2000), 1 Platinum (\$3500) and 1 Presenting (\$5000). She encouraged everyone to buy their tickets today, consider a donation to the Silent Auction, and spread the word to their organization.

Dick Young announced that Cliff Lawson, a veteran who is a professional portrait photographer, is offering a special price for two 11 x 14" portraits. The cost is just his out of pocket expense of \$89. He can take reservations today, and he'll also be at the banquet to sign people up. This would normally cost \$800.

Comeback Yoga – Kelly Wulf described the program – it brings free yoga classes to the military community in over 35 locations throughout the Rocky Mountain region. The majority of classes are drop-in, no pre-registration needed. She would be glad to speak to any of the organizations to publicize this free benefit for veterans.

VSOs, Associates and Affiliate Announcements

Warrior Now – Brian Johnson Our vision is to eliminate the social, judicial & economic impacts that mental illness, PTSD, TBI & addiction play on our service men and women. They give training, support, mentors and therapy to veterans, peer mentors and families.

American Legion Post #1 – Tony Jones reported that there are articles about UVC and suicide prevention in the latest issue of Reveille, the Posts newsletter, which goes to 1,000 members.

Sen. Cory Gardner – Maria Secrest reported:

- Supported the phase out of the SBP-DIC offset. The repeal will phase in the reduction of this offset beginning Jan. 1, 2021 and culminating with elimination of the offset in its entirety on Jan. 1, 2023
- Working with State Sen. Cook to have legislation to provide a stipend to veteran organizations that provide funeral honors. Minnesota is a good example of this.
- She is working one-on-one with veterans to attend doctors' briefing meetings. She goes with those that have memory loss and takes notes so they can benefit from the counseling.

Cong. Ken Buck – Molly Ford reported:

- Signed on to Sen. Bennet's letter to the Air Force supporting a return of the Space Command to one of Colorado's 4 Air Force installations.
- Co-sponsored Rep. Tipton's HR 440 to recognize the importance of military aviation training on the state of Colorado, including training conducted at High-Altitude Army National Guard training site.
- Attended events: ribbon cutting at the VCLC, Flag presentations, presented to 120 veterans for the last High Plains Honor Flight to D.C.

Cong. Jason Crow – Emily Amador said he also signed onto Sen. Bennet's letter about the Space Command Headquarters.

VAECHCS – Michael Kilmer reported that they are ahead of the curve with COVID-19. They are proactively screening guests and staff with a drive-through setup. He urged everyone to check the CDC website for guidelines.

Next meeting will be at the VA Regional Office. Please come early as they will be screening for the virus.

