

**United Veterans Coalition of Colorado**  
**General Meeting by ZOOM**  
**Tuesday, June 9, 2020**  
**9:00am**

**MINUTES**

There were 76 participants on the call.

**Invocation** – Dr. Diane Ricci, Lt. Col. Chaplin, Jefferson County VSO.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Time Attendee – Warrior Now, Kayla Holst**

**Roll Call – Dick Wilson**

These primary member organizations were present: American GI Forum, American Legion, MOAA, Military Order of the Purple Heart, TREA, U.S. Submarine Veterans, VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America, Women Marines Association.

**VARO Director** – Renae Murphy – They have submitted plans to re-open the Cheyenne and Denver clinics.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Paul Gremse reported that the checking account balance is \$51,025.07.

**Budget Committee** – Dick Young – He has incorporated final changes to the proposed UVC FY2010 budget, and Once he gets approval he will send it out to the Executive Committee.

**State Legislative** – Robby Robinson, Shelly Kalkowski, Dan Jablan – Dan Jablan described the general assembly as a “partisan, toxic environment”. Robby reviewed the status of all the bills that UVC was watching. They have taken funds from the Veterans Trust Fund and the Veterans Assistance Fund, transferring them to the general fund to address the budget shortfall. Shelly Kalkowski requested suggestions on issues to put forth next year. She cautioned members to make sure the VSO’s are in favor of any bill that UVC supports.

Discussion was held on the voting process. All votes on supporting legislation have to be unanimous. A veto by any primary member organization would kill the bill. All votes on other matters can be decided by having a simple majority.

**Federal Legislation** – Dennis Churgovich and Ralph Bozella. A letter requesting co-sponsorship of S.3393 and HB.5995 has been sent to Colorado’s congressional delegation. Representatives Joe Neguse and Jason Crow have already supported it. Dennis C. reviewed a list of bills that UVC will be watching, including the one to establish a national suicide hotline.

**Banquet** – Karen reported that plans are still moving ahead. Tickets are still available at \$75, and new advertisers or sponsors are welcome. Silent auction donations are still needed. Members expressed concern over developing a “Plan B” in case there is still not an effective treatment for COVID-19. Dennis Orr and Karen will be meeting with the hotel as soon as possible to discuss this.

**San Luis Valley Veterans** – Richard Nagley reported that they are working with the VA to collect statistics on veterans in rural areas.

**Co. Board of Veterans Affairs** – Pat Hammon noted that Sheila Scanlon has accepted a job with the Department of Homeland Security. Pat is concerned that the grants continue; with COVID, some rural posts have had to close, and isolation is a real problem. She reported that General Loh has been nominated to be the Director of the Air National Guard

**Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs** – Rich Tremaine – Their annual conference will be virtual this year, with 70 videos to choose from on YouTube. They had tried to hire a Coordinator for Women Veterans, but that is not in the purview of his department. Instead they created a VSO position that focuses on diversity and inclusion. Lori Trego noted that a Statewide Coordination for Woman Veterans is still very much needed.

**Communications Committee** – Terri Clinton, the new chair of this committee, reported that their first meeting was devoted to analyzing UVC's web page, and coming up with suggestions to improve it.

## **Congressional Aides**

**Governor's Office** – Adam Zarrin In response to Paul Gremse's request to re-visit the closing of bingo halls, he suggested seeking a variance to re-open from the county health department. There is no definite timeline set for re-opening these, and it is really hurting the finances of the Posts. The Governor will sign the licensure "create occupational portability" bill as soon as it gets to his desk. This is important because it might help Colorado be the headquarters for the new Space Force.

**Rep. Jason Crow** – Emily Amador said the new Payroll Protection Plan was signed today. It specifies that the PPP loans can be spent 60% on payroll, and 40% on overhead.

**Sen. Bennet** – Brenden Konczal reported that Sen. Bennet is lobbying hard to have Colorado be the headquarters of the Space Force. All are supporting passage of the national suicide prevention hotline.

**Sen. Cory Gardner** – Tony Archer referred to the website "congress.gov" as a resource to track the status of all bills.

**VCLC – Rose Campbell** – she reported that there have been some COVID-19 cases at Fitzsimons, but not in any of their other homes. This has required heroic efforts on the part of staff. They are having a car parade on June 20. At Fitzsimons.

**ECHCS** – Teresa DiBella noted that clinics in these areas are open for face-to-face appointments: Alamosa, Colorado Springs, Golden, Lamar and Pueblo.

**VISN 19** – Jo reported for Ralph Gigliotti – They are making sure adequate supplies of PPE are available as they slowly re-open.

PTSD Clinic – Dennis Orr reported that 2/3 of the Clermont building site will be sold, and the remaining 1/3 will become the PTSD clinic. This should go out to bid next week for the new PTSD Building on the RMR campus.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am

Karen Hone