

United Veterans Coalition
General Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2020
ZOOM Meeting
9:00am

59 participants were on the call

MINUTES

Call to Order – President Dennis Orr called the meeting to order at 9:05.

Pledge of Allegiance – Dick Young led the Pledge

Invocation – Dr. Diane Ricci, Chaplain, Jefferson County VSO

Welcome to Guests and New Members

Geri Adams, Rocky Mtn. Lumber & Building Materials Association
Chase Dinkler, ACI Learning
Steele Smith, Trillion Trees Corps (Absent)
Dr. Emily Rademan, Peak Mind Consulting

Roll Call – Dick Wilson – These primary organization members were absent: Gold Star Wives, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, Womens Marine Association.

ECHS – Brandy Morrison announced that they are sponsoring a joint town hall with Cheyenne.

State Legislative – Shelly Kalkowski reported that they are still looking for sponsors. The letter that goes with the goals has not been sent yet. UVC's number one goal of raising salaries for service workers in the VCLC's will not be funded. Such a move would have to include DHHS employees as well, and there is no money for it. Their committee will meet again on September 22, and they will review the ballot initiatives.

VBA – Chris Holly noted that they will re-open on September 23 in Denver. VSO's can decide if they will see people in person or not.

Treasurer's Report – Dick Young said the checking account balance was \$45,681. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Federal Legislative – Steve Kjonaas – He reported that if a veteran dies of COVID, and not their service-related injury, it will affect survivors' benefits. He will keep the group briefed on this issue. Rep. Harter of California has initiated a bill to add three presumptive conditions to Agent Orange exposure: bladder cancer, hyperthyroid, and parkinson's syndrome. It may emerge as a stand-alone bill. He'll keep the group posted.

Banquet & Silent Auction – The video got over 300 views. Cliff Lawson donated his video equipment and services, and Dick will try to approach him again for next year. He also is publicizing his Warrior Portrait Project, where he's producing two copies of a portrait for \$89 or free if someone can't afford it.

Assistant Regional Vice Presidents:

Veteran Suicide Prevention – Richard Nagley noted that September is Veteran Suicide Prevention month. His group is planning an educational session for women veterans on Sept. 23.

Bob McLaughlin – They held a community event recently, a Patriot Day Give Back, co-hosted by Kate Hatten's Homefront Network. The Colo. Dept. of Human Services is doing a survey about building a VCLC in Colorado Springs.

DMVA – No report

CDVA – Rich Tremaine said they have developed a letter to present when you are requesting a DV license plate. This will streamline the process. Soon they will have videos up on YouTube about claims assistance. They continue to work with county commissioners to educate them on the benefits of hiring a Veterans Service Officer.

Congressional Representatives:

Tony Archer – Rep. Lamborn	They have several roundtables scheduled for veterans.
Adam Zarrin – Gov. Polis	Working on the budget, and trying to protect veterans’ programs
Emily Amador – Rep. Crow	Sent letter nominating the Space Command be located in Aurora
Stephen ___ Sen. Gardner	Toured Marcus Institute at Anschutz; will focus on COVID relief

CBVA – No report

Communications Committee – Terri Clinton mentioned several issues that her committee is working on: web page design and protocols #5 and #6 regarding email rosters.

ECHCS – Director Michael Kilmer briefed the group on these issues:

They continue to grow their primary care services, and there is a new location in the Vet Center in Colorado Springs

The future of care will probably be 50% virtual and 50% in-person; they are working hard to get video going for consults

In Castle Rock, they are adding 8 primary care teams and are searching for a location

Aurora – they are also seeking a new location as a residential facility for PTSD patients

They are selling 2/3 of the old campus and keeping 1/3 of it; it literally is falling apart, e.g. had a major boiler leak

Benediction – Dr. Diane Ricci

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.

Karen A. Hone