



**UNITED VETERANS COALITION OF COLORADO**  
ZOOM and In Person UVC Executive Committee Meeting  
September 12, 2023, 10:30 am

Call to order – United Veterans Coalition President **Marti Crockett**

1. Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call – **Dick Wilson** – there are seven primary members present.
3. Treasurer’s Report – **Tom Yagley** – there is a beginning balance on 08/01/2023 of \$66,354.76 and ending balance on 8/31/2023 of \$64,390.57. There were no deposits.
4. Reports -
  - a. Corporation/Restructuring – **Mike Wheaton, Laurie Kuntz** – there was a meeting held on 9/11/2023 to finalize the bylaws. They are working on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). They are creating a base to support veterans, to be able to come together, and to help the lobbying process. They are not changing the 501©3 but are building up the 501©4 in order to get a unified voice for veterans.
  - b. Legislative Update – **Shelly Kalkowski (state)** – the state had a membership meeting to release its specific goals. They are:
    1. support the 2024 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) budget request.
    2. restore with interest \$3 million to the Veterans Trust Fund.
    3. support a bill or resolution to establish an annual June 12 CO Women Veterans Day; and
    4. support legislation providing for no-fee camping limited to five nights per month in state parks for 100% disabled CO veterans.

**Steve Kjonaas (federal)** – he knows the goals of the VFW. He wants to get a report from the VA and DVA.
  - c. Membership – **Dick Wilson** – he wants to increase membership. **Joe Siemens** added members to the UVC. On 9/30/2023, the Warren Project will hold a gala event. **Dick Wilson** wants to provide services to veterans who are incarcerated. They held a meeting and want to hold weekly meetings. He wants to get new members and wants to get representation for veterans in prison. **Bob McLaughlin** is working with veterans who are being discharged. He is working with **Dick Wilson**. The VSO from southeast CO is working with incarcerated veterans.
  - d. Budget – **Marti Crockett** – sent out a budget request to hold a veterans celebration at the mansion in 11/2023.
  - e. Veteran Connections and VP Updates – **Bob McLaughlin** – he wants to know how UVC can help Mt. Carmel. His goal is to have the regional VPs to get the VSOs the resources they need. Mt. Carmel can provide



- services to the communities. Regional Vice Presidents **Pat Hammon, Dr. Teresa Larson, Brian McCain, and Josh (LNU)** spoke. **Teresa Larson** lives in Durango, CO and is speaking to veterans this Friday. **Brian McCain** held a meeting in Pueblo, CO on 9/11/2023. There will be a suicide prevention meeting to be scheduled. **Josh (LNU)** has four VSOs on staff. He got a VAT grant. He can help veterans in rental and downpayment issues. They held a stand down event. **Jim Craig** led a parade in Ignacio, CO. He was there for a pow-wow.
- f. Communications – **Laurie Kuntz** – she wants to know what the veteran organizations are doing. She wants to be a better resource. She is asking for funds in the amount of \$300 per year to set up Constant Contact. A motion was made, seconded, and approved. She is updating the website.
  - g. Education/Training – **Karen Hone** – wants to plan more education and training programs. There will be a workshop to be held on 10/28/2023 at the VA Hospital. The cost is \$100 per table. Topics include financial literacy; employment and education to write resumes; and coverage of VA benefits. The VSOs will be speaking.
  - h. Mix and Mingle – **Marti Crockett** – she hopes to hold one in 10/2023. There will be a luncheon for CO Female Veterans at the Double Tree Hotel, Aurora, CO on 2/10/24.

The next general membership meeting will be held on 9/26/2023. This will be a hybrid meeting and a meeting at the American Legion.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Joe Golding**, Secretary