



The United Veterans Committee of Colorado
PO Box 440889 / Aurora, CO 80044

<http://www.unitedveteranscommittee.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/UnitedVeteransCommitteeofColorado/>

UVC Newsletter | January 2017

Note: Meeting agenda & minutes and the newsletter can be viewed at the UVC website. The UVC will not sell or otherwise disclose your email address, it will only be used by the UVC to send you communications

UVC OFFICERS

President
Frank McCurdy 303-981-3336

1st Vice President
Jim Craig 720-737-3686

2nd Vice President
Open

Recording Secretary
Lori Derby 303-347-1876

Treasurer
Bernie Rogoff 303-909-6369

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Legislative Committee
Dick Young 303-388-6965

Membership Committee
Gary Force 303-818-0200

State Legislative Liaison
David Ortiz 910-705-0570

Federal Legislative Liaison &
Nominating Committee
Steve Rylant 970-669-1832

UVC Reform Project
Ralph Charlip

Banquet Coordinator
Karen Hone 303-332-3007

NEWSLETTER

Editor
Steve Bender 719-310-9930
UVCnewsletter@aol.com

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Frank McCurdy
President



I am pleased to announce that the UVC Executive Committee has decided to produce a UVC Newsletter for the general membership and others interested in veterans issues. You can receive the newsletter by email or it can be viewed on the UVC website. We are planning to publish the newsletter monthly during the legislative session (January through May) and less frequently June - December.

The UVC's mission is to activate and represent member organizations; to speak with one united voice in Colorado; to work with public policy makers to ensure proper support for veteran issues and concerns; and to inform & educate Colorado about veteran needs. The UVC welcomes the opportunity to support our VSOs & others under the umbrella of our well-respected reputation and through the influence of our united effort. We all share the common goal of wanting to improve

FYI

The Next General Membership meeting is February 14, 2017, Networking at 8:30 am, Meeting at 9:00 am.

This meeting is held at:
Verle Huffman VFW Post 9644
2680 W. Hampden Ave
Englewood, CO 80110

the lives of our veterans, active duty service members, and their families. There is a mutual respect between the member organizations and the UVC that has served our veteran community & the state of Colorado effectively for the last 40 years. I am hoping that this newsletter will be an effective method of increasing the understanding of the types of issues the UVC is addressing throughout the year, especially for those veterans organizations that are unable to attend our monthly membership meetings.

FYI

The UVC would like to send the newsletter to all its members as well as others interested in issues of concern to veterans, active duty members, and family members. If you are not receiving a copy through our email listserv, or you are receiving multiple copies and would like to receive only one, or if you'd prefer to receive the newsletter through a different email address, please send your request to 'UVCnewsletter@aol.com'.

Our monthly General Membership Meeting will continue to be our main source for disseminating information. We feel that the newsletter will be able to reach many more members and others interested in veteran issues, especially those living throughout the state and unable to attend our meetings locally.

FYI: David Ortiz, our new Legislative Liaison, will continue to report his activity through emails in a timely manner and will also post on the website. Bill Hanna is committed to finish this legislative session and to mentor David Ortiz. I know David will excel in his new position.

The UVC is proud of its accomplishments during the past five to six years. In 2009, UVC Past President Ralph Bozella met with VA Secretary Shinseki and presented the Secretary with a UVC developed **WHITE PAPER**

advocating for the new Denver VA Medical Center facility which Shinseki approved. Despite the difficulties encountered, the new VA Medical Center will be open by January 2018.

As president, I feel that the UVC's focus should continue to concentrate on legislation, at the state and federal levels and to advocate and collaborate with regulators (primarily the VA & state agencies). The UVCs' goals and objectives are developed annually and are brought first to a vote of the Executive Committee and then to the UVC General Membership Meeting.

The next project, of special interest to the UVC, is the expansion of the Fitzsimons Community Living Center (\$70 million dollars). The UVC has developed significant support for this project within the State Legislature. The next objective is to gain approval from the Legislature on the financing mechanism. We are confident this is a doable project and we will keep you apprised of the progress during the 2017 legislative session.

In closing, I'd like to mention that the UVC always seeks veterans who possess speaking, writing, computer, technical, and organizational skills. I encourage you to join our leadership team.

We hope that you find our newsletter of interest and would welcome your recommendations of names that should be added to the email distribution. Our newsletter is available to all members as well as others interested in the needs and issues of Colorado's 450,000 veterans.

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UVC's 45th ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Karen Hone, Banquet Director

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 9, 2017! You don't want to miss the 45th Annual Awards Banquet...the Reception and Silent Auction begin at 3:30pm, with dinner following at 5:30pm. The Renaissance Hotel, 3801 Quebec Street, Denver 80207, will provide a gourmet dinner, with the entree' choices: beef, chicken, salmon,

Sunday, April 9, 2017
Renaissance Hotel
3801 Quebec Street,
Denver
Reception 3:30 pm
Dinner Program 5:00 pm



Honoring veterans, legislators, and other individuals and organizations for outstanding activities and accomplishments on behalf of Colorado's veterans' community.

vegetarian. Invite some friends now, make reservations, and you will be able to sit with your group on a first-come, first-served basis.

The festive evening will feature music by a jazz quartet, followed by the patriotic songs performed by the Littleton Community Band. The Civil Air Patrol Honor Guard will present the colors. Dress for the event is black tie, military dress uniform, or business attire.

Awards will recognize individuals and organizations that provide outstanding service to veterans in a wide variety of settings.

Individual dinner tickets are \$75 until March 24, when they will be \$85. Table sponsorships (10 seats) are from \$1750 to \$3500. Please register at www.unitedveteranscommittee.org. As of press time, sponsors include KPMG, American G.I. Forum, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Frank McCurdy, and TREA - The Retired Enlisted Association. Program ads are available and can be reserved on the UVC website. The Silent Auction will be a terrific addition to an already great evening! Plan to bid often on the wide variety of items available, for example, a one-night stay with breakfast at the Renaissance Hotel, family portrait(s) from Monty Nuss Photography, a classic Broncos painting "A Mile High: the Denver Broncos 1986", and much much more!

For questions about the event, or to purchase sponsorships by phone call Karen Hone at 303-332-3007.

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REFOCUS GROUP WHERE IS THE UVC HEADED?

Ralph Chalip

Under the leadership of Bill Hanna, retiring State Legislative Liaison, the UVC Executive Committee has chartered a diverse work group to look at options for the future of the UVC. Members of the group include: Bill Hanna, Legislative/Organizational Consultant, Ralph Chalip, Group Facilitator, Glenn Kataoka, UVC Foundation, Marvin Meyers, UVC Past/Founding President, Shelly Kalkowski, Past President of MOAA Council of Chapters, George Thomas, UVC Past President, Steve Bender UVC, Bill Conroy, Retired Director of State Veterans Affairs Division, William Robinson, Retired Deputy Director of DMVA, Geneva Moore, Project Sanctuary, Karen Hone, Banquet Director/UVC Foundation, and Time Hall, Coopers Troopers.

The working group is considering whether or not the UVC should focus solely on lobbying, or should it take on additional missions that would support Colorado veterans and their families. And if the organization does take on additional missions, how should it best do so? Related to these questions are membership categories and how to raise funds to operate the organization -no matter what its mission is. So far, the working group has not come to any conclusion and is still considering all options and ideas. Questions can be emailed to Bill Hanna (bill@billhanna.com) or Ralph Chalip (rxtols@comcast.net).

FYI

Readers are encouraged to log on to the UVC website for details on these and other topics of interest that may be available between publication of the newsletter.

###

State Legislative Liaison

David Ortiz

David and Bill Hanna are diligently working on the prioritized list of bills the Legislative Committee presented to the UVC Executive Committee. David will continue to post his state legislative report on the UVC website (<http://www.unitedveteranscommittee.org/>). As UVC President Frank

McCurdy reported in his article, Bill Hanna will continue to mentor David through the legislative session which ends in May.

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VA NEWS BRIEFS

Progress for Aurora VA Medical Center

On Wednesday Feb 1st, in a brief ceremony with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Kiewit-Turner (General contractors), United Veterans Committee of Colorado, Congressional Staff members, our Union Partners and other Veteran Stakeholders, we cut the ribbon to officially open the Energy Center at the Aurora Replacement VA Medical Center. Upon accepting the Energy Center from the Corps and Kiewit-Turner on Jan 9th, and after staffing up with VA Facilities Management Service staff, it's been supplying power and other utilities to the entire construction site.

VA to co-locate services at Local Veterans Service Center

The ECHCS also reports that they will be co-locating staff at the Bill Daniels Veterans Center operated by the VOA (Volunteers of America) at 1247 Sante Fe Drive, Denver. The Center is developing as a site for agencies providing services to veterans. VA reports that they will be assessing the need for services that they can provide which are not already available by other agencies, thus complementing the VOA and avoiding duplication of efforts.

VA releases plans for Psychiatric Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (RRTP)

The Aurora VAMC will include an RRTP that will provide a residential setting for veterans experiencing the need for specialty care addressing PTSD, Anxiety, Depression, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Alcohol or Drug Addiction, and Situational Homeless. Anticipated length of stay is 90-120 days. If you are interested, you can download a copy of the 61 page VA handbook “Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation

Treatment Program (MH RRTP)” at www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=2354

FYI

Readers are encouraged to visit & register on the UVC Facebook site where you can find additional information of interest to veterans, active duty personnel, and family members. You can also live stream UVC meetings when available.

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