

**UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**14 February
09:00 AM**

UNITEDVETERANSCOMMITTEE.ORG

Call to Order – UVC President Frank McCurdy

Invocation & Moment of Silence for POWs and MIAs – Jim Craig

Pledge of Allegiance – Steve Rylant

Welcome First-Time Attendees and Visitors – 14 people were welcomed.

Guest Speaker – Sallie Hauser-Hanfelder, Executive Director of the Eastern Colorado Healthcare System gave an update on the hospital, accompanied by colleagues from Kiewit-Turner and the Army Corps of Engineers. The Energy Center was turned over on January 9 and is fully operational. An educational slide show was shown, detailing construction progress, installation of equipment and furniture. A concern was raised about the lack of a pedestrian bridge near Colfax; Director Hanfelder noted that the complex will run their own shuttle buses if necessary. The target date for completion is January 2018.

Introduction of Veterans' Service Groups – David Ortiz introduced representatives from several different organizations that are attracting younger veterans. A brief presentation on their goals and services was given by:

National Sports Center for the Disabled
Reveille
A1 Scuba

John Harry, Commander of VFW Post #1, announced plans for the first annual "Serving Vets Symposium" that will be held in April. It will involve presenters who have real success stories. Every organization that serves veterans in Denver will be invited. He'd like to see the production of a vets "phone book", a comprehensive listing of services and resources.

Secretary Report – Minutes from the last meeting in January were posted, and they were passed.

Treasurer's Report – Bernie noted that the bank balance is \$10,576

Nominating Committee - Steve Rylant, nominated Dennis Orr for 2nd Vice President. Since Izzy Abass resigned, Jim Craig has volunteered to assume the office of 1st Vice President. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Dennis was unanimously elected.

VA Regional Medical Center Naming Committee Report - Steve Rylant reported that the group agreed to recommend "Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center". A motion was passed to endorse this name and present it to Colorado's congressional delegation.

State Legislative Committee – Dick Young and David Ortiz distributed their legislative report. The group only opposes two bills, one on asbestos litigation and one on tax checkoff programs. A motion was passed to accept the Legislative Report.

Federal Legislative Issues – Steve Rylant recognized the congressional staffers for their work and participation in UVC. He noted that Dr. Shulkin was unanimously approved as the new Secretary of the VA. His committee is monitoring HR299, which deals with agent orange.

Banquet Update – Karen reported that about 150 tickets have been sold to date, and she listed sponsors as of today. More are expected! She encouraged the group to support this event, reminding them that no dues are charged for membership in UVC, and this is the sole source of annual funding. Silent auction donations are needed.

Membership – These new members were voted in: Task Force iso, Bodhi Battalion, LCW Post #1. No one was present from the 18th Judicial District Treatment Program; voting on this one will be postponed until the March meeting. No roll call was held.

Area Reps – No report

UVC Foundation – No report

Colo. Bd. Of Veterans Affairs , Div. of Military and Veterans Affairs – Robbie and Reuben noted that applications for the veterans assistance grants are due March 1.

VSO's - No report

Congressional Staffers – Brief reports were given by representatives of these legislators: Senators Bennet and Gardner, Representatives Coffman, Polis, Buck, Perlmutter, DeGette and Lamborn. Cong. Perlmutter is organizing a 50th anniversary commemoration ceremony of the Vietnam War on March 24.

Newsletter – Steve Bender is editing and producing a new newsletter.

Fort Logan Update – Joe Turnbach and Steve Best gave a brief report. Steve said the Pikes Peak design is complete and they will be issuing RFP's soon. They have purchased some property in Cheyenne.

Old Business – None

New Business – Jeff Birdwell, Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, described the 50th anniversary commemorations as very important to the Vietnam-era veterans. He encouraged members to participate; there are numerous events scheduled around the state.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20am. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 2017