

70 Participants were on the call

**United Veterans Coalition
General Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2020
ZOOM Meeting
9:00am**

MINUTES

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

Pledge of Allegiance – Dick Young, 1st Vice President

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

Welcome to Guests and New Members

Geri Adams, Rocky Mtn. Lumber & Bldg. Materials Association
Tom Yagley, American Legion Post #1
Rep. Julie McCloskie
Marti Crockett, Navy Nurse
Kathy Noll, Navy Nurse
Project Back to Work
Mile High Vets (Joe Davalos said they withdrew from American GI Forum and the group has a new name)

Roll Call – Dick Wilson These primary organization members were absent: American GI Forum, Jewish War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America

VBA – Chris Holly said all clinics are open. Vets can now submit claims on-line, and telehealth is becoming more popular. Nov. 19-20 they are hosting an online fair regarding veterans' issues.

Rocky Mountain Regional Medical Center – Director Mike Kilmer noted that COVID numbers are going in the wrong direction, so they are re-assessing their re-opening plans. He is re-closing kiosks and the canteen to protect workers and visitors. They did get permission to de-commission the old hospital site.

CSU Global – Dr. Karen Ferguson, Provost and Vice President of Strategic Development
Since 2007, CSU Global was the first online university to have 100% of its curriculum online. Currently they serve over 20,000 students all around the globe. They have some very unique programs that would appeal to military students, for example:

Masters in First Responder Role (police/fire/military) a very unusual program regarding the psychology of first responders

Masters in Nursing (leadership, military & veteran healthcare) which requires a 500 hour practicum

17% of their students and 18.5% of their faculty have military backgrounds. They may be interested in partnering with the Vet Treatment Courts to offer training to their students.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Gremse said the checking account balance was \$43,232; the Treasurer's report was accepted.

State Legislative – Robby Robinson said there was not much going on; the committee is just waiting for the election to then determine who they want to contact as sponsors of bills. Two goals that they will pursue are: 1) creation of a woman veterans coordinator position at the state level, and 2) veterans' hiring preference.

Federal Legislative – Dennis Churgovich distributed a comprehensive update on federal legislation.

Banquet and Online Auction – Karen Hone announced that the 2021 banquet will be Sunday, April 25. Work on the online auction is continuing, and more items are needed! It will start on Monday, November 3, and close Thursday, December 10. Pickup location to be determined. Bidding instructions will be in the November newsletter.

Veterans Suicide Prevention Committee – Richard Nagley reported that this group has held two meetings. They are looking at a strategy to include "boots on the ground", offering one-on-one help. Dennis asked Richard to put together a summary of all the resources that are available to deal with this serious problem.

Assistant Regional Vice Presidents

Richard Nagley noted that homelessness is an increasing problem with the weather changing.

Bob McLaughlin – He reported that with the threat of COVID, more veterans are reaching out for counseling. They need help with spouse employment, child care and housing. He has some money for grants for rent assistance. He has been working on the project to locate a new VCLC in El Paso County.

CDVA – Rich Tremaine noted that there were 21 veteran suicides each month; it's a serious problem that needs more attention. They now have 60 educational videos on their website.

CBVA – Pat Hammon will replace Sheila Scanlon as the representative from this Board. Board members are reaching out to all grant recipients to see how they are doing with the COVID uncertainty.

Announcements

- Steve Kjonaas mentioned HR8449, the Vet Centennial Act, which is focused on on-campus suicide. He will keep the group posted.
- The One Source vet center in Grand Junction is featuring an artist of the month.
- Stephen Gourley announced there was a project underway to furnish 60 apartments in Fitzsimons which will be for homeless veterans. Contact Stephen for more information.
- Paula Sarlls said the Womens Marine Association received a grant from the DMVA that will go towards improvements at the Marine Memorial in Golden.
- Tiffany Morgan called attention to Jefferson County Vet Treatment Court; apparently due to funding cuts they are considering eliminating the specialty courts. Dennis Orr asked Larry

Carroll, Bill Hanna, Tiffany Morgan and Dick Young to look into this and keep the group informed. Robby Robinson noted that the Legislative Committees' fourth goal is to expand and/or create more veterans courts.

- Kathy Noll mentioned that there would be a good public relations opportunity coming up on Veterans Day; it would be a good time to highlight the suicide prevention efforts. Kathy will work with Geri Adams and Richard Nagley on that possibility.
- The new TAG is just waiting for an invitation to address a UVC meeting; Shelly Kalkowski and Robby Robinson will invite her.

Congressional Staffers

- Steve (Gardner); Adam Zarrin (Polis) and Tony Archer made very brief comments.

State VCLC Commission – Robby Robinson noted that they are interviewing for the administrator position in Rifle.

VCLC – Rose Campbell thanked everyone for their support of the homes. They now have outdoor visitation.

No Report:

VISN 19

VARO

Ft. Logan

ECHCS

Old Business – None

New Business – None

The ZOOM call adjourned at 10:45am

Karen A. Hone
Secretary