

**United Veterans Coalition of Colorado**  
**General Meeting by ZOOM**  
**Tuesday, November 10 2020**  
**9:00am**

**MNUTES**

There were 70+ participants on the call

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

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Dick Young, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Invocation** – Susan Smith, Transforming Glory Warrior Care

**Welcome** – President Orr welcomed Senator Larry Crowder as the newest Regional Vice President

**Roll Call** – Dick Wilson These primary organizations were absent: American GI Forum, Womens Marine League

Dick introduced the newest Affiliate member, American Legion Post 0021, George Horrigan is the contact.

**CDVA** – Jaclyn Murrieta reported for Rich Tremaine. Their regional networks are up and running; they will train and mentor county VSO's through YouTube and Webex. They have a library of training videos on their site. They are also reaching out to county commissioners to communicate with the VSO's. They have streamlined the process to obtain a DAV license plate; contact their office or website to get the special letter authorizing this. An additional star for the Space Force has been added to the woman veteran's license plate. Jaclyn will submit an article for the UVC newsletter describing their re-organization.

**Rocky Mountain Regional Medical Center** – Teresa diBella reported for Director Kilmer. They have updated their visitor policy because COVID numbers are soaring. Out-patients can only have a medical caregiver accompany them. In-patient visits are only for an end-of-life situation or non-COVID conditions.

**VARO** – Chris Holly encouraged people to email ahead for an appointment; offices have re-opened.

**Treasurer's Report** – The UVC checking account balance is \$41,925.37. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

**Regional Vice Presidents**

**Bob McLaughlin** – He met with Senator Cory Gardner and others to discuss a possible joint facility between DoD, VA and maybe the envisioned VCLC in El Paso County. The need for services has mushroomed with COVID. His office has been involved in these services:

- Help with rent and utilities
- Counseling on many different issues

- Food drives (e.g. 150 cars to pick up food)
- Employment for transitioning veterans
- Virtual job fairs

**Senator Larry Crowder** – He noted that Colorado’s budget will have a \$1.8 to \$2 billion shortage this year.

**Pat Hammon** – Again, the need for services is rising. In her area, these activities are ongoing:

- High school students are interviewing veterans for the Library of Congress vet history program
- The Medical Mobile Unit is very effective in providing vaccines and telehealth consults
- Pat is approaching the court system to add a vet treatment court; currently they just have a drug court
- Comeback Yoga’s fundraiser netted \$100K in one day

**State Legislative** – Dan Jablan reviewed the leadership changes in the general assembly The referendum on changes in bingo procedures failed. Newly elected Rep. David Ortiz has already reach out to Dan Jablan to offer assistance to UVC’s legislative efforts. UVC’s legislative committee is going to research how many legislators are veterans.

**Federal Legislative** – Dennis Churgovich noted that there was not much activity going on at the Federal level. The 988 suicide crisis line passed and now needs implementation from the FCC.

**Auction** – Michelle Mallin reported that she and Karen Hone are working to finalize all the donations and get them posted in the Bid Beacon software. It will go “live” on November 30 and run through December 10.

**Fundraising Committee** – Carlos Peralta will coordinate with Geri Adams and Tony Jones on their efforts. Geri Adams has approached Jake Jabs at American Furniture Warehouse and Randy Gradishar for donations.

**Communications Committee** – Geri Adams has submitted an article to the media about Maureen Christopher’s mother, a Navy nurse in World War II.

**Rocky Mountain Regional Medical Center** – Director Michael Kilmer gave these updates:

- Emergency status has been activated
- They have reduced visitation
- They are analyzing what can be done virtually, and are making that happen
- They are considering creating a COVID floor
- There are 500 veterans participating in Johnson & Johnson’s clinical trial
- They are working on a plan for vaccine distribution in rural areas
- They do not have a local bioethics team ,but will follow CDC and VA guidelines on vaccine allocation

**Ft. Lyons** – Sen. Larry Crowder would like to see UVC publicize services and housing available at Ft. Lyons.

**CBVA** – No report

**Congressional Staffers**

Adam Zarrin (Polis) – The proposed budget will face a deficit through 2022-2023. COVID cases are trending up, which is not good. Statewide mask order has been extended.

Emily Amador (Crow) – They have started a two year pilot program in the VA to focus on on-campus suicide.

Jack Murphy (DeGette) – Working on burn pit and military spouse retirement legislation.

**State VCLC** – Rose Campbell thanked the group for their kindness and generosity to residents in the homes. Gov. Polis recorded 5 videos for Veterans Day. They are still working on the needs assessment that will be released in January.

**Benediction** – Susan Smith, Transforming Glory Warrior Care

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am

Karen A. Hone  
Secretary