

There were 74 participants on the call.

United Veterans Coalition of Colorado
General Meeting by ZOOM
Tuesday, March 9, 2021
9:00am

MINUTES

Call to Order – President Dennis Orr called the meeting to order at 9:10am.

Invocation – President Orr asked Tom Yagley to give the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance – 1st Vice President Dick Young

Honor Bell Foundation – President Orr told the group that the Foundation would gratefully accept any financial donations.

Roll Call – Greg Hay read this...those absent were: American GI Forum, Gold Star Wives, The Enlisted Association and Womens Marine Association

VARO – Chris Holly explained the Waitwhile program to demonstrate how easy it now is to sign up for appointments or request a letter.

RMRMC – Teresa DiBella for Director Kilmer – The VA now has supplies of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Since this only requires one dose, they are targeting hard to reach rural areas so vets don't have to make two trips. This will make it easier for those who have difficulty finding transportation or who are homebound. The plan is to reach specific high-risk populations.

Rural Colorado Veteran Engagement Board, Denver-Seattle VA Center of Innovation. Leah Wendleton made a brief presentation about this new effort to collect data and research on veterans in rural areas. They are appointing Board Members, and hope to improve communications between the VA and VSO's to deliver rural health care. For more information contact:

Amber Lane, VA Research Director

Amber.lane2@va.org

303-406-1576 7am – 3:30pm

Leah.Wendolton@va.gov

State Legislative Committee – Shelly Kalkowski, Robby Robinson and Dan Jablan all contributed to this report. Dan noted that there are between five and six hundred bills that are being worked on; they are trying to finish the session by Memorial Day, but that is unlikely given the volume. Rep. David Ortiz is being an active advocate for issues that UVC supports. Robby reported that almost all testimony is being done by video this year, which makes it quite a bit more convenient.

VCLC Needs Assessment

This study was released in January, and present on the call to discuss were:

Elizabeth Mullins, Director
Jalyn Ingalls, Researcher
Rose Campbell, Marketing Director VCLC

The purpose of the study was to determine what the health and long-term care needs are for veterans, and how can the VCLC's improve healthcare for them. Jalyn summarized three broad "takeaways" from the study:

1. Many veterans have long-term care health needs and higher rates of disease than the general public
2. VCLC's could expand services, e.g. maximize community connections, create a service planning registry, enhance current services
3. Data does not indicate a need for additional long-term care beds

They will be holding two town hall meetings: March 26, from 2:00 to 3:00pm, and March 30, 12:00 – 1:00pm. Locations to be announced.

Treasurer's Report – The checking account balance as of end of February was \$42,922.28.

Federal Legislative Committee – Dennis Churgovich had emailed out a "watch" list to everyone. He has determined that there are 64 bills that deal with veterans' issues, and he will be informing the group as to their status. He is particularly interested in any legislation that addresses the burn pits in ___Afghanistan ?? ____.

Regional Vice Presidents

Bob McLaughlin

- They are running vaccination clinics
- Giving rent & housing assistance
- Bob is a Tiger Team participant working on the DMVA reorganization

Pat Hammon

- Pat is also on the Tiger Team
- One Source in Grand Junction is now open and resuming activities
- The MMU (Mobile Medical Unit) is underway and very effective
- They are celebrating Women Veterans History Month
- The CBVA Board is very busy working on reviewing grant application forms

Richard Nagley

- He has the same report as Bob, and is also on the Tiger Team

Bylaw Revision

The new bylaw revision reads:

A general or special meeting quorum shall consist of at least one elected officer, at least 5 representatives from Primary Member Organizations and at least 10 representatives from Affiliate and/or Associate Member Organizations. Dick Young moved (and Tony Jones seconded) to accept this revision. There was brief discussion on rewording, but no motion to change was passed. The original version passed as written.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52.

Karen A. Hone
Secretary