

**Board Retreat Minutes
03 August 2016
Holiday Inn Denver-Cherry Creek
455 South Colorado Blvd
Denver, CO 80246**

Duane Dailey, Chair, called the meeting from rest to labor at 1101 hours.

Members and Guests:

Members Present:

Duane Dailey, Chair
Rene Simard, Vice Chair
Robert "Bob" McLaughlin, Member
William "Robby" Robinson, Member
Jack Rudder, Member

Members Absent:

Hollie Caldwell, Member
Christopher Holden, Member

DMVA Staff Present:

Mickey Hunt, DMVA Deputy Director
Ben Mestas, CDVA Director
Greg Dorman, DMVA Legislative Liaison
Diane Ricci, CDVA Deputy Director
Gail Hoagland, DMVA Grant Administrator
Carissa Snyder, CDVA Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Theresa Rudder, Jack's wife

Session Notes

The session was opened with Mr. Mestas, who provided an overview of CRS Title 28, which governs the board. He reviewed the history of the inception of the Board and reminded the members that the Board is due for a sunset review in 2017.

Dr. Ricci followed with a summary of the annual report to the governor's office. Ms. Hoagland followed with a synopsis of the report provided by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on all Veterans Trust Fund programs. Mr. Dorman outlined the provisions of the Sunshine Law.

Dr. Ricci described the functions of the division and provided information on the responsibilities of its staff. Mr. Mestas discussed the current state of the cemetery in Grand Junction and described some of its upcoming needs. Mr. Robinson addressed the Community Living Centers and gave the other Board members some history about the Board's interaction with and connection to those facilities.

Ms. Hoagland provided details on the Veterans Trust Fund Grant program, including the formation of the grant program, the Board's role in various aspects of the grant process, and a depiction of the organizations that are program's grantees. She also reviewed the Veterans Assistance Grant and described the roles of the Division and Board in regard to that program.

The Board disassembled for a break at 02:00 p.m. and returned to labor 02:12 p.m.

Mr. Hunt addressed the Board and stated that Mr. McLaughlin will receive a senatorial confirmation of his appointment. He encouraged Mr. McLaughlin and the other members to remain active members and engage in vocal participation. He stressed that attendance at Board meetings is crucial and that members should hold each other accountable.

Ms. Hoagland led an initial planning session for the upcoming year. The Board undertook an environmental scan to assess what it as a body wants to do accomplish in the upcoming year. They assessed how other view the Board, and then how the Board members view the Board.

Suggestions on how others view the Board were as follows: resource providers, grant approvers, bureaucracy navigators, red tape, VA, VA influencers, old white guys, Denver-centric, and guys in suits.

Suggestions on how the Board views the Board were: veterans advocates, providers for veterans in need, standard bearers, irrelevant except for grants, interested and caring with limitations, and well-intentioned.

The discussion then shifted to how the Board would like be regarded. Suggestions were: empowered relevant, potent, important, and a bridge between VA and DVA. Mr. McLaughlin asked if the Board has a mission statement. The consensus was that the mission is contained in Title 28 but not separately written. Discussion involved articulating a relevant and attainable mission.

The members discussed methods to reach the goal of how they would like to be regarded. The first impressions were to improve communication with the veteran community and to increase the Board's visibility. Mr. Dailey said he would welcome attendance at the meetings from members of the various veterans service organizations as well as grantees. The consensus was the Board's desire to provide a useful contribution outside of grants.

The members concluded that this should be an ongoing conversation and should coincide with strategic planning. It was suggested to make sure the web site is accessible and up to date.

Future Meetings

September 09, 2016 – Colorado Springs

October 07, 2016 - TBD

November 09, 2016 – Wings Over the Rockies

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Dailey adjourned the session at 1520 hours.