

Board Minutes
October 6, 2017
The Country Club at Woodmoor
18945 Pebble Beach Way, Monument, CO 80132

Duane Dailey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 0904 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed for our POW, MIA, troops in battle or harm's way, members of the Colorado National Guard aiding in hurricane relief or deployed and all service members.

Roll Call of Members and Introduction of Staff & Guests

Board Members Present:

Duane Dailey, Chair
Jack Rudder, Vice-Chair
Hollie Caldwell, Secretary
Pat Hammon, Member

DMVA Staff Present:

Mickey Hunt, DMVA Deputy Director
Greg Dorman, DMVA Legislative Liaison
Reuben Mestas, CDVA Director
Gail Hoagland, DMVA, VAG Administrator
Claire Dean, CDVA Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Carl McDaniel, El Paso County Service Officer
Amy Cutler, Home Front Cares
Joe Carlson, VFW Post 7829
John Crouse, VFW Post 7829
Theresa Rudder, president-elect of Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs and Jack's wife
Tim Amthor, CDLE/Pikes Peak Workforce Center

Approval of September Minutes

The minutes from the September meeting were approved as presented.

Board Member Comments

Pat Hammon: Mr. Dorman was thanked for setting up the Blackhawk helicopter tours to the Veterans Community Living Centers. Setup for the new Garfield County office, located in

Glenwood Springs, is underway. The space will be shared with CASA and VOA with the grand opening being November 10. The VOA has opened an office in Eagle. The committee for the Western Slope One Stop will meet next week. It was clarified that Mesa County does currently have a mobile veteran clinic.

Hollie Caldwell: Ms. Caldwell provided feedback on last month's Board Retreat and will be attending the Denver Stand-down. Platt College will host an outreach event focusing on post 9-11 veterans on October 9.

Jack Rudder: While visiting the Fitzsimmons Community Living Center, Mr. Rudder presented a Vietnam era veteran with a commemorative coin. It was also noted that the same veteran had a broken Bronze Star pin, which Mr. Rudder will help get fixed. Through fundraising efforts, over \$1k was raised for the projects that included reclamation and burial of remains on the Western Slope as well as flag replacement and handicap ramps. The Rio Grande County Commissioner is discussing the creation a fund specifically for veteran projects.

Duane Dailey: Mr. Dailey thanked Mr. Hunt and Mr. Dorman for inviting the Board to tour the Veterans Community Living Centers. Over 100 residents and staff from Fitzsimmons were outside to greet the Blackhawk helicopters.

Guest/Public Comments

Joe Carlson: Mr. Carlson distributed a handout, reviewed veterans' statistics in El Paso County and gave an overview of VFW Post 7829 and the services they provide. Through the Transitional Housing Initiative, seven homeless veteran families will be temporarily housed in El Paso County for 30 days. Meals, transportation and assistance with navigating supporting agencies will be provided. Ms. Caldwell asked what happens to the families after 30 days and how successful is the program. Mr. Carlson explained that the program has a 65% success rate, but that after six months that rate drops down to 50%. Mr. Hunt suggested use of the Fort Lyon facility. Mr. Carlson presented the Board with a Certificate of Appreciation for the Veterans Trust Fund.

Carl McDaniel: Currently, over 98,000 veterans reside in El Paso County. The County has two offices that serve veterans: one on the east side of Colorado Springs, and another smaller satellite office housed at Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence on the west side of Colorado Springs. With weekly rotation, the Veteran Service Officers are able to take walk-ins. Veterans who use the County office receive an average of over \$4k more than veterans who use another service organization or file claims on their own. Mr. McDaniel sits on the Pikes Peak National Cemetery Committee and construction for the cemetery will begin this month.

Mr. Hunt asked if they track war-era veterans. Mr. McDaniel stated that while they don't track that specifically, they do see more Vietnam era and Post 9-11 veterans than any other group. Ms. Hammon wondered if there are any issues with the Choice card in El Paso County. Although there aren't any issues with Choice in the area, there are staffing issues at the new VA Medical Center.

Amy Cutler: The Home Front Cares organization has a staff of three and offers veterans one-time emergency financial assistance. They also help connect veterans to resources.

Tim Amthor: Veterans are able to find employment through the Pikes Peak Workforce Center in Colorado Springs. Currently there are about 30,000 veterans registered with 12,000 of those having service-connected disabilities. USAA is teaming up with the Pikes Peak Workforce Center to host a job fair on November 1.

The Board recessed at 10:20 a.m. and resumed labor at 10:34 a.m.

Staff Reports

Mickey Hunt: Mr. Hunt, Mr. Dorman and Human Resources Director Tamy Calahan visited the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado and met with the One Stop Advisory Board. Military personnel will be stationed at the Readiness Center in Grand Junction to issue badges. The position will eventually be filled by a State employee. Ms. Hammon will be on the interview panel for the position.

Greg Dorman: Military Appreciation Day will be held at the Capitol on January 26, 2018. Defense Industry will be the continued focus. The Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce is self-funding a broad, economic study which will include veteran spending. The legislative session will be January 2018. The Board should refrain from taking positions on the bills. Possible issues for the session include an upgrade for military spouse employment, women veteran's space and the commemorative Vietnam War Book fundraising issue. Mr. Dailey inquired about the Rockies Veteran's Appreciation Day.

Ben Mestas: Mr. Mestas strongly encouraged Board members to attend this year's stand-downs. Staff member Krystal Anderson attended the Pueblo Stand-down and Ms. Hoagland attended the Stand-down in Durango. Ms. Hammon has agreed to attend the stand-down in Grand Junction. The Division lost four Service Officers last month. Mr. Mestas asked the Board for their recommendations and the interview panel has been set. There are only three seats left to fill on the two reserved tables for Wings over the Rockies.

Gail Hoagland: A detailed report of the meeting with the four-corners grantee will be available soon. An estimated 75-100 veterans were in attendance at the Durango Stand-down, which had tremendous community support. Companies were present to hire on the spot. DoubleTree Hotel donated a van for transportation to Albuquerque for Choice and C&P appointments. The area town hall meeting has been rescheduled for November 16.

New Business

The assignment of Board members to Committees is as follows:

Jack Rudder will report on the Annual Training.

Hollie Caldwell agreed to be on the Veterans Assistance Grant Committee.

Robby Robinson will stay on the Veterans Community Living Centers Committee.

Duane Dailey assigned himself to the Veterans Trust Fund Committee.

Both Jack Rudder and Pat Hammon will stay on the Strategic Planning Committee.
A Board member is no longer needed for the Preservation Committee.

Old Business

Future Meetings

November 1, 2017: Wings over the Rockies, Aurora

December 1, 2017: VA Regional Office, Lakewood

January 4, 2018: 2nd Congressional District – Boulder Area

February 2, 2018: 3rd Congressional District – Pueblo/Alamosa Area

March 2, 2018: 1st Congressional District – Denver Area

April 6, 2018: 6th Congressional District – Aurora Chamber of Commerce

May 4, 2018: North Jefferson County

June 1, 2018: Spanish Peaks Community Living Center, Walsenburg

Ms. Hammon mentioned that a documentary about western slope veterans and alternative therapies will run on Rocky Mountain PBS on October 19.

Meeting adjourned 11:08am