

**Board Minutes**  
**January 5, 2018**  
**American Legion Post #32**  
**315 S. Bowen St., Longmont, CO 80501**

Duane Dailey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 0901 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 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 (via phone conference)  
William "Robby" Robinson, Member  
Pat Hammon, Member  
Lacey Golonka, Member  
Norm Steen, Member

**DMVA Staff Present:**

Mickey Hunt, DMVA, Deputy Director  
Reuben Mestas, CDVA Director  
Gail Hoagland, DMVA Grant Administrator  
Dave Callahan, DMVA Strategic Planner  
Claire Dean, CDVA Interim Office Manager

**Guests Present:**

Alan Sonnenberg, American Legion Post 32  
Daniel Savage, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment  
Debbie Pierson, County Service Officer, Larimer County  
Karen Townsend, County Service Officer, Boulder County  
Maegan Vallejo, TCF Boulder County  
Elvira Ramos, TCF Boulder County  
Patrick Lennon, American Legion Post 32  
Dennis Sindelir, American Legion Post 32  
Bill Bohn, American Legion Post 32  
Bob Larkowski, American Legion Post 32  
Tom Paschofsky, American Legion Post 32  
Cindy Clark, Boulder County

### **Approval of Minutes from December**

It was moved by Mr. Steen and seconded by Mr. Robinson to accept the December minutes as submitted. The motion carried.

Robby Robinson: In an effort to curb high turnover, the Community Living Centers may be able to raise salaries to compete with the private sector if the General Assembly approves the budget request.

Pat Hammon: Ms. Hammon thanked Mr. Robinson for his efforts with Community Living Centers pay increases. Grand Junction area nonprofits will need to complete applications in order to be considered for the Western Slope One-Stop. Asbestos and lead remediation is set to begin at the site, which is located down the street from the VA Hospital. The Glenwood Springs Veterans Resource Center has officially opened. Volunteers of America (VOA) have a new regional office in Eagle County. They are dedicated in finding housing for homeless veterans in Summit, Routt, Grand and Eagle Counties.

Hollie Caldwell: Ms. Caldwell had nothing to add. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Dailey wished her well.

Jack Rudder: Mr. Rudder explained to everyone present that three of the Board members are also County Service Officers.

Duane Dailey: A representative from VOA recently met with Mr. Dailey in Grand County. Sometimes veterans are assisted by more than one county. Case in point, both Mr. Dailey and Ms. Townsend worked with a veteran who recently died. 36 of his mates attended his funeral.

Lacey Golonka: Ms. Golonka thanked Ms. Hoagland for the very informative Board member retreat. She is excited to get involved with the grants process.

Norm Steen: Having served 32 years, mostly with the National Guard, Mr. Steen is retired from the service and is currently a full time Commissioner with Teller County. The National Endowment for the Arts and the Department of Defense recently partnered on a rehabilitation event called Creative Forces to take place in Colorado Springs on February 15-16. In February, Mr. Steen will be speaking at Veterans Recognition event in Florissant. He will then meet with other Commissioners in Washington D.C. in March. Mr. Dailey added that there is a Subcommittee Room for Veterans located in Washington D.C. that houses various flags. Ms. Hammon made mention of the opioid epidemic.

Alan Sonnenberg: The grant application process has gotten easier but it's been difficult to get surveys back. Most veterans served are in immediate need, mostly with rent assistance. It has taken 30-40 days to replenish funds for cash advances. Currently, there is only one person handling grants for American Legion Post 32. Mr. Dailey explained that the grant process was revamped following the Board's audit and gave kudos to Ms. Hoagland on her extraordinary efforts.

Elvira Ramos: A daughter of a WWII veteran, Ms. Ramos works for the Boulder Community Foundation which took over for the former nonprofit Veterans Helping Veterans Now. They raise money and make grants for Boulder county veterans.

Maegan Vallejo: The Veterans Fund is an endowed, investment fund overseen by an investment committee. It currently has \$50k for local 5013(c) groups.

Daniel Savage: A veteran's resource directory will be created through the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment for the Boulder area. The Workforce Centers are really engaged in helping veterans, prioritizing their training.

Debbie Pierson: Larimer County handles the grant programs for VFW Post 41 which makes it more efficient than directing veterans to another agency. Mr. Robinson asked what the greatest need is for the area. Ms. Pierson replied there are not enough rental properties available. Mr. Robinson added that the Veterans Assistance Grant could be used to provide money for the County Service Officers, but the Veterans Trust Fund is solely for non-profit veterans service organizations. Ms. Pierson will be retiring on February 2. Mr. Robinson wondered how to address the County Service Officer turnover and how to entice younger veterans to serve those who served. Mr. Mestas added that the 30 full time County Service Officers make about \$36k a year.

Ms. Hoagland and Mr. Dailey presented Ms. Pierson with a Certificate of Appreciation for her exceptional work with veterans through the grant program.

Karen Townsend: Finding and organizing volunteers to help with grants is an issue.

*Let the record show that here the Board recessed at 10:22am, and resumed to labor at 10:35am.*

Mickey Hunt: The old armory remodel in Grand Junction continues. Non- profits will be allowed to rent space. Mr. Hunt visited the Volunteers of America in Denver to get ideas for the Grand Junction One Stop. The Department has met with the Joint Budget Committee. Vietnam Veterans and the CO Air National Guard F100 Unit will be honored during Veterans Appreciation Day at the Western Stock Show on January 16. Military Appreciation Day at the Capitol will be held on Friday, January 26. Ms. Hammon encouraged everyone to attend. Two Board members will need to be confirmed by the State Senate and another's term will have expired. Mr. Hunt mentioned that several of the FEMA trailers that temporarily housed people following disasters are now for sale and that perhaps they could aid in the housing crisis here in Colorado. Mr. Steen added that it is local regulation that determines whether tiny homes, temporary trailers and multi-family homes can exist in their cities. Construction companies shy away from building affordable housing due to countless lawsuits.

Ben Mestas: Only twelve spaces are left for this year's annual training conference. Four new County Service Officers have started. Both Gilpin and Logan County's need training. The State Service Officer advertisement will be online through January 8. The Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado had its second busiest year on record. Ms. Hammon requested the dates and times for the quarterly memorials. Mr. Robinson stated that the headstone issues continue with the VA-contracted vendor.

Gail Hoagland: Two applications have recently been received as the grant cycle begins. As of today, the Veterans Trust Fund has \$411,926.31 remaining. There is \$605,827.81 left in the Veterans Assistance Grant. The USS Colorado Commissioning Grant is not complete. Grant application hard copies are due by March 1. Mr. Dailey asked when the webinars will be held this year. Ms. Hoagland said there will be two for each grant in January and one each in February with additional webinars if needed.

Dave Callahan: Mr. Callahan went over the CBVA Strategic Planning. Mr. Robinson asked why the CBVA meetings are being held in congressional districts. Mr. Mestas explained that it is not a political decision but rather a decision based on the veteran populations.

Ms. Hammon said that section 1.3 read ...report on all state-funded programs...

Mr. Steen stated that the Board also advises and recommended that Goal 1.3 should be: Study, advocate or recommend and report status of state-funded programs...

Mr. Callahan said that another subcommittee will need to be formed to work on the brand and messaging and both a tri-fold and a booklet be created for marketing. Mr. Steen asked who the target audience is for the tri-fold. A discussion ensued on funding.

Mr. Steen asked for clarification on what is considered outreach. The committee will decide what constitutes an outreach.

Mr. Robinson said the Board should consider getting more money for grant funding. A brief discussion of the Tobacco Fund followed.

A matrix will need be provided by the Board to validate what the counties are doing with the additional money for the County Service Officers.

Ms. Hammon motioned for the Strategic Action Plan to be reviewed by every Board member and that it be discussed at next month's meeting. Mr. Robinson seconded. Mr. Steen asked whether or not the Board will accept the Strategic Plan at the next meeting. Ms. Hammon replied that they will discuss the changes brought forth at the next meeting. Motion carried. Mr. Steen volunteered to sit on the Strategic Planning Committee and Mr. Dailey appointed him.

## **Old Business**

## **New Business**

Mr. Dailey reminded the Board that they need to stay politically neutral, even during recess. He also stated that Board meetings are not to be conducted as Service Officer training, but that area County Service officers are highly encouraged to attend the meetings.

**Future Meetings**

02 Feb – CSU Pueblo -Mr. Steen will coordinate speakers for the meeting.

There being no further business, Mr. Rudder made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Robinson. The meeting adjourned 12:05pm.