

Board Minutes
March 3, 2017
Aurora Chamber of Commerce
14305 E. Alameda, Aurora, CO 81082

Duane Dailey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 0902 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
Rene Simard, Vice-Chair
Hollie Caldwell, Secretary
Robert McLaughlin, Member
Pat Hammon, Member
William "Robby" Robinson, Member
Jack Rudder, Member

DMVA Staff Present:

Mickey Hunt, DMVA Deputy Director
Reuben Mestas, CDVA Director
Gail Hoagland, DMVA, VAG Administrator
Dave Callahan, DMVA, Strategic Planner
Claire Dean, CDVA Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Theresa Rudder, Jack's wife

Approval of Minutes from February

Several changes made, then approved.

Pat Hammon: At the quarterly forum of area County VSOs was held at the VA Hospital in Grand Junction it was reported that they are still in the search for a new Director. The Prosthetic and Physical Therapy addition to the hospital is set to open in August. The new full time chief of staff and a full time general surgeon have been hired and the neurologist has been moved to full time. Four new transportation vans were purchased for the VA Hospital.

Jack Rudder: The San Luis Valley is still in need of a doctor. The Choice card is receiving mixed reviews. There have been ten military funerals in the Alamosa area so far this year.

Duane Dailey: Twelve World War II veterans live in the Grand County area. Mr. Dailey asked for clarification on the census issue discussed at last month's meeting. Mr. Mestas explained that the VA report is to now include anyone who served, which will change the total veterans on the GDX Report. Mr. Dailey wondered how to get an exact veteran population count in his county.

Rene Simard: The Sturm Clinic is partnering with Buckley Air Force Base to provide mental health field placements. The 41st Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon will be held on May 5, 2017 at the DoubleTree in Denver. The keynote speaker will be Lt. General (retired) Mike Hamel.

Hollie Caldwell: Ms. Caldwell will attend the Homes for Heroes non-profit event in March.

Robert McLaughlin: While working with My VA Pikes Peak Initiative, Mr. McLaughlin addressed where Health Net is falling short. The Mount Carmel Center in Colorado Springs celebrated their one year anniversary. Around 10,000 veterans and their families have been served. The University of Colorado Health and Cohen Veterans Network will partner to form a behavioral health center. It will serve an estimated 83,000 individuals in the community. Mr. McLaughlin will accompany Mr. Hunt and representatives of the Federal VA to a town hall meeting in Trinidad in late spring.

Ms. Hammon asked about Health Net. Mr. McLaughlin will work with Ms. Hammon to get her connected to the right people.

Mickey Hunt: A new TAG will begin in April and Mr. Hunt will help with the transition. Both Mr. Hunt and Mr. McLaughlin will tour Fort Wooten in Trinidad on March 10. Mr. Hunt recently attended a recognition ceremony, hosted by US Representative Ed Pearlmutter, for a 99 year-old veteran. The current TAG will oversee the Veterans Trust Fund, but the new TAG will have to decide on the Veterans Assistance Grants. Greg Dorman will schedule Senate confirmations for the newest Board members: Robert McLaughlin and Pat Hammon. It has been proposed that the Homelake Cemetery be transferred from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Should the transfer occur, all previous reservations would be null and void, angering the community.

The 14,000 square-foot Western Slope One-Stop will be funded next fiscal year with a current cost of \$3.5M. Board members are encouraged to attend a press conference in Grand Junction sometime in May.

Mr. Robinson inquired about the possibility of Homelake Cemetery being run by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The issue is that the Department of Human Services needs to correctly fund cemetery groundkeepers.

Reuben Mestas: Mr. Mestas clarified to the Board that all veterans living in Las Animas County are directed to the VA Hospital in Albuquerque, or the clinic in Raton, New Mexico. UCCS in

Colorado Springs has begun a pilot program for veterans to help them transition into engineering careers.

Gail Hoagland: Many applications were hand-delivered to Gail's office in Centennial. Forty-seven applications were received for the Veterans Assistance Grant, with \$2M in requests. There were many new organizations offering different programs this year. Twenty-six applications were received for the Veterans Trust Fund, with five being new applicants and two former applicants. There were many requests from Community Living Centers. Greg Dorman is currently working with Legislature to find out how much money will be available for the Veterans Trust Fund. It is expected that funds will be considerably less than last year. Decisions on grant applications will need to be fully justified and due by the end of April. Surveys will be used to collect data from applicants to find out if the application was easy and if the webinar and staff were helpful.

Mr. Robinson wanted to know who decides the amount of money for the Veterans Trust Fund. The Joint Budget Committee decides the appropriations.

Mr. Simard recommended the Board sign a Certificate of Recognition for Ivan Brooks, the Grant Administrator in Trinidad, for his outstanding work. Ms. Hoagland will produce the certificate.

Dave Callahan: A Strategic Planning presentation was presented to the Board along with an exercise exploring the Board's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The Board was then instructed to work on Mission and Vision Statements.

The Board recessed at 10:25 a.m. and resumed labor at 10:39 a.m.

Ms. Hoagland reminded the Board that they need to be mindful of identified conflicts of interest, and that if they cannot score grant applicants without bias, they can recuse themselves. Only the information provided in the application should be used in scoring. Handouts were given and a quick scoring exercise followed. Mr. Simard requested to add a letter on the rubric that corresponds with the spreadsheet. Next week, grant applications will be sent to the Board electronically. Decisions will be made at April's Board meeting.

Future Meetings

April 7 Board Meeting, Centennial Public Works, 7272 S. Eagle St.

May 12 Board Meeting, Durango, 8am

June 2 Board Meeting, Community Living Center in Rifle

Old Business

New Business

The Board has been invited to attend a one hour presentation on aerial firefighting at an airport four miles away from the Community Living Center in Rifle. The optional presentation will be set up through Ms. Hammon to follow the June Board meeting.

The Strategic Planning Committee will meet on April 6 at 4pm at 6848 S. Revere Parkway in Centennial. It was suggested that they meet directly after each Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned 12:16pm