

Board Minutes
November 1, 2017
Wings Over the Rockies
7711 E. Academy Blvd., Denver, CO 80230

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, 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
William "Robby" Robinson, Member
Lacey Golonka, Member
Norm Steen, Member

DMVA Staff Present:

Major General Michael A. Loh, The Adjutant General
Mickey Hunt, DMVA Deputy Director
Greg Dorman, DMVA Legislative Liaison
Reuben Mestas, CDVA Director
Gail Hoagland, DMVA, VAG Administrator
Claire Dean, CDVA Interim Office Manager

Guests Present:

James Craig, president of UVC and Rural Rehabilitation Specialist for Colorado AgrAbility
Theresa Rudder, president-elect of Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs and Jack's wife
Aaron Termain, Veterans Community Living Centers
Lewis Entz, former State Senator from the San Luis Valley
Lynne Ciancio, Army Retiree

Approval of October Minutes

The minutes from the October meeting were approved as presented.

Board Member Comments

Pat Hammon: November is a busy month in Eagle County with 17 scheduled school programs where veterans will meet with students during Veterans Awareness Week. The Veterans Resource Center located in Glenwood Springs will have a grand opening on November 10. Representatives from both Senator Bennett's and US Representative Tipton's offices will be present. Volunteers are needed to staff the event.

Jack Rudder: Money continues to be raised for the project dubbed Operation Bring Them Home that deals with the issue of veterans unclaimed remains throughout the state. The Alamosa Gun Club will host a fundraiser for the cause this summer. Mr. Rudder worked with Huerfano County Service Officer Nick Vigil to properly bury unclaimed remains in La Veta, Colorado. Several Veterans Day programs are scheduled to take place at Adams State College including the Air Force band. Mr. Mestas asked if headstones for the graves are being provided and offered to get free grave markers.

Hollie Caldwell: Students at Platte College have donated about \$500 to Operation Bring Them Home. Platte College will be on hand at the first aid booths during the annual Veterans Day Run on November 5. Positive feedback was given to Mr. Mestas for his visit to the college over Columbus Day.

Robby Robinson: Mr. Robinson attended the Veterans Trauma Court Conference last week. A draft of a proposal that has received bipartisan support will be presented to the legislature. There will likely be some disagreements dealing with sealing records for felony convictions. With regards to the Veterans Community Living Center at Fitzsimmons, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless was successful in getting the contract for permanent supportive housing on the Fitzsimmons campus but was told that they will not receive low income tax credits this year. Mr. Termain added that the Colorado Department of Human Services rewrote the agreement with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless allowing them another year to work on securing the tax credits. Both Mr. Robinson and Ms. Ciancio returned to the Rifle Community Living Center to visit with veteran residents Lewis Whorley and Larry Velasquez.

Duane Dailey: The YMCA of the Rockies donates kitchen staff to help with the Grand County Veterans Day festivities which total 400 in attendance. Area resident and veteran Betty Kramer is the area chaplain. Mr. Dailey is now assisting Jackson and Summit Counties.

Lacey Golonka: Ms. Golonka sits on the Veterans Economic Development Board. Currently, veteran unemployment numbers are down. Excel Energy staff may volunteer to help with the Wreaths Across America project at Homelake. Ms. Golonka requested that the board look at changing its schedule from the first Friday to either the second or third Friday of each month to accommodate her drill schedule.

Norm Steen: Teller County began fundraising for a full-size bronze statue commemorating Vietnam veteran Eric Dickson, one of Teller County's own. The statue will cost about \$60,000 and will be placed in the center of Woodland Park's main park. A school district-wide gathering

will take place on November 10 at the Woodland Park High School for Veterans Day. Mr. Steen serves on Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) which advocates for legislature and serves as Vice-Chair for the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments. He also works closely with the American Legion and US Representative Doug Lamborn.

Guest/Public Comments

Theresa Rudder: Wreaths Across America will be placing over 1,000 wreaths on graves at Homelake on December 16. Volunteers are needed.

Staff Reports

Mickey Hunt: The budget for FY 2017-2018 is closing out. Mr. Hunt will be at Mt. Carmel and Peak Military Care Network tomorrow followed by interviews for the DEERS position in Grand Junction. The position will be located in the National Guard Readiness Center. Mr. Hunt was very impressed with this year's organization of the Colorado Springs Stand-down. Civil Air Patrol may be available to help with Homelake's wreath project. Mr. Hunt welcomes CCI to help the Department educate County Commissioners on who we are and what we do.

Greg Dorman: The legislative session will begin January 2018. The Board was reminded to refrain from taking positions on the bills. The Joint Budget Committee Hearing will meet on Monday, November 27. Military Appreciation Day will be held at the Capitol on January 26, 2018.

Ben Mestas: Mr. Mestas visited Platte College on October 9 and congratulated Ms. Caldwell on the amazing job she has done with the nursing program. The number of homeless that attended the Grand Junction Homeless Stand-down was corrected to 160 veterans served. The reorganization of the Division's office has begun in order to improve the client's experience. We are still waiting for the three Service Officer postings. The fourth Service Officer will strictly handle outreach and state-wide training. Mr. Robinson asked if the Cemetery is requesting new vendor quotes, since the current vendor is making expensive mistakes on nearly half of the tombstones and plaques. The issue will be brought up at next month's Board meeting at the VA Regional Office, where vendor contracting is handled. Mr. Mestas will go over the CBVA information binder with those new Board members who missed the annual Board Retreat. Mr. Dailey asked how long it will take to see the Outreach Service Officer position posted onto the State's website. Mr. Mestas replied that on average it takes Human Resources three to four weeks to get positions posted.

Major General Michael A. Loh: Major General Loh introduced himself to the Board, gave a brief bio and requested the Board members reintroduce themselves. The Colorado National Guard provides ready forces for homeland defense, fosters partnerships with various boards and international forces and supports active families as well as veterans.

Gail Hoagland: Mr. Robinson requested that the list of grantees receiving the Veterans Assistance Grant be put on the website. The action item was then discussed. The new application has been switched from written narrative to question and answer format to make

the process even easier. The level of risk needs to be clear to comply with Federal and State Uniform Grant Guidance regulations. Mr. Dailey asked for clarification of the pre-award assessment questionnaire. Ms. Caldwell asked for clarification on the Veterans Trust Fund application and the request of number of veterans duplicated. So many applicants deliver their materials on the last day. Mr. Steen wondered if a drop box needs to be installed at the Revere address. Mr. Dorman replied that it would not be safe and that contractors often deliver time-sensitive material and may be confused with the drop box option. Clarification was given as to the rubric showing the quality of the applicant as well as the quality of the application. Ms. Caldwell requested that the application be numbered. Ms. Hammon motioned to approve the grant application with modifications. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Hoagland briefly explained webinars to the new Board members. Mr. Robinson recommended including wording on the applications that the State of Colorado follows the Federal Uniform Grant Guidance Rules.

New Business

The Strategic Planning Committee will meet today at 2pm.

Ms. Golonka formally requested the Board meeting be changed to another day of the week, in order to accommodate her schedule. She will have definitive dates in the coming weeks for her ongoing drill. Mr. Hunt asked the Board to consider another Friday of the month to meet. Mr. Mestas reminded the Board of their deadlines to the Grant Administrator in March and April. This discussion has been tabled until the next Board meeting on December 1.

Ms. Hammon asked at what level Board members can contribute to the legislative effort for increased pay at the Community Living Centers. Mr. Dorman replied that the Board cannot act until the Department has a position and they will not act until the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), whom the Community Living Centers fall under, has a position. CDHS will not take a position until they have the Governor's support. Mr. Termain shared news that the Governor has just approved the budget to increase Community Living Center employees pay and achieve competitive wages.

Ms. Caldwell has accepted the position of Regional Vice President of Orbis Education and will begin December 11. She will be mostly work remotely and should be able to attend the CBVA meetings.

Mr. Dailey inquired about conducting Board meetings via conference call. Mr. Hunt will look into that possibly. It is strongly encouraged that Board members be physically present at meetings.

Old Business

Future Meetings

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

Meeting adjourned 11:00am