

UNITED VETERANS COUNCIL OF NEW MEXICO

PO Box 8034, Albuquerque, NM 87198

MINUTES - AUGUST 11, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Ken O'Keefe @ 1:05 pm. Fifteen (15) representatives in attendance and one visitor, Mr. Walter Paul. Pledge of Allegiance followed with lighting of POW/MIA candle and a moment of silence for all POW/MIAs. Self introduction of representatives present was conducted.

Minutes of previous meeting. Accepted

Treasurer's report: Accepted subject to audit. (copy attached)

New Mexico Veterans Memorial Last schedule meeting was cancelled. Site preparation is on going for the "on site" security trailer. There will be a lottery for the vendor space at Veterans' Day. There a 7 spaces on the East and West - total 14. Eight 10X10 shades are available for use. All food vendors have to be on the East side where it is paved.

Mayor's Veterans' and Military Affairs Advisory Board Next meeting is Aug 26 @ 9:00am - 11th floor - Mayor's Conference Room. Board is working on setting goals for the Board. Several items for consideration - procurement contract to small business run by veterans. Some type of "leg up" system for veterans applying for city jobs. Something similar to the veterans preference use in US government civil service hiring. Don Lutz is the liaison officer from the Mayor's office.

Veterans' Day Planning Committee Dec 7 with be the 40th anniversary for the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the US entry into WWII. Program will honor WWII vets. Issue to be worked is how to get the WWII vets to the Memorial. Possible bus pickup from multi generational centers and nursing homes. Using the Wherry school parking lot is an option for additional parking; however, it will need to be a park and ride operation. Ken O'Keefe will be working through the Mayor's Advisory Board to explore the possibility of closing north bound Louisiana for parade unit parking. Organizations are asked to consider donations to help offset the cost of mementoes for the WWII veterans. Motion may and passed to ear mark a total of \$600 to cover all the related costs for Veterans' Day. Tom Boutwell stated to count on the DAV for \$75 to help out. Date for first planning meeting is pending.

Old Business Walter Paul reported on the Web Site. Proposed site can be reviewed ww.wfrpadvisor.com/uvcnm. Need links to UVC organizational web sites.

No representative for state fair has been identified. Will attempt to get someone to the next meeting with details. Veterans' Day will be Thursday Sep 22. Free admission with military ID (active, retired, guard and reserve). VA medical card or other documents should the individual is a vet. Parking plan for veterans' group is unknown at present. Hope it is not like last year with our groups placed on side streets.

New Business Questions were asked about the Veterans' Integration Center (VIC). The site has moved from the old Sundowner motel @ San Pedro and Central to the Value Place Motel on east Central near Tramway. Rose James is the Director. Admin offices are across the street from the Motel. Rooms are nice - they have refrigerator, micro wave, & hot plate. Can house 50 veterans. Vets must be drug/alcohol free for 28 days prior to entry. Program lasts 2 years and is designed to fully integrate the vet back into society. Reported that the VIC has worked out this financial issues and is back on solid ground. VA does help support the VIC with funding.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony will be Friday, Sept 16, 10am at the Memorial. KAFB is taking the lead on this event. Event is always held on the 3rd Friday of Sept each year.

9/11 ceremony at civic plaza @ 10am. Blue Star Mothers will have a walk/run that day. More details to follow.

Mr. Davidson reported on activities for next year's NM centennial celebrations. Looking for sponsors for scale model kits of US Navy vessels with NM names. Model kits range from \$300-\$500 each. There have been 50 ships with NM ties.

Good of the Order There will be two POW/MIA balloon present for the Balloon Fiesta.

State DAV commander, Chris Ewer has in bad accident in Iowa. Has been transferred to spinal cord unit at ABQ VA Hospital.

VFW Post 401 Auxiliary will be hosting an Asian dinner on 21 Aug to raise funds for VA hospital.

Barelas community center has had a total renovation. Dedication of remodel facility on Aug 19 @ 9am. Looking for flag detail for ceremony.

Filing of IRS 990. President Ken O'Keefe will take care of this. UVC IRS EIN 87-0812229.

Meeting Adjourned @2:11PM

Next meeting: 1:00pm, Sept 8, 2011 @ VFW Post 401 (2011 Girard Blvd SE, ABQ, NM 87106)

Charles "Russ" Spicher,
Secretary