

# UNITED VETERANS COUNCIL OF NEW MEXICO

PO Box 8034, Albuquerque, NM 87198

## MINUTES - January 12, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Ken O'Keefe @ 1:05 pm. Nineteen (19) representatives in attendance. President led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by lighting of the POW/MIA candle with a moment of silence in remembrance.

Meeting Agenda was approved. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as written. Treasurer's report accepted subject to audit. (copy attached)

**New Mexico Veterans Memorial** Agreements have been finalized and the "On-Site" security. The selected couple will be moving into the trailer very soon. Reported all service, state, and US flags that require frequent replacement have sponsors. The service flags cost approx \$160 per year for each of the five service flags and the US flag runs approx \$250 per year. Election of officers for next year will be at next board meeting. That meeting is a closed meeting.

**Mayor's Veterans' and Military Affairs Advisory Board** Nothing to report. Next meeting Jan 17 @ 9am - Mayor's conference room - city hall - 11th floor.

**Veterans' Day Planning Committee** Second set of 100 coins ordered for WWII veterans for Veterans Day have arrived. Roger Knight will take some to Memorial to sell @ \$5 each and the memorial to keep \$1. Some coins will be taken to VAMC to pass out to WWII vets in the hospital. Frantz (341-9600) stated he would buy the remained of the coins and resell through his organizations.

**Memorial Day Planning Committee** First planning meeting changed from Feb 6 to Feb 13 - 2pm @ Vet Memorial. Change of date due to Feb 6 being Veterans Day at the Legislature - Round House. Note: request has been submitted for fly over by military aircraft. Mike Rice stands ready to fly his old military trainer if needed.

**Old Business** Election of Secretary for 2012-2013. Diana Wong was elected. The results of the election in Dec and this date the following are the elected officers for 2012-2013:

President - Ken O'Keefe  
Vice President - Mary Cox  
Secretary - Diana Wong  
Treasurer - Roger Knight

3 year Director - Joe Loisel  
2 year Director - Ed Holbrook  
1 year Director - Jo Ann Hudson

**New Business** Veterans/Military Day at the Legislature will be Mon Feb 6. Ken O'Keefe will get with Ed Holbrook and try to set up a bus like in the past. Meet at NMVM @ 8 am - depart @ 8:30 - stop at Lowes, Paseo and I-25 on the way up. Stop at Casino Hollywood on way back for lunch. Motion made for UVC to buy coffee that morning. Tom Boutwell will take care of this. Big issue for military retirees is the possible exemption of state income tax on military retired pay.

VAVS requested organizations to adopt a holiday for place mats on dining trays. Motion made and passed to sponsor one day / 3 meals. Cost for mats for 3 meals is \$165. Believe St Patrick's day is open and will take that if still available.

### **Good of the Order**

Reported a VAMC VAVS meeting that a "small" Fisher house may be coming in ABQ - possibly 2014. Not a done deal but issue is being worked.

Looking for s shuttle driver to do parking lot pickups. Point of Contact if interested is Jo Ann Chavez at VAVS.

Veterans' Court has been established for 2nd Judicial District. VAVS is looking for mentors. Contact Rachael Saiz @ 660-0373 or Dr Richard Neff 265-1711 Ext 2440.

Million Veterans Program is starting up. The program will track veterans' health and research possible trends. Will be a seven year study. Participants will have to complete a health questionnaire and provide a blood sample. Program office is in room 183, building 1 @ VAMC.

Jan 13 there will be WWI traveling display from 9-5 @ Balloon Museum.

Meeting adjourned @ 2:00pm. Next meeting 1 pm, Feb 9, 2012, VFW Post 401, 2011 Girard SE.

Charles "Russ" Spicher,  
Secretary