

UNITED VETERANS COUNCIL OF NEW MEXICO

PO Box 8034, Albuquerque, NM 87198

MINUTES - JULY 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Ken O'Keefe @ 1:06 pm. Sixteen (16) representatives in attendance and two visitors: Lloyd Calderon, Director, NM DVS Veterans' Business Resources Center and 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)

Mr. Walter Paul was introduced. He retired from the military after spending 7 1/2 years active duty in Army and 20 years with the Colorado National Guard. He has developed numerous web sites for veterans' organization and offered his time and talent to develop a web site for the UVC. He would not charge for developing the web site and maintaining it. The only cost to the UVC would be for the domain name, \$10-12 per year and site host fee, \$40-50 per year. The site will have links to other veterans' organizations and information from the UVC. Mr. Paul's contact is wfrpaul@g.mail. Motion made and passed to obtain a domain name for three years and site host service for one year. Passed.

Will review after one year to see if the UVC desires to continue the site.

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New Mexico Veterans Memorial Foundation Next meeting of the Foundation is next Wed, July 20.

Roger Knight reported that Doctor Bailey, NAACP, held a press conference where he announced a portion of the Buffalo Solider Memorial is place. They are now waiting for the sculpture. Memorial is in the Territorial area or the Park.

Recently Knights of Columbus members from Rio Rancho held a ceremony at the Memorial, ceremonially raising a flag on the main flag pole. The flag will be raffled off and proceeds to the Wounded Warrior Fund. Roger passed around photos of the event. T

The Metro Flood Control has given the Memorial several boulders to use for parts of memorial displays. One of the boulders will be used for the paratrooper memorial. The bolder will have three plaques - 82nd airborne patch, Local Chapter information, and paratrooper's song lyrics "He ain't going to jump no more." Five flag poles will be around the memorial with flags from the 11th, 13th, 17th, 82nd,

and 101st Airborne Divisions who took part in WWII. The paratrooper is being "chain saw" carved out of wood by retired fireman, Mark Chavez. Mark did the Welcome Home and Sailor sculptures already in place at the Memorial. The cost of the Paratrooper Memorial is estimated @ \$15-18K. The formal dedication of the memorial will be on Jun 6, 2012. MOAA and KFCU have each donated \$1K to this memorial. Motion was made and passed to donate \$100 to the Paratrooper Memorial Fund.

Mayor's Veterans' and Military Affairs Advisory Board Next meeting is July 26 at ABQ City Hall, 6th floor. Thus far the Board is defining its role and looking for action items to take to the Mayor. Mr. Doug Lutz, Constituent Services Liaison (dlutz@cabq.gov) is the Mayor's representative. Chairman of the Board is Archie Garcia. One issue discussed was the move of the Veterans' Integration Center (VIC). Many individual were not aware the VIC had moved from the old Sun Downer Motel on Central near San Pedro to the Value Place Motel on Central near Tramway. The office for the VIC is across the street from the motel in an old motorcycle/7-11 building.

Veterans' Day Planning Committee Date for first planning meeting has not been set.

Would like to make the parade a much larger event than in the past. Will try to get more support for the 377th ABW, KAFB; APS (bands, drill teams, JROTC, etc), local organization that routinely take part in like the state fair parade. One major problem has been and would be an issue is a "break down" area. There is no room at the Memorial to do this. This could be an action item for the Mayor's Advisory Board - close down Louisiana from Gibson north to ?? to allow for a break down/parking area for vehicles. Need to get information out concerning the parade through the various veterans' websites and direct contact with veterans' organizations.

Veterans' Day will be on Friday, Nov 11. It is an APS holiday. Dec 7, 2011 - 4 weeks later will mark the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the official entry of the US into WWII. The theme for this Veterans' Day will be to honor those who served in that war. Most of those vets are in there late 80s and 90s.

Old Business (note - all rolled into the above committee reports).

New Business Suggested we have someone from the NM State Fair parade planning group come to our next meeting. Organizations need more lead time to get ready, if they want to participate.

Lloyd Calderon announced there were having a Veterans' Job Fair this afternoon. In the first hour over 1,000 vets came through the doors.

George Salas provided information on the Women in the Military Memorial that is being planned for Socorro. The land has already be provided and planning is ongoing. The next planning meeting is July 26 in Socorro @ 11am. It is hoped that this Memorial will be a "National Memorial" to Women in the Military as Angle Fire is to the Viet Nam Vets. The statue will bear the name, "Letters from Home". He will try to have a drawing/model of the proposed memorial at the next UVC meeting. A 501(c)4 organization has been set up for tax exemption for contributors.

Good of the Order

During the self introductions, Mr. Charles Powell advised the members that the founder of the local Veterans for Peace Chapter #63, Donald Thompson passed away on May 28, 2011.

50/50 Drawing - Winner - Mary Cox

Meeting Adjourned @2:30PM

Next meeting: 1:00pm, July 14, 2011 @ VFW Post 401 (2011 Girard Blvd SE, ABQ, NM 87106)

Charles "Russ" Spicher,
Secretary