

UNITED VETERANS COUNCIL OF NEW MEXICO
PO BOX 8034, Albuquerque, NM 87198
MINUTES – March 8, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Ken O'Keefe at 1:05 pm. There were fifteen (15) representatives in attendance. President O'Keefe led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the lighting of the POW/MIA candle with a moment of silence in remembrance.

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

Guest Speaker

Alan Martinez, NM Deputy Secretary of Veterans' Affairs. Talked about the recent 30-day Legislative session and how it served the veteran community.

New Mexico Veterans Memorial

Governor Suzanne Martinez was at Memorial on March 7, to sign two Veteran Friendly Legislation's and for a Naturalization Ceremony for three individuals in the Army Reserve. Diane Castillo at the VA Hospital is checking on having part of the Womens PTSD Program at Memorial, possibly graduation. Memorial Board meeting on March 21, the directors from Senior Affairs and Parks & Recreations will be there to talk about their ideas to help the board operate the memorial (closed meeting). There are four new Board members, Don Loftis, Becky Kennedy, Jim Lehner, Candace Roop. Memorial Security Tish & Tim Roberts are now living on site. They are not to patrol area due to liability and city requirements. If they see or have any problems, they are to call 911. Membership for memorial is \$20, with membership you receive the quarterly news letter, memorial pin and bumper sticker. Roger stated that anyone wishing to make a donation in honor/memory of someone will be shown on the maintenance fees report. All flags at the memorial that fly 24/7 are now all sponsored for.

Mayor's Veterans' and Military Affairs Advisory Board

Roger Newell was not at last UVC meeting. He is the new Veterans Military Liaison for the city. He is also the Dept Commander for the Purple Heart of N.M. The Advisory meetings have been changed from every third Tuesday to every third Wednesday. Next meeting is on March 21.

Memorial Day Planning Committee

Date for the next Memorial meeting TBD when Ken hears back from Maria at KAFB 377th Public Information Office. There will be no Memorial Day parade, due to not having enough sufficient interest to have a good parade.

Old Business

To order 100 more UVC coins at \$3.50 each. Will only be charged \$50 to redo the one side of coin to enlarge the words "United Veterans Council". Total amount will be \$400. Still selling UVC coins for \$5 each and still giving out coins free to WWII Veterans. Ken will ask Sonia Brown at VAVS to keep an eye out for WWII Vets checking into the VA Hospital and Mary to check at Ex-POW Ceremony in April.

Ken to take check for \$110 to Sonia Brown at VAVS. UVC to provide Meal Place Mats for the VA Hospitalized Veterans on St. Patrick's Day/Lunch and Dinner.

New Business

Need to purchase 65 New Mexico flags for the Avenue of Flags at the Memorial. Decision pending on if Janice Arnold Jones can get funds from her organization.

Good of the Order

JoAnn reported that the 5th Annual Blue Mass held on February 21 @ St Pius X went well. There were nice comments and representation from all offices and military. They hope to continue having masses every year.

The 27th Tribute to Women in the Military Annual Event was held on March 2 @ Mountain View Club, Kirtland AFB with an attendance of over 190. Guest speaker was Dr. Mosely-Brown, Associate Director of the Womens Program in D.C. Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 318 volunteered to be Donut Dudes.

Roger suggested at the Tribute to Women in the Military that we get a Womens Memorial out at the Veterans Memorial. He spoke with SSgt Clemmons who was interested in taking over the project.

New Mexico VA Hospital is behind on the Million Veteran Program. If you received paperwork in the mail please participate. If you did not receive anything, you can go to building #1 on the first floor and let them know that you would like to participate. All it takes is a simple blood test.

Donut Mart has several locations and offers to donate coffee and donuts to any military function, please let Tom know if you are interested so he can get in touch with them.

Meeting adjourned @ 2:34 pm. Next meeting 1:00 pm, April 12, 2012 @ VFW Post 401, 2011 Girard SE.

Note:

The above minutes are pending approval at next UVC meeting.

Website - United Veterans Council of New Mexico: uvcnm.org

Webmaster - Walter Paul: wfrpaul@gmail.com

Diana Wong
Secretary
djdiwong@aol.com