

UNITED VETERANS COUNCIL OF NEW MEXICO

PO Box 8034, Albuquerque, NM 87198

MINUTES - October 13, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Ken O'Keefe @ 1:05 pm. Seventeen (17) representatives in attendance and four visitors, Marsha Garcia, Congressman Heinrick office,; Kay Reissig and Barbara Neilson, Hospice of NM and Alan Martinez, Ass't Cabinet Secretary NM Dept of Veterans' Services. Vice President Loisel led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by lighting of POW/MIA candle and a moment of silence in remembrance of all POW/MIAs. Self introduction of representatives present was conducted.

Minutes of previous meeting: Minutes accepted as written.

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

Kay Rissig and Barbara Neilson spoke on Hospice of NM. Hospice mission - Living Life to its fullest until the end of life. They deal with all aspects of pain management and deal with issues concerning the body, mind, and soul. Hospice is covered by Medicare. Types of Hospice organization: hospital (in patient), large cooperation run and community run programs such as Hospice of NM.

Alan Martinez discussed the problems we had this year with the state fair at the Military/Veterans Day.

Main problem was a communication break down between the agencies - Alan said he took the responsibility for this issue. A meeting was held with state fair officials, Alan, and numerous vet organizations represented. In future Veterans organization cannot sell items; however, they can offer items with a suggested donation, have donation jars, sell raffle tickets and accept membership application and membership dues. Military/Veterans Day has been the biggest attendance day for the past three years.

DVS Secretary Hale and/or Alan will be conducting Commanders/Presidents/head of vet organizations on a recurring basis - get out of Santa Fe and in the communities state wide. They want to find the true vet issues they need to address in Santa Fe, not some staffer's idea.

Veterans' Day at the Legislature has been set and will continue to be midsession, not end of session as this past session.

Nov 23 will be Military subcommittee meeting to review issues for next legislative session. PIT exemption for military retiree pay will once again be on the list of Vet issues. Appears Governor will sign if sent to her desk.

New Mexico Veterans Memorial Mary Cox reported there will be Memorial Service for Sarah on Nov 4 @ 11:30 AM - reception to follow. The Buffalo Soldier memorial has been dedicated. Roger Knight will be temporary chairperson for the Memorial Foundations until an election is held. The Foundation is in need of board members.

Mayor's Veterans' and Military Affairs Advisory Board Last meeting - no business conducted - lack of quorum.

Veterans' Day Planning Committee Veterans Day is Friday Nov 11. Music starts @ 10am - program starts @ 11am. Planning meeting will follow today's UVC meeting. Representative Heinrick will be key note speaker. Ceremony will honor WWII veterans. There will be a parade - no changes in procedures from past years.

Old Business - None

New Business

Election of officers are schedule for Dec. Nominations are due in Nov. Discussion concerning term limits for officers. Currently the term of office is two years and a two term limit - 4 years total. Item tabled until next meeting.

Good of the Order

Nov 14 - free meal at Golden Corral to honor all veterans.

Joe Loisel passed out the Military Coalition Oct/Nov/Dec 2011 calendar listing known key veterans' events. (copy attached).

Meeting adjourned @ 2:25pm. Next meeting 1 pm, Nov 10, VFW Post 401, 2011 Girard SE.

Charles "Russ" Spicher,
Secretary