

UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS (UAV), P.O. BOX 34338, PHOENIX, AZ 85067

**MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 2, 2011
AT THE STATE VETERAN HOME, 4141 N. SILVESTRE HERRERA WAY,
PHOENIX, AZ 85012**

CALL TO ORDER: 10 a.m. by Chairman Bob Delker, followed by Invocation by Chaplain Bo Bohach , and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. **Patriots Landing Southwest facility to be built near Luke AFB – Ms. Loapualani Anderson** briefed us that her employer, Gene Lind, owner of Patriots Landing facility in Washington State will break ground approximately July 2011, 99th Avenue and W. Indian School Road. Patriots Landing is a retirement community, independent living, and memory care facility on a month to month rent basis. The Patriots Landing facility in Washington State has a golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus. Ms. Anderson's email is: loapualani@comcast.net, website: www.PatriotsLanding.com
2. **Wounded Warrior Regiment – MGySgt Steve Soha, USMC**, briefed us about the Marine Corps' Wounded Warrior Regiment, two battalions: East and West, started by CMC General Conway in 2007. There are 30 Marines on the ground who are making contact with disabled (temporary and permanent) Marines and assisting them to get the care they need. MGySgt Soha, who is also with the Phoenix Police Dept, covers AZ, NM, and west Texas, and is helping 70 Marines in AZ. There is an Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund. Contact information: Stephen.soha@usmc.mil, tel. 602.814.4747, Web site: www.WWR.org

ROLL CALL: **Quorum** established for conducting business.

MINUTES of the March 5th meeting. Motion to approve the Minutes by Mel Brody and seconded by Phil Hanson. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT as of March 31, 2011 was presented by Treasurer Jesse Gersten. Motion to approve, subject to audit, was made by Lew Bradley, and seconded by Roland Matteson. Motion carried. The report is on file with the Secretary.

REPORTS:

1. VA Medical Center Phoenix: Karen Sparks, VAMC staff, reported that Gabriel Perez has retired; Dr. James L. Robbins, MD, became Interim Director of the Phoenix VA Health Care System on April 1. The Phoenix VA Health Care System provides primary health care services to more than 80,000 veterans in Maricopa County.

2, National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona – Mel Brody reported that there is a current shortfall of funds needed to support the Memorial Day Ceremony Event. Funds are needed for printing and bottled water expenses. Also needed: 4 benches at a cost of \$1,000 each.

3. Arizona Dept of Veterans' Services - Homer Rodgers, Deputy Director reported that Joey Strickland and Dave Hampton are at an event in Maricopa, AZ. Legislative information: the Budget has been sent to Governor Brewer who has until Thursday to respond. In 2-3 weeks the In-State Tuition bill should pass. Many other bills will not survive. Work continues on planning cemeteries in Sierra Vista, and Camp Navajo, west of Flagstaff. The Tucson Veteran Home is 80% complete. On Monday, October 1st, the first resident will be admitted into the five-building complex with 120 private rooms with full bath. Homer's office telephone: 602.255.3373.

4. UAV Board of Directors – Chairman Delker reminded the members that the Nominations due date is April 30 for the Class of 2011, Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame for service to the community. Nomination form is available at: www.avhof.org. The Class of 2011 Induction Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, October 28 at the El Zaribah Shrine Auditorium, 40th St., Phoenix. Be sure to calendar Friday, February 10, 2012 for the 2012 Copper Sword/Copper Shield Ceremony and Dinner event. The Copper Shield Ceremony hosted by the UAV honors a member of the State Legislator who supports veterans and their families. Location of the Copper Sword/Copper Shield event to be announced. Chairman Delker's intent is to keep the dinner cost at \$35 per person.

Phil Hanson reported that the Arizona History Society Museum in Tempe is available at a 20% discount. Dinner cost will likely be \$45-\$50/person.

5. UAV Legislative Committee – Linda Fulkerson reported there is a bill to rescind the \$2,500 military income deduction (state tax return). David Lucier called everyone's attention to the In-State Tuition bill. Judy Hatch called attention to the Property Tax Reduction for 50% disabled veterans bill. There is also a bill regarding a Women Veterans' license plate.

Everyone is asked to think of a Legislator nominee for the 2012 Copper Shield Award, due date to the UAV Legislative Chair Linda Fulkerson is July 1, 2011.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Request to join the UAV – Chairman Delker reported that the Veterans Chapter, ASU Alumni, wish to join the UAV. Motion made by Phil Hanson, seconded by Bob Madden. Motion carried.

2. Wed., December 7, 2011: UAV will be assisting AZDVS again for this year's 70th Anniversary Commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Committee members so far: Lew Bradley, Judy Hatch, and Terry Araman. See Lew Bradley if you are interested in serving on the Planning Committee.

GOOD OF THE ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Feb 2011 Arizona StandDown: for any who didn't get the word, 1,048 homeless veterans were served. (Art Sloane)

2. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day: Gene Crego reported that Congress designated March 30 as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. Gene brought Agent Orange pamphlets to share.

3. Sat., April 16th: **Work party** (Korean War Vets, Merchant Marines) at Wesley Bolin Plaza. Project Chairman: Terry Araman, Madison Street Vets Association.

4. Sat., April 16th, 11 am to 2 pm, Health screenings, music, and BBQ at the State Veterans Home, West Parking Lot. Sponsor: American Legion

5. Sun., May 1st: Vietnam Remembrance Day at Wesley Bolin Plaza

6. Sat. May 14th, 10 a.m. : **Dedication of Mary Ellen's Place** on Hatcher Road in north Phoenix.

7. School supplies needed for Afghan Children: LCDR Ryan Burke, Navy reservist and Senior Aide to Mayor Gordon of Phoenix, is deployed to Afghanistan and seeking school supplies for Afghan children in his area. See Linda Fulkerson for more information.

8. 50/50 Raffle winner: Lew Bradley, who donated his winnings to the Treasury, total: \$54.00.

CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT

1. Next Meeting: Saturday, May 7th, State Veteran Home, 10 am to Noon.

2. Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.

3. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CAROL CULBERTSON, Secretary, Unified Arizona Veterans

602.943.7834, email addresses: carolculbertson@earthlink.net,
claudhc@yahoo.com