

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

MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 1, 2012 AT  
THE STATE VETERAN HOME, 4141 N. SILVESTRE HERRERA WAY, PHOENIX,  
AZ 85012

1000 Call to Order by Chairman Lew Bradley

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Presentation: VFW speaker, Mr. Hysko briefly explained the difficulty with retention of members of his organization. The VFW needs younger members to take over leadership of the organization. Their goal is to recruit and retain more members. The Foundation for Corporate donations is used to assist the veterans.

Presentation: DAV speaker, Johnny Stewart the State Commander, stated that DAV is the third largest organization in Arizona. Membership is getting older, they need newer, younger members. A bill was signed by Congress to assist vets of Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. The vets need to file and receive benefits through DAV. Thousands of claims are filed every year. Five National Service Officers are needed to serve the veterans. 810 interviews were conducted, 453 new claims, 1,629 vets served to date. One new fully trained officer, one transferred and is in training, bringing the total officers to five to serve the claims.

Problem with property tax in Tucson, one organization has a \$19,000 tax. Maricopa Co has a tax exemption. If the organization contests the Tucson tax, there is concern that the tax may increase for all.

Treasurer Report presented. Report is on file with Bob Madden.

Reports from Congressional Offices:

Congressman Sweigert

District Congresspersons:

1. Ann Kirkpatrick (Dem)
2. Ron Barber (Dem)
3. Raul Grijalva (Dem)
4. Paul Gosar (Rep)
5. Matt Salmon (Rep)
6. David Sweigert (Rep)
7. Ed Pastor (Dem)
8. Trent Franks (Rep)
9. Kyrsten Sinema (Dem)

Senators for Arizona

Jeff Flake (REP)

John McCain (REP)

Subjects for discussion: dock fix, debt limit, budget cuts.

Veterans budget cuts may be \$400 million. The F-35 program could put Luke AFB and Yuma MC base in jeopardy. Call your congressman to support the programs for the military.

Tickets are difficult to get for the Presidential Inauguration. Ask your congressman for tickets to the event.

VA Medical Center: Sarah Nelson

Turquoise Clinic is handling patient advocate issues. Rooms A 1007, 1006, and 1004. Mental Health Award Banquet held last night. Next ones will be May 2013, and December 2013.

Break ground for a new East Valley Center in January.

National Cemetery: Speaker Jerry Rainey

Artificial turf will be installed for the next Memorial Day Ceremony. The Missing in America project will find the remains of deceased military and conduct ceremonies to honor them on 27 February. Twenty-seven veteran cremains have been discovered.

Wreaths Across America is scheduled for December 15.

Dept of Veterans Services- Speaker Mike Klier

Military Family Relief Fund in the last 5 years has assisted with over 1 Million dollars.

Veteran Donation Fund has a December 11 date for cut off for this cycle.

Arizona State Home is doing well.

Tucson Home needs renovation.

Sierra Vista has a ceremony scheduled for March for internment of remains from around the country. Columbarium expansion is scheduled with February completion date.

Veteran's events all over the state were given representation by the Director or representatives.

Camp Navajo Cemetery and Home still in planning.

Last year the postage savings \$14,000.

Homeless Veterans: Plan to put veterans in beds and take them off the streets at night.

Stand Downs are scheduled across the state to benefit the homeless.

Pearl Harbor Memorial: December 7<sup>th</sup> Ceremony at the Capitol.

Grant money is available for Veterans from various organizations. AZ Veterans Donation Fund, list balances for Veterans funds.

UAV Board of Directors: Lew Bradley

Looking for a web master for the organization. There is a shortage of funds from the AVHOF.

Legislative Committee: Lionel Sanchez

Committee meeting at 0900.

Meeting of the committee for the Copper Shield Dinner. The cost of the dinner will be

\$50 for HOF members

\$60 after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

\$ 65 for non-members

The dinner will be at the Tempe Mission Palms.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Pearl Harbor Day Report: Judy Hatch

There will be a B-17 flyover. WWII Memorial flyers available. Presenters should be there at 0800.

Annual Election of Officers:

Chairman: Bob Madden

Vice-Chairman: Terry Araman

Secretary: Carol Culbertson

Treasurer: John Burden

Directors: Gene Crego, Phil Hanson, Reggie Yates

Photos of each inductee to AVHOF are available through Dave Willis, AF Sgts Assoc.

Videos are available for \$5 each.

Stand Down is scheduled for March 13. Red T-shirts are available from Art Sloane.

American Legion Peoria, Gayle Reed announced an Eagle Scout Project- Memorial for Gold Star Mothers and Wives on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Judy Hatch has information on Cancer Society research, they need volunteers.

Terry Araman announced a Job Fair December 13 at the Civic Plaza from 0800-1000.

Twenty employers will be present.

Jerry Weiers is the new Mayor of Glendale.

50/50 winner was Art Sloane.

Dues are due at next meeting in January.

Next meeting: Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013, State Veteran Home, Liberty Hall, 10 am to Noon.

Meeting adjourned at 1140 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol McKnight

Acting Secretary, UAV

December 1, 2012