

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

**MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 4, 2012
AT THE STATE VETERAN HOME, 4141 N. SILVESTRE HERRERA WAY,
PHOENIX, AZ 85012**

CALL TO ORDER: 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Lew Bradley, followed by Invocation by Chaplain Bo Bohach, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION: “American Legion Update” – George Cushing, Dept Commander briefed the Legion’s founding principles, see below. The American Legion was the prime driver for the original GI Bill. Current goals include family-oriented VSOs. Regarding smoking at American Legion posts, Commander Cushing stated that every Post is autonomous and makes its own determination.

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation’s largest veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans.

PRESENTATION: “Organizational Health Initiative/Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society (AVHOFS)” – Rick Romley, Vice President of the AVHOFS briefed that the AVHOFS developed a strategic plan last year and established several committees such as Public Relations, Finance, and Organizational Health. Committee discussion to include feasibility of an organization master calendar and teleconferencing of meetings. Vice President Romley will share results with UAV members at a later time.

Awanda Gaines, American Legion Auxiliary rep, shared that there is a free telephone conference call service: www.freeconference.com/

PRESENTATION: HB2165 VETERAN DEFINITION BILL – Jon Altmann, Secretary-Treasurer, Phoenix Chapter of The Association of US Navy briefed that for 20 years, the Military Coalition of 36 veterans service organizations has attempted to fix the Federal definition of “veteran.” The bill is now at the U.S. Senate. He stated that National Guard and Reservists retire with benefits but do not meet the Federal Govt definition of “veteran” and that the Federal definition of “veteran” needs to be updated. The reason for delay: higher costs to DOD (more veterans eligible for VA care, etc.) . . . The Arizona House Military Affairs Committee has scheduled a hearing on Wednesday, February 8th.

(Update as of 2/24/12: **HB 2165- technical correction; public health-NOW: veterans; employment preference**

Would extend the current 5 point veteran's preference in city/State employment examinations to retired members of the Reserve Forces and Coast Guard.

Primary Sponsor:

Rep. Heather Carter, R-Dist. 7

■ **Major Actions:** 8 Feb 2012-A “Strike Everything” amendment was adopted in House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee by Rep. David Gowan to change this bill into veterans; employment preference. Given a “Do Pass Amended” recommendation 7-0-2 not voting. **23 Feb 2012-Passed in House 54-5.**)

On a different subject, State Senator Driggs will be having a hearing on In-State Tuition on Thursday.

(Update as of 2/24/12: **SB 1405- students; residency; military service**

Would clarify that immediate “in-state” post secondary tuition status for honorably discharged U. S. veterans that was approved last year includes Reserve and National Guard members.

Primary Sponsor:

Sen. Adam Driggs, R-Dist. 11

■ **Major Actions:** 30 Jan 2012- First Read and assigned to the Senate Veterans, Military Affairs and Government Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 7 Feb 2012-Given “Do Pass” recommendation in Senate Veterans, Military Affairs and Government Committee 7-0. 14 Feb 2012-Held in Senate Appropriations Committee. 16 Feb 2012-Withdrawn from Senate Appropriations Committee. **23 Feb 2012-Out of Senate Rules Committee/caucuses and placed on Consent Calendar.**)

ROLL CALL: Quorum established for conducting business.

January 7, 2012 Minutes approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT presented by Treasurer Jesse Gersten. Report is on file with the Secretary.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Frank Bosh, AVHOF Class of 2003, passed on January 22nd in Prescott. Arizona Supreme Court Justice, Ret. Michael D. Ryan, USMC retiree, passed on January 30th.

REPORTS:

1. VA Medical Center – Sarah Nelson, Patient Advocate, reported that Sharon Helman will be reporting aboard VAMC Phoenix on February 27. Rehab construction south of the ACC Bldg will take approximately one year.

The Show Low Clinic has moved to a new location: 5171 Club Lake, Suite C380 (one mile away from its former location), phone number remains 928.532.1069. Sarah thanked everyone for their support of the Arizona StandDown.

Mel Brody inquired about the VAMC parking situation. There is parking at Steele Indian School Park with shuttle service. The VA Chief of Police is serving on the Parking Committee. A parking garage remains in the future.

2. NMCA/National Memorial Cemetery Arizona: In Wayne Ellis' absence, Mel Brody reported that the budget for Memorial Day Commemoration Services is \$4,000 with \$2,200 received so far. Checks are most welcome; payable to: "NMC Committee," please coordinate donation checks with Mel Brody, tel. 480.473.9076.

3. Arizona Dept of Veterans' Services – Homer Rodgers, Assistant Deputy Director brought greetings from Director Strickland away at the Arizona StandDown. The Phoenix Veteran Home with 200-resident capacity currently has 170 residents. The Tucson Veteran Home has 21 residents and just received its Fed State Certificate. The land survey was completed at Camp Navajo, northern Arizona. A land transfer is pending with the Army Corps of Engineers. The Camp Navajo cemetery groundbreaking is scheduled for 2013.

4. UAV Board of Directors: Chairman Bradley reported that 251 guests have registered for the February 9th Copper Sword Copper Shield event.

Event details: Registration ended as of January 31st. Fiesta Resort Conference Center, 2100 S. Priest Drive, Tempe. Barbara Hatch, history teacher at Cactus Shadows High School and advisor to the students' Arizona Heritage Project, will be the recipient of the Copper Sword Award. Jerry Weiers, legislator, will be the recipient of the Copper Shield Award. Entrée choices are Beef, Chicken Marsala, and Vegetarian, \$49/person. A scholarship will also be awarded to a student.

5. UAV Legislative Committee: David Lucier, UAV Legislative Chair, reported that State legislators are being asked to sign the Arizona Patriot's Pledge. UAV is now on Facebook. It was briefly discussed that legislation is needed to gather veterans information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Reminder: UAV dues are due for the 2012 year. Dues renewal forms are available from Treasurer Gersten or Secretary Culbertson. Please turn in your Renewal Form and \$25 to Treasurer Gersten, or mail both to: Treasurer, UAV, P.O. Box 34338, Phoenix 85067. .

4. Reminder: Nominations for the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2012, are due on April 30, 2012 (postmark due date). Mail to: Unified AZ Veterans, P.O. Box 34338, Phoenix 85067.

NEW BUSINESS/OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Phil Hanson was installed as a UAV Director by Chairman Bradley.

2. Bob Delker, Immediate Past UAV Chair, was presented a Service to UAV plaque by Chairman Bradley with high applause.

3. Social Media Committee: Chairman Bradley announced that he has appointed a new Social Media Committee (David Lucier, Bob Madden, and Reggie Yates) to facilitate UAV becoming more knowledgeable about the role of social media and what would be good for UAV to consider implementing.

4. Veterans Claims and the VA: Mel Brody brought up the high number of complaints from veterans who have been waiting for months and years regarding their VA claims. It is reported that there are 1.6 million claims pending at the VA.

GOOD OF THE ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. MOPH News: Ron Capek, MOPH, reported that a 1957 Chevy convertible was donated to the MOPH Foundation; \$50,000 was received by MOPH.

2. December 7, 2011 Pearl Harbor Commemorative Ceremony CD/DVD sets are available for \$5 a set – see Dave Willis, Air Force Sergeants Assn rep.

3. Free Sea Services history program on Tues, February 28th: “Submarine Tales You Haven’t Heard About,” Macayo’s Restaurant, 11:30 a.m., lunch is optional. Point of contact: Carol Culbertson at: claudehc@yahoo.com

4. 50/50 Raffle winner: Webb Ellis donated his winnings (\$29) to the Arizona StandDown, and \$29 to the UAV Treasury.

Next Meeting: March 3, 2012, State Veteran Home, Liberty Hall, 2nd Floor, 10 am to Noon.

Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

CAROL CULBERTSON
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