

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

**MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 5, 2013,
AT THE STATE VETERAN HOME, 4141 N. SILVESTRE HERRERA WAY,
PHOENIX, AZ 85012**

CALL TO ORDER: 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Bob Madden, followed by Invocation by Chaplain Bo Bohach, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION: “American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy, a Partnership between the American Legion and the DPS/Dept of Public Safety,” -- Sgt Dan Palmer, Director of the American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy

Sgt Palmer presented information about a nonprofit Youth program for boys and girls which involves citizenship and physical fitness at the St Joseph Youth Camp in the Mormon Lake area just outside of Flagstaff. The Youth program works with the Juvenile Court system and has been operating for 31 years; 1,500 youth have participated so far. 98 youth participated in 2 classes in 2012. The camp cost is \$250 per cadet; the support of veterans organizations is welcome and invited. Donations can be sent to: DPS, P.O. Box 6638, MAILDROP 3900, Phoenix 85005. (Point of contact: Sgt Palmer at email addresses: dpalmer@azdps.gov, allecadirector@hotmail.com)

PRESENTATION: “StandDown – March 8-10, 2013” – Art Sloane, StandDown

Art Sloane reported that 1,500 homeless veterans are expected this year at StandDown Phoenix (2012: 1,293 homeless veterans were helped; 2011: 1,048 homeless veterans; 2008: 502 homeless veterans, so the numbers are increasing). 1,200 volunteers are needed for Project Connect which pairs up a volunteer adult to escort a homeless veteran through all the services provided at StandDown. All volunteers must register on the web site: www.arizonastanddown.org/volunteer (StandDown Point of contact: Art Sloane, email: artgbeard@aol.com, telephone 480.802.6810)

PRESENTATION: “Copper Sword/Copper Shield Gala Event, Wednesday, February 13th, 5:30 pm, Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, 60 E. 5th St, Tempe – Rick Romley, President, Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society (AVHOFS)

Dr. Michael M. Crow, President of ASU; and Representative Dr. Heather Carter, Legislative District 15 (north Phoenix); respectively, will be honored as the 2013 Copper Sword Recipient and the 2013 Copper Shield Recipient (Legislator of the Year). Invited Master of Ceremonies: COL Martha McSally, USAF, Retired. To register for the event, go to: www.avhof.org

The AVHOF Society has a Scholarship Program in partnership with the Veterans Heritage Project – 13 schools guided by high school teacher Barbara Hatch, Cactus Shadows High School, Cave Creek, AZ. (AVHOFS Point of contact: Rick Romley at: romley@cox.net, telephone 480.773.3419.

Introduction of Karl Smith, UAV Webmaster – Chair Madden

Welcome, Karl Smith!

Presentation of Thank You Plaques – Chairman Madden

On behalf of the UAV Members, three Past UAV Officers were honored with thank you plaques: Mel Brody, Past UAV Chair, 2008 – 2010; Jesse Gersten, UAV Treasurer, 2008 – 2012; and Lew Bradley, UAV Chair, 2012 – Chair Madden

A sincere “Thank You” to Mel Brody, Jesse Gersten, and Lew Bradley for their leadership, hard work, commitment, and dedication!

DECEMBER 1, 2012 MINUTES: With thanks to Carol McKnight who recorded the Minutes on December 1st. Motion to approve by Secretary Carol Culbertson, seconded by Sharon Woods. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT presented by Treasurer John Burden. Motion to accept Treasurer’s Report subject to audit, by Lew Bradley, and seconded by Jerry Sands. Motion carried. The Report is on file with Secretary Culbertson.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Chaplain Bo Bohach reported the passing of Ray Mills, AVHOF Class of 2007.

REPORTS:

1. VA Medical Center Phoenix – Michelle Bagford, Chief of Quality, Safety, and Improvement, reported a new Patient Advocate will be on board on January 14th. On February 1st, the Southeast Clinic at Market Street and Val Vista will open. A Rehab bldg is being built to open hopefully in May. A Dental bldg is being designed. The Emergency Room is being expanded. The Parking Garage Plan is in place.

One representative to UAV expressed a concern: the difficulty in cancelling an appointment. Ms. Bagford recommended contacting 602.277.5551 x6550.

2. National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona (NMCA) - Jerry Rainey, Director, NMCA, reported a Raise and Realignment project is pending, also a columbarium wall is being expanded on the south side of the Cemetery.

3. Arizona Dept of Veterans’ Services: Homer Rodgers representing Director Strickland

Mr. Rodgers reported that the Military Family Relief Fund assisted a number of soldiers and their families in 2012 in the amount of \$530,000. Tucson Fiduciary Office is now

located at the Tucson Veteran Home. A security fence at the Tucson Veteran Home has been installed. The Sierra Vista Cemetery is 55% - 60% complete with 4 walls of 2,600 niches, completion perhaps on March 1st. A chapel project financed by private donations of \$300,000 is pending. A Camp Navajo project was signed on January 2, it will be an 18 month project with a 7 and ½ million dollar budget. Marana will have a 38-acre cemetery. A State Veteran Home in Chinle is being planned.

MIAP/Missing in America Project Arizona has scheduled a Veteran Inurnment Service for 27 unclaimed veterans cremains on Wednesday, February 27th, at 1200 hours at the NMCA. All veterans groups and interested individuals are invited to be part of the Inurnment Service. Mission Coordinator is Kathy Laurier, Navy veteran, 602.909.2121, email: Kathleen@miaparizona.org

Another Inurnment Service for 12 veterans cremains is scheduled for March 21st.

4. UAV Board of Directors - Chairman Madden

Chairman Madden reaffirmed that UAV has a non-discrimination policy. He announced that he is appointing/has appointed 4 committees:

UAV Communications Committee – Gene Crego, Chair

UAV Arizona Veterans Award Committee - Gregg Maxon, Chair

UAV HOF Selection Process Committee – Reggie Yates, Chair

UAV Induction Ceremony Committee – Bob Madden, Chair

5. UAV Legislative Committee – Chairman Lionel Sanchez

Legislative Committee Chair Sanchez reported that the UAV Legislative Committee's Co-Chair is Corey Harris. He also distributed copies of Representative Dr. Heather Carter's biography.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. December 7, 2012 Remember Pearl Harbor Ceremony – Judy Hatch, Event Co-Chair

Judy reported a very successful event. A sincere “Thank You” to Judy, and Lew Bradley, Co-Chairs who represent UAV on the Pearl Harbor Ceremony Planning Committee.

NEW BUSINESS/OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Requests to Join the UAV - Chairman Madden

Requests to join the UAV have been received from 3 organizations: John C. Butler Arizona Chapter Destroyer Escort Sailors Association, Arizona StandDown, and the Joe Foss Institute.

The UAV Board of Directors recommends to the membership that all 3 organizations be approved by the membership. Motion made by Mel Brody and seconded by Lew Bradley. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. American Indian Veteran's National Memorial at the Heard Museum – Chaplain Bohach encouraged the members to visit the American Indian Veteran's National Memorial at the Heard Museum.

2. WACVA's Adopt-a-Family Project – Gabe Forsberg reported a successful project which included a \$2,000 grant which helped 103 children.

50/50 Raffle Winner: Rob Madden - \$47, UAV Treasury \$47. Rob donated his winnings back to the UAV Treasury.

Next Meeting: Saturday, February 2nd, State Veteran Home, Liberty Hall, 10 am to Noon.

Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.

Meeting adjourned at 12 Noon.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/CAROL CULBERTSON
Secretary, Unified Arizona Veterans
Email: claudehc@yahoo.com
Office/fax: 602.943.7834