

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

**MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MARCH 2, 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 by Sgt-at-Arms Bob Hysko.

Greetings - Veterans Caucus, Arizona State Legislature – A Veterans Caucus has recently been organized at the State Legislature to advocate and monitor veterans' legislative issues. Ruben Gallego, LD-27, Assistant Minority Leader & USMC veteran, started off by stating that he was welcomed back from deployment in Iraq, but actually the services he needed weren't there. He needed a job and other services, but found he was really on his own. Mark Cardenas, LD-19, Co-Chair, Veterans Caucus is an Army veteran, formerly 101st Airborne. Jonathan Larkin, LD-30, USMC veteran, served two tours in Iraq, stated we need to change the culture, we'll be welcoming veterans back from deployment for the next 5 years.

HB 2484, which involves a tax credit to businesses which hire veterans, was discussed. On Thursday, March 14th, 11:45 am, all are invited to Senate Hearing Room 2.

Presentation: Saluting Service Event, Saturday, June 1st, 3 pm at the SPOFIT/Virginia G. Piper Sports & Fitness Center – Sarah Olson, representing Amber Blanchard from SpoFit invited veterans organizations to participate in a service/job fair and free booths on Saturday, June 1st. Point of contact: Amber Blanchard, email: amberb@abil.org, telephone 602.386.4283.

Presentation: Arizona Veterans Magazine – Mark Field, Editor, & Navy veteran, informed the membership that the Arizona Veterans Magazine will initially reach 137,000 veterans and families. The nonprofit subscription rate will be \$450 per year. Point of contact: Mark Field, phone 602.434.3454, web site: www.AZVetMag.com.

Presentation: Loyal Brother Program – James “Mick” Tucker, Korean War Veterans; & Wayne Krula, Navy veteran; Director, Arizona Korean War Veterans Association; and Commissioner, Arizona Veterans Services Advisory Commission, informed the membership of a KWV project, which links old veterans with new veterans. The project has helped a few veterans already, providing a mentor or buddy to work with a veteran one on one for 6 months to a year. Point of contact: Wayne Krula, email: way57@wbhsi.net, phone 480.802.7354, web site: www.kwvacc.org

FEBRUARY 2, 2013 MINUTES: Motion to approve by Secretary Carol Culbertson, seconded by Art Sloane. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT presented by Treasurer John Burden. Motion to accept Treasurer’s Report subject to audit, by Reggie Yates, and seconded by Al Kerstetter. Motion carried. The Report is on file with Secretary Culbertson.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Chaplain Bo Bohach reported he just learned of the passing of Louis Pellon of Tucson, AVHOF Class of 2003, on February 10, 2012.

REPORTS:

1. Congressman Schweikert’s Office – Deputy Chief of Staff Dan Caldwell reported the Congressman’s new assignments to the House Science & Technology Committee and the House Small Business Committee. The VHA and the VBA are exempt from sequestration (Federal budget cuts), however, General Shinseki’s VA office is affected by a 10-12 percent cut. There is a continuing resolution to fund tax bills originating in the House.

2. Arizona Dept of Veterans’ Services: Dave Hampton, representing Director Joey Strickland, reported that a VA survey of the State Veteran Home Phoenix, February 12 - 14, resulted in a report of No Clinical Deficiencies and recognition of the Home Housekeeping Dept with an A rating. Work is progressing with the Camp Navajo Project (Northern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Sept 1st) and the San Carlos Apache Cemetery. Governor Brewer is the recipient of the Veteran’s Advocate of the Year award from the National Association of State Veterans Affairs Officers.

3. UAV Board of Directors - Chairman Madden

Chairman Madden introduced Carol McKnight from the Blue Ribbon Arizona Veterans Award Committee. Carol reported that the Committee considered the following Arizonans as the namesake for the new UAV Arizona Veterans Award: Carl Hayden, Barry Goldwater, Frank Luke, and Joe Foss, and selected William “Bucky” O’Neill, former mayor of Prescott, AZ, who fought with Teddy Roosevelt at San Juan Hill, near Santiago, Cuba, Spanish-American War. Bucky O’Neill lost his life in the Spanish-American War. There is a statue commemorating Bucky O’Neill at the Prescott, AZ Courthouse.

Chairman Madden introduced Director Gene Crego, Chair of the Blue Ribbon UAV Communications Committee. Gene reported two productive Communications Committee meetings so far.

Chairman Madden introduced Director Reggie Yates, Chair of the Blue Ribbon UAV AVHOF Selection Process Committee, who reported that the Committee has had several meetings and has a Final Draft Update of the Selection Committee Operating Instructions to be presented soon to the UAV Board of Directors.

4. UAV Legislative Committee – Acting Legislative Committee Chairman Corey Harris representing Legislative Chair Lionel Sanchez reported upcoming Days of Action, Monday through Thursday, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm at the Arizona Legislature. Corey briefly discussed the following pending bills:

SB 1378-professional licensure; reciprocity; military spouses

Would require that a military spouse married to and accompanying an active duty military member assigned to a military post in Arizona shall be issued a professional license or certificate within 72 hours of application if a criminal check is not required and within 120 hours if a criminal background is required

HB 2484-veterans; hiring preference; tax credit

Would establish a tax credit up to four thousand dollars for taxpayers who hire an honorably discharged unemployed veteran. Amendments adopted to specify that tax credit is made for hiring unemployed veterans who are not family members.

An amendment adopted in House PSMRA would additionally require the Arizona Department of Administration to establish a goal of awarding 1.5% of state contracts to veteran-owned businesses increasing 3% or more for each year after the first year and require the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services to establish a registry of veteran-owned businesses and verify the veteran status and eligibility of businesses seeking to be considered for the registry.

SB 1286-nursing facility provider assessments Would exempt the Arizona State Veteran Homes from a nursing facility "assessment" that was passed last year. Basically, other states with such assessments have exempted their veteran homes to prevent them from paying a costly assessment to the State. This assessment would cost the Arizona State Veteran Home-Phoenix nearly \$500,000 per year. Emergency Clause.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Request to Join UAV - Veterans for Veterans. Chairman Madden announced that the UAV Board of Directors recommends Veterans for Veterans for UAV membership. Welcome, Veterans for Veterans & Ken Barner, Chairman and his Board of Directors!

2. Arizona StandDown, March 8 – 10, 2013 – 1, 510 veterans were served, including 132 women veterans. Point of contact: Art Sloane, email: artgbeard@aol.com

2. NEW BUSINESS/OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. Nominations to the AVHOF – The postmark deadline for the AVHOF Class of 2013 is Tuesday, April 30th.

GOOD OF THE ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Monday, March 11, 11 am – Grand Opening, Women Veterans Center, a transitional living center for homeless women veterans at MANA House. Pre-ceremony tours at 10 a.m at 755 E. Willetta St. in Phoenix. This is a growing segment of

the military who need our support. The number of homeless women is rising and in Arizona there are more than 58,000 women veterans, many needing help. Information: Rebecca Villalpando, email: rvillalpando@msva-az.org or 623-204-0003.

2. Friday, March 15: Rear Admiral Scott Sanders, USN, will speak at the Arizona Capitol Museum, 3rd Floor, 9:45 am to 10:45 am. Point of contact: Robert Flores at: raflores@azlibrary.gov

3. April 5-7, Base Camp. Message from Joe Abodeely: “For you “hard core”, you know the drill. For “newbies”, if you want to take a drive about 45 minutes south of Phoenix and visit veterans and friends in the beautiful blooming desert, you are welcome to Base Camp. Dress casual—something military preferably—but not necessary. People start camping out on Thursday and stay until Sunday morning. Saturday morning we’ll raise the US and Vietnamese flags at 1000. For those who didn’t bring their own chow, we’ll have some for you at noon. You can test fire your guns on the shooting range, and there will be great entertainment on the stage in the evening. No flyover this year. If 50 of you show or 150 show, we’ll have fun. We Vietnam veterans are getting a little longer of tooth.” Point of contact: Joe Abodeely, email: joeabo@qwestoffice.net. The Base Camp flyer was disseminated several days ago. Email Secretary Culbertson at: claudhc@yahoo.com to have the Flyer emailed to you.

4. Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2013: Funds are needed and welcome. Point of contact: Mel Brody, Treasurer, Memorial Day Committee, 8989 N. Gainey Center Drive, #146, Scottsdale 85258. Make checks payable to: “Memorial Day Committee of Arizona.”

5. 50/50 Raffle Winner: Gayle Reed, \$38; UAV Treasury \$38.

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 6th, State Veteran Home, Liberty Hall on the Second Floor, 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: claudhc@yahoo.com
Office/fax: 602.943.7834

