

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

**MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MAY 4, 2013, AT  
THE STATE VETERAN HOME, 4141 N. SILVESTRE HERRERA WAY,  
PHOENIX, AZ 85012**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 10:00 a.m. by UAV Chairman Bob Madden, followed by Invocation by Chaplain Bo Bohach, and the Pledge of Allegiance by Sgt-at-Arms Bob Hysko.

**Presentation: “Veteran Court Mentor Program” – MAJ Scott Hadley, M.A., M.B.A., Extern for the US District Court**

The U.S. District Court, District of Arizona has developed a veteran-focused reentry court. Select veterans who meet predetermined criteria may volunteer to participate in this effort officially designated as the Arizona Veteran Program. This program will ensure individual diagnosis and treatment plans, enrollment for state and federal veteran benefits, more successful assimilation back into society and, perhaps most importantly, lacking or non-existent recidivism rates for those who participate. There are many court and practitioner volunteers already on board to deliver said services. However, there is still a great need for a robust corps of volunteer veteran mentors to assist outside of regularly scheduled hearings. Anyone interested in volunteering in this capacity should contact Major Scott Hadley at (602) 322-7525 or [sahadleyaz@gmail.com](mailto:sahadleyaz@gmail.com)

**Panel on the Military Family Relief Fund – Randy Meyer, MFRF Committee Chair; Travis Schulte, AZDVS Staff; Carol Culbertson, MFRF Committee Member**

Chairman Meyer summarized the history of the Arizona Military Family Relief Fund: the Fund created by the Arizona State Legislature in 2007 to assist the families of service members and Post 9/11 veterans who are experiencing a financial hardship as a result of their service in a combat zone. Mission: to assist the families of Arizona service members who encounter an unforeseen hardship while their service member is deployed and to assist those families whose service member becomes injured or killed while fighting the Global War on Terrorism. The source of the Fund is donations from Arizona residents, \$200 per year per taxpayer, couples limited to \$400. These amounts are tax credits on the State tax return, and a tax deduction on the Federal tax return. The Fund is capped at \$1 million dollars per year. Once donations reach the \$1 million mark, taxpayers are notified by letter what their options are: tax credit is no longer available, the check is returned to the taxpayer, etc. Two years ago the law was amended by the Legislature to authorize up to \$20,000 per soldier’s family. In 2012 the Arizona Legislature extended the Fund to 2018; many eligible Arizona soldier returnees are expected in the near future. The MFRF Committee meets monthly to review and approve requests for financial assistance. To address emergency situations, a sub-Committee is authorized to grant up to \$3000 for such requests as travel for a family member to a military hospital where the injured soldier is being cared for. Last year \$560,000 was granted to soldiers’ families. From its establishment to the present time, \$1.37 million has been granted; 3.78 million is in the Fund. Question from the audience: can the funds

be used for other veterans? Reply: right now, No; would require a change in the law by the Legislature. MFRF Point of Contact: Travis Schulte at: [tschulte@azdvs.gov](mailto:tschulte@azdvs.gov)

Discussion of an adhoc committee to study this concern. Motion made by Jon Altmann and seconded by Carol Culbertson to form an adhoc committee. Motion carried. Volunteers for the Committee include Jon Altmann, Corey Harris, Terry Araman, and 1-2 MFRF Committee members invited to participate.

**ROLL CALL:** Roll call taken, quorum certified.

**APRIL 6, 2013 MINUTES:** Motion to approve by Secretary Carol Culbertson, seconded by John Burden. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT presented by Treasurer John Burden.** Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report subject to audit, made by Al Kerstetter and seconded by Phil Hanson.

**SICKNESS AND DISTRESS - Chaplain Bohach** appreciates receiving notifications of sickness and distress situations which come to the attention of our UAV representatives. His contact information: 623.846.2212, email: [rbohachbo@cox.net](mailto:rbohachbo@cox.net)

## **REPORTS:**

- 1. Congressman Franks' Office – Justin Henry** introduced himself and brought greetings from Congressman Franks.
- 2. VA Medical Center – Scott McRoberts, Acting Public Affairs Officer (External)** reported that the VA Medical Center's goal for veterans making appointments is: same day access by July 4<sup>th</sup>. To contact Scott McRoberts: [scottmcroberts@va.gov](mailto:scottmcroberts@va.gov), 602.277.5551 x 2658 or 480.433.6358.
- 3. National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona – Mel Brody** reminded everyone, Memorial Day Ceremonies, Monday, May 27, 8 am, at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, north Cave Creek Road, north Phoenix. Donations to defray expenses invited and welcome, please mail donations to: Memorial Day Committee, c/o Mel Brody, 8989 N. Gainey Center Drive, Unit 146, Scottsdale, AZ 85258.
- 4. Arizona Dept of Veterans' Services: Homer Rodgers, Assistant Deputy Director, AZDVS,** updated us that Bldg 4 at the Tucson Veteran Home will open in 4-6 weeks. The Sierra Vista Cemetery received an Excellence Award from the VA. The San Carlos Tribal Cemetery Plan has been filed. Regarding a future State Veteran Cemetery in Marana, a family has donated 40 acres.
- 5. UAV Board of Directors – Chairman Madden** announced that UAV membership dues will be raised for the year beginning 2014.

**6. UAV Legislative Committee - Acting Legislative Chair Corey Harris** discussed the following bills:

**(Federal) H.R.1729 - VA Claims, Operations, and Records Efficiency Act 113th Congress (2013-2014)** Introduced in House (04/25/2013)

VA Claims, Operations, and Records Efficiency Act - Directs the Secretary of Defense (DOD) to make the service treatment records, personal records, unit records, and medical records (service records) of each member of the Armed Forces available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) in an electronic format. Provides post-discharge or release timelines for such availability. Requires each service record provided to include a DOD certification of the record's completeness. Deems such service record release a permitted disclosure under requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

**(State) HB 2484** Arizona House Bill

Veterans; hiring preference; tax credit  
is stuck in the Senate Rules Committee

**(State) HB 2076** Arizona House Bill

Separating service members; licensure

**Jon Altmann** discussed that 13,000 Arizona veterans will benefit from Gov Brewer's support of Medicaid (AHCCCS) expansion. An additional 62,000 spouses and persons with PTSD will also benefit.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.**

**NEW BUSINESS/OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**1. Request to Join UAV – Chairman Madden** reported that the UAV Board of Directors has received a request to join UAV from the United for Change organization. The Board recommends the request be approved. Motion made by Art Sloane and seconded by Judy Hatch. Motion carried.

**2. Request for UAV Donation to the Memorial Day Committee – Judy Hatch** requested \$250.00. After discussion, motion to approve \$100 was made by Judy Hatch and seconded by Mel Brody. Motion carried.

**3. Nominations to the AVHOF Copper Shield Award (Legislator of the Year Award) - The postmark deadline is Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.** Criteria, Guidelines, and where to mail the Nomination is described on the Nomination Form.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 1. April 17<sup>th</sup> Capitol Hill, DC Visit – Gene Crego** reported visiting our two Arizona Senators and 9 House members on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- 2. May 17<sup>th</sup> StandDown in Flagstaff – Art Sloane.**
- 3. Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Observance in Surprise, AZ – Larry Brown** is the point of contact, email: [LarryAZ1@aol.com](mailto:LarryAZ1@aol.com)
- 4. October 18<sup>th</sup> – December 19<sup>th</sup>, War on Truth, A Vietnam Saga exhibit at the Arizona Military Museum, located on the National Guard Base, 5636 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix – Jim Covarrubias, Vietnam veteran, artist, and CEO, Ariztlan, Inc., 441 W. Madison St, Phoenix 85003, 602.579.6308, email: [jl.covarrubias01@gmail.com](mailto:jl.covarrubias01@gmail.com), web site: [www.AriztlanStudios.com](http://www.AriztlanStudios.com)** This exhibit to honor our veterans. Co-sponsor is the Arizona Art Alliance. Donations to support the Exhibit are tax-deductible, please contact Jim Covarrubias via phone or email.
- 5. December 7, 2013 Pearl Harbor Commemoration Ceremony - Judy Hatch**, be sure to calendar Saturday, December 7, the annual Commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day when we remember all those lost and injured in the attack on Pearl Harbor, Oahu.
- 6. 50/50 Raffle Winner: Al Kerstetter, \$36; UAV Treasury \$36.**

**Next Meeting: Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, State Veteran Home, Training Center on the ground floor, 10 am to Noon.**

Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/CAROL CULBERTSON

Secretary, Unified Arizona Veterans

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## **ACTION LOG**

Ad hoc committee approved by the body to review, research, and report on the subject of the Military Family Relief Fund. Volunteering to serve: Jon Altmann, Corey Harris, and Terry Araman, and 1-2 MFRF Committee members invited to participate.



