

Utah Veterans Advisory Council
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
November 16th, 2016

Place: Multipurpose Room at the SLC Veterans Nursing Home

Members Present: Nancy Espinosa, Wendy Griffin, Frank Maughan, Loren Miller, Mike Mower (by phone), Chuck Stephenson, Shella Stovall

Excused: Brian Garrett, Gary Harter, Bob Pagnani

Secretary: Alan Ferner

Guests: Gerald Bartholomew, Ian Campbell, Dennis McFall, Cory Pearson, Catherine Ressler, Paula Stephenson, Kraig Thorne, Erin Wynn

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM by Frank Maughan. Frank introduced and welcomed those in attendance. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The minutes of our 19 October meeting were reviewed and approved by the members of the Council.
3. VA Regional Office: Loren Miller reported that this year has been the best year ever for claims processing. He also advised that congress may soon act to change the appellate process.
4. VA Medical Center: Shella Stovall updated us on recent personnel changes: Steve Young has been selected to the position of Deputy Undersecretary for Health and Operations Management. Warren Miller will be acting Director in Wyoming for 120 days. Shella Stovall is acting Director for the SLC VA Medical Center
5. Utah Dept. Veterans & Military Affairs: Dennis McFall briefed the Council on operations at the Utah Veterans Nursing Homes and the Veterans Cemetery. Cory Pearson Reported on the "Hiring Our Heroes" Job Fair. Cory then outlined the procedure for the license plate decal program. Cory summarized a planned expansion of the "Utah Patriot Partners" program which will go beyond Military/Veteran friendly businesses, to include qualifying academic institutions and possibly communities. The logo is being redesigned. Cory also briefed us on an initiative called "Landing Zone Utah."
6. We continued last month's discussion on planning Town Hall Meetings. Nancy Espinosa advised of an agreement with Price and Carbon County. Vernal and Moab were also suggested as potential locations. Frank Maughan asked that we continue this discussion next month, with the purpose of selecting a location and sponsors for a Town Meeting in the 10-20 May 2017 time frame.

7. Kraig Thorne briefed the Council on a proposed Cold War Victory Medal. Chuck Stephenson made a motion that the Council provide a letter supporting this proposal to the Veteran and Military Affairs Commission Chairs. Nancy Espinosa seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
8. Gerald Bartholomew and Catherine Ressler spoke of a problem with certain groups of Veterans not receiving timely information. Loren Miller offered to arrange a meeting so that this disconnect can be resolved.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 PM by Frank Maughan. Our next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday, December 21st, at 4:00 PM, in the Multipurpose Room at the SLC Veterans Nursing Home.

The December meeting will be followed by our annual holiday social hour with refreshments.