MAC Meeting Notes May 12, 2023

Wells Fargo Bank: Absent

**Volunteers of America:** Introducing Antonio Serna he is the new Intake and Outreach Coordinator SSVF Program. Contact information, 719-960-1624 and email aserna@voacolorado.org.

**Visiting Angels:** Rick Barnett who was previously at Sangre De Cristo Community Care. They offer a lot of veteran services the government pays for through Visiting Angels. A lot of home help and services to those currently in facilities like nursing centers. Services also help those individuals’ recovery from surgery with daily chores.

**VFW Pueblo Chapter**: Still have pantry every Monday from 10A-12P and 4P-6P. May 20,2023 coffee and donuts for veterans from 10A-12P.

**Veteran Upward Bound:** Jesus Rios graduated from CSU P in his master’s in social work. Veteran Upward Bound classes start on June 5th at PCC. Going to be having math bootcamp at PCC and CSUP. Will have having workshops this summer helping veterans in going back to school. Encourage veterans to go back to school. Bike Run June 10, 2023, starting at PCC will be their kickoff. Cost $15 per rider, $20 per couple and $5 for add on rider. Bring vehicles, classic cars, not only bikes. Stops one in Boone, Chucks in Avondale, Thunder zone and ending at CSUP. Will be at the stage on the west side of campus, entertainment, and food trucks. Anyone who would like to have a table is welcome to set up. Just contact Jacobo to set it up. Money is being raised for scholarships for veterans at PCC and CSUP. **Veterans Treatment Court:** Behavioral court in town intended to focus on treatment rather than on punishment. These are veterans who have gotten in trouble typically misdemeanor. Jesus, Jacobo and Chris bolt help out these veterans by taking them out. They go out for coffee, hiking, pizza, bike rides, movies, fishing. They have a BBQ coming up as well and will be attending the movies as well. Had one participant graduate last week. In need of volunteers if you are interested let Jacobo know.

**Veterans Overcoming Obstacles:** Sunday May 14, 2023, will mark 9 years and 2 months sober for Chris. Memorial Annual Butch Chavez Memorial Day Run, Walk, Ruck Challenge. Celebrate Medal of Honor recipient and Civil War Veteran Warren C. Dockum. Monday May 29, 2023. 7AM registration/8AM Walk/Run/Ruck Begins. 10A Bishop’s Memorial Mass. Cost is $22 per participant. All proceeds are going to help PTSD, Substance Abuse, and Suicide Prevention through Health and Fitness. Pre-registration and more information at [www.roselawnpueblo.org](http://www.roselawnpueblo.org) This event will happen every year honoring different veterans. Any veteran can sponsor the event for free. Chris has a career change coming up. He must do 2000 supervised hours. He will be taking a job that will do the supervision free. His schedule will be changing if Chris cannot be in attendance for meetings Tommy from Clasp for life with represent him.

**US Dept. of Veterans Affairs:** Community Employment Coordinator at the Dunn clinic. Any veteran in this area or anywhere south looking for employment have them give him a call. Veterans who need assistance with the department of VA with benefits or to enroll have them go to the Dunn clinic to meet with Cory.

**USAFA Peterson:** Retiree appreciation day September 19, 2023. They have about 200 people to respond. Brought booklets that list many agencies to help seniors. They were left on the first floor at the Chamber.

**TREA Chapter #20** Busy with ROTC and the four high schools here in Pueblo. Participated in the blossom parade in Canon City. This coming week they went to Pueblo West and Canon City High School. They also have flags in the graves coming up. Noticed a decline in military support in the ROTC programs. This ROTC is the foundation for these youths stepping out to adulthood.

**Suicide Prevention:** seek out people to join their work group with suicide coalition. The veteran work group working on developing a REP (could not hear if she really said REP) card to get out to providers. It the ask the question campaign. Dominque is in that veteran group and working on developing the card. In future will have a QR Code on it.

**Sangre De Cristo Community Care:** Christine will now be replacing Rick and representing Sangre De Cristo. Always looking for volunteers. Sent in an application to reach top tier level of the we are veterans’ program. They are already on the 4th tier of we are veterans’ program.

**Roselawn Cemetery:** Absent

Pueblo Wireless Doc:

**Pueblo Voter Registration Project:** Absent

**Pueblo Veteran Ritual:** Absent

**Pueblo Vet Center:** Absent

**Pueblo Veteran Transportation**: Absent

**Pueblo Plex:** Reached a milestone last week-re-negotiated a deal with the army for the surplus property and the Pueblo Chemical Depot. They will be closing the deal about Thanksgiving. 16k acres they are closing the deal on. They will be negotiating another deal with PCAPP on an additional 6-7k acres.

**Pueblo Historical Aircraft Society:** the car show was very successful. About 155 cars and about 1100 people. Mentioned Santa Eddie for the wonderful flags he put out for the event. Friday May 19, 2023 @ 2PM ribbon cutting on their restoration hanger 1.7-million-dollar building. They received a gift from a gentleman’s will and were able to use the funds to pay for this building. The building will be presented to the city of Pueblo as it is airport property. Was promised they would let them use it even though it is the city’s building. The open house is free and will be allowed to go through the museum as well. The curator is working on the medal of honor display. Thanks to TREA they have a nice display about Warren Dockum and have portraits of the other Pueblo medal of honor recipients with their bio on each.

**Pueblo Community College:** Graduation for PCC and Freemont Campus on May 11 over 600 people graduating. May 30 is when summer classes start.

**Pueblo Chemical APP:** End of destruction approaching quickly with a date of August 30, 2023, at the Pueblo Convention Center at 2PM. More about PCAPP was discussed at the end of the meeting, which I was not in attendance for.

**Pikes Peak National Cemetery:** Nothing to add.

**New Century Hospice:** Absent

**Native Thundering Voices/Friendly Harbor:** Absent

**NAMI:** Mental Wellness block party May 13, 2023. June 9 at Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center conference room she will be doing veteran group class. Supportive education program for veterans who have mental health issues. (Flyer was distributed with information on dates and times).

**Mt. Carmel Veteran Service:** Last week attended the small business small business development cooperation fair. Positive turnout from the community. May 1, 2023, Mt. Carmel became the Veterans Business Operations Center (VBOC) for the entire state of Colorado. More information to follow at the next meeting. Month of April we had 286 non duplicated clients that walked into our office for acupuncture, food pantry, behavioral health, etc. Pars for Patriots we still have 10 more golfers to sign up. Proceeds stay in Pueblo. Last Monday May 8 we had 9 veterans take advantage of our new acupuncture. On the first Wednesday of each month, we be holding our Helping Hands Pueblo Community Coalition. Members received free food, Rawlings Library, Grand Ave Dental, and other partners. The food we have is grown in Pueblo. Next month cooperative care is returning so we hope this event will continue to grow. Next Chapter employee coming in July.

**Medicare Mentors:** Kelly has been out ill but is still operating twice a week out of Mt. Carmel.

**Marine Corps:** handed out two 2000k scholarships one from Pueblo West is a ROTC student, was not able to hear the school of the other one. Hamburger night will be May 31, 2023

**HARP:** Absent

**Grant Prepare/Fundraising:** Absent

**Grand Avenue:** Dental: Marji out ill

**Flags/Santa Eddie:** Peace Officers Memorial Day @ 10AM Monday May 15, 2023, at Center of American Values. Wesley Methodist Church is having their veteran breakfast every 3rd Saturday of each month. May 20, 2023, Run to the Wall riders will be coming through Pueblo. They will be going over to the Family Worship Center off of Troy. KCSJ/590A 10AM Saturday and 11:00AM Sunday before **Flag Day** Santa Eddie will be on the radio.

**DMVA State VSO** He gets a lot of calls from veterans who do not know how to interact with the VA. When our veterans are sent to the VA to do something they go to the front desk and are very frustrated. They do not know how to advocate for themselves for many reasons. If you are going to send a veteran for any help, please send it to Eric. You can also send them directly to Cory. Please invite Eric to any group that you have veterans getting together, he can go and talk for a few minutes or just be there for their questions. State hired a new woman VSO officer. She is available to any veteran, she also represents woman veterans, the protected veterans from LBGTQ, minorities, native Americans. This is why she was hired to do at the state level.

**CSU-Pueblo Veteran Success Center:** Graduation May 13, 2023. 2 weeks ago, veterans had a ceremony for graduation. CSU audit classes for free for veterans. Can audit up to 3 classes. Any class unless it requires a prerequisite. SVA had a food drive on Cinco De Mayo. They gave away chili, ground beef, tortillas and much more from the Pueblo Food Project.

**CONG Family Program:** Nothing new to add.

**Colorado Army National Guard:** Absent

Clasp Life: Visit his website www.clasplife.org for all the resources they have to offer. He just completed 1057 jumps. Clasp life wants to get veterans out and doing stuff.

**Central Oregon Veteran’s Ranch:** Absent

**Center for American Values:** Absent

**Aveanna Healthcare:** Absent

**American Red Cross SE CO Branch:** Absent

**American Legion Post #203/Riders**: Absent

**American Legion Post #2/Riders:** June 14th flag retirement ceremony. The flag box is located inside building at 701 W 9th St (Not sure if the box located outside is still out there to receive flags) and at Roselawn. Memorial Day will be supporting the Memorial Day event for a meal. Not as extensive due to a lack of people coming out. After the event at the river walk. Stand down, AML # 2 is hosting the event/location. The event will still be run by the people who have run it before. The funds will be provided by the organization who got the grant. They are only providing the facility. Steak dinner was canceled for 05.12.23 hoping to return next month. Having a Mother’s Day breakfast free to mothers 9A-12P. Everyone else will have a small fee to pay. Run for the wall AML#2 will be supporting over at Praise Assembly. They will set up tables out there. Praise Assembly will be doing the cooking and AML#2 will be doing clean up. They will also provide gas. Saying farewell to their current commander. His final assignment will be introducing the new commander Chuck Wright in June.

American GI Forum Pueblo & C/S: Ernesto Montoya who is the commander for Colorado Springs GI Forum, the state secretary and national treasure. In CSP he helps veterans’ kids and grandkids with money for scholarships for high school. Their fiscal year goes from April to March with cooking twice a month able to raise 13k in scholarships and people has donated 4k for scholarships. They have 50/50 drawings on Fridays managed to raise each time they have a 50/50 drawing. He does partner up with the rotary club at Garden of the Gods they have a student of the month that comes to speak on Tuesdays. They partner with them to see if they want to apply for scholarships. He attended with five students from Coronado High School the H2O technology they build filtration systems and sell to countries who do not have water filtration for their country. He attended a meteor conference in Las Vegas regarding the PAC Act must get application in as you can get up to 60 percent back. **On behalf of Luis Pueblo Chapter,** providing a recommendation to Leroy and Rosie Torrez who are very instrumental in passing the PACT Act he is going to write a letter of recommendation for the 75th annual American GI Forum conference in Kansas. Working on Hispanic heritage month to honor veterans in October. Host 8th annual back to school giveaway in September. May 21, 2021, invite for huevos rancheros plate from 9A – 12P at Eagles in C/S.

**Air & Space Forces Association:** attending high school events for JROTC who received various awards. Honor high schools in Pueblo, Pueblo County, and the civil air patrol out of Freemont. Will be participating in the Memorial Day event at the river walk.

**Action 22:** Legislative session about 7 veteran specific bills that made it through. He is going to put together a sheet to send out. Anyone interested in the overall legislation session on how it will impact you, Brian will put together a sheet to send out within the next few weeks. Will participating in Memorial Day.

**Pueblo Veterans Council:** Paul just took over. He is trying to bring out the council of committee of all the veterans and VSO in town. Take Marine Corp birthday for example. The Pueblo Vet Council will do the fundraising to get the funds so we can put on events again. He is trying to get support back to where it needs to be. Still doing the Memorial Day celebration. Still doing the Veterans Day Celebration but still looking for speakers. He will be changing the meetings from evenings to a more appropriate time. The next meeting is every second Tuesday at the VFW Downtown.

**Pueblo Chemical Depot:** On track to complete their mission in the next couple of months. Looking forward to the new commander end of June. Still hiring/veterans will get preference. Please call for questions call Heather at 719-549-4118.

**DA (Pueblo County):** Absent

**State Senators and representatives:** Absent

**US Congresswoman Lauren Boebert Office:** Speaker’s debt ceiling bill introduced by republicans created and passed the debt ceiling bill. This will raise the debt ceiling and cap the expenses at 1 percent growth per year for the next 10 years. The Secretary of the Veterans administration stated the bill will cut a broad range of critical programs for veterans and THIS IS NOT TRUE.

**US Senators:** PACT ACT must be screened by August 10, 2023, if not will not get benefits. The Senators office is doing outreach to veterans in Southern Colorado in regards to the PACT Act. We are able to fly a flag over the US capital and get a letter of authenticity and bring it back.

New Members:

**Home Instead Katie:** They are a home care company, partner with homecare for heroes to help veterans to qualify for the services they provide. Services they provide care for clients in their home, assisted living and independent living. Care is as simple as companionship to skilled nursing care.

**The Praise Assembly of Pueblo Eric Griego** stepped into a leadership position called Welcome home to celebrate recovery, sobriety, deals with hurt, habit or hangup. Meeting every Thursday at 5:30PM free meal and 6PM is the meeting. Convoy of Hope is coming to Pueblo at the midnight shopping center. Provides free hot meals, groceries, nutrition education, kids zone much more on flyer. He asked for any veteran organization to come out and set up a table.

**Wirelesses Doc Darius:** He still helps veterans on how to use the devices. Is planning on being at the meetings as much as possible.

**DOSS Aviation:** Will be attending the commencement ceremony at CSUP. Looking for a point of contact for the Memorial Day event.

**Chamber final announcements:** Crystal Herrera announcement: Last year they did a promotion leading up to Memorial Day. If you have a veteran you like to support or want to highlight send in a picture to Ava. She will get it posted on their social media platform. Need to be in by the 17th only a few slots available. The service member that has been passed. US Space Com is the biggest conversation in the state. Continue to urge President Biden to keep Space Command in Colorado Springs. By the end of the year reaching full operations capability.

**Pueblo Chamber announcements not mentioned at meeting:**

Saturday May 13 8AM 3rd Legislative Breakfast at the pueblo Convention Center

Monday May 15th RC Noon Pueblo East High School off McNeil

Wednesday May 17th RC 11:30AM Elite Therapy and Wellness Center 3715 Thatcher Ave

Thursday May 18th 5p-7p Pueblo United Way Taste of Pueblo

Friday May 19th RC 2pm Restoration Hanger #3 Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum.

Thursday May 25th BAH 5pm Neighbor works of SC 1241 E Route Ave

Friday May 26th RC 11AM Black Box Café 1437 Court St.

Monday May 29th Chamber closed for Memorial Day

Wednesday May 31st 11A to 1PM Latinas 1st foundation lunch at CSUP

Thursday June 8th 11:30AM to 1PM Business during lunch sponsored by Ent Credit Union