**Military Affairs Committee Meeting June 9, 2023**

US Senators: Absent

**US Congresswoman Lauren Boebert’s Office: Cathy Garcia:** Addressed rumors that the congresswomen is against veterans and she voted against a few bills in Congress. The bills she voted against were bills that contained surgeries for transgender changes. Congresswomen do not agree with that therefore voted against those bills. Did vote for other bills that did not contain things like that. Currently working on issues, they are running into with the Albuquerque and Denver VA. Had a constituent suggest that one of the Pueblo Post offices be re-names after a veteran. They are setting up a committee with people who may want to sit down and talk about a veteran they can honor. Please contact Cathy if you would like to sign up.

State Senators & Representatives: Absent

**Pueblo Chemical Depot:** Will destroy the final chemical weapons in about 2-3 weeks. The new commander will be here later this month and will try to bring to the next meeting. Change of command is set for June 29, 2023. They will have a lot of employees who will be looking for jobs. Although they have to get rid of certain skill sets they will still be here for about another 3-5 years they are still hiring basic security guards, fire etc. Job fair for the Depot and PCAP on June 14 and 15th at Jetway.

**DA (Pueblo County) Jeff Chostner:** Nothing to add.

**Pueblo Veteran Council:** Brian on behalf of Paul. Memorial Day event was a huge success and fantastic turnout. Thank you to all for the time they donated and thanks Sal Katz from Mt. Carmel for his time and dedication. The council meeting at the south side VW on 4th Street will be the last one held late at night. Suggested to have the event a little earlier and try to get donations for water.

**Action 22:** Putting on a leadership academy. Jacobo will be part of it. One thing they are having people do is write legislation to be introduced by legislation. One that Jacobo is working on is to get a discounted park pass for all veterans in Colorado.

**Air & Space Forces Association:** May was the month they gave their annual JROTC awards to the 6 pueblo high schools and Freemont.

**American GI Forum Pueblo & C/S:** Absent

**American Legion Post #2 Riders:** Absent

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

**Aveanna Healthcare:** Provided a brochure with information on how to become a CAN Parent to care for your child. Offer a $500 bonus once hired also the $500 bonus will go to the person who makes the referral. They do offer CAN training for adult care as well. They will pay for the schooling as well.

**CAE DOSS:** Absent

**Center for American Values:** Absent

**Clasp Life:** Helping people to keep their passion and independence. The goal is to get people outside doing things. They can go out sky dive or just watch people sky dive. They want to get veterans out and engage in things. Can go to the website at **clasplife.org** for more information.

**Colorado Army National Guard:** Absent

**CONG Family Program:** Absent

**CSU Pueblo Veteran Success Center:** Summer semester underway. Scholarship application is open for veterans and dependence. To apply to go **CSUpueblo.edu/military**. They are awarding 5 X $1000 scholarships for the fall.

**DMVA State VSO:** Absent

**Flags/Santa Eddie:** 24th of June memorial for homeless veterans @ Grove Park on Abriendo. Starts at 10AM. Will have different organizations to help provide information to the homeless. He was given $500 donations from American Legion and the Riders. Last year he spent close to 6K, and he received $2500 approx. in donations. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. Mentioned he was proud of Pueblo this last Memorial Day celebration at the Riverwalk.

**Grand Avenue Dental:** Dental clinic where they get grant funding to assist seniors in getting dental care, they need that they normally could not afford. Almost all veterans qualify their program. Send a veteran or senior over 60 to Grand Ave.

HARP: Absent

**Home Instead Pueblo:** New to the area and has been up and running for about two months. Offer everything homecare services assistance companionship, light housekeeping, cooking, bathing. Can do nursing services, stage 2 or lower wound care, peg tube feeding, help with medications and diabetic supplies. Work a lot with veterans. Service the Pueblo area, Pueblo County, Pueblo West, Avondale, and Colorado City.

**Marine Corps & Pikes Peak Nat Cemetery:** Hamburger night fundraiser on the following dates: June 28th, July 5th, July 26th, August 9th, and August 30th at the American Legion Post 2 on 9th and West.

**Medicare Mentors:** Absent

**Mt. Carmel Veteran Service Center:** Pars for Patriots that was held on June 2, 2023, had 128 golfers. Took part in the Safety Jam that had approx. 500-600 community that attended on June 3. MCVSC held the Quilts of Valor on June 8th where 8 veterans were recognized. One of the honorees is Bill Barrett who is a veteran who is 103 years old. If anyone wishes to nominate someone for the quilts of Valor, reach out to Sal for the application. The monthly Helping Hands Community Coalition held Wednesday June 7th served 250 community members. Partnered with Chick Fillet Pueblo this week. Partnered with Health Solutions through a grant to provide 2 psychiatrists inside our office to offer behavioral health services to our veterans. Steel works center of the west providing E-bikes for veterans looking for it to come in October. Extending our services to Westcliff Monte Vista, Glenwood Springs and Trinidad to provide veteran services. Partnered with Sangre De Cristo Arts program to come in to MCVSC 1 X week arts program for veterans. Next Chapter will be coming into the Pueblo Community as well. If a veteran needs assistance has a less than honorable discharge there is a program that a veteran can do file to see if they can raise their discharge. Coming to Pueblo on July 20th at the Pueblo VA at the James Dunn Clinic.

**NAMI National Alliance on Mental Illness SEC:** Classes has started at Mt Carmel Veteran Center. First class June 9th at 12:30 runs every Friday until July 28th.

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

**Pikes Peak National Cemetery:** They promised an update as far as what is going on with the developments on the grounds but haven’t heard from them. The current count of interment is 4600.

Pueblo Chemical APP: Absent

**Pueblo Community College:** Fall semester starts on August 21st if interested they are located at the military lounge at PCC. For Veterans Upward bound if you need to brush up on your math skills holding a math bootcamp Monday and Wednesday from 10AM to 12PM. Tutoring Mondays from 1PM to 5PM. If you know of anyone who works during the day they also have tutoring Monday and Wednesday 5:30PM to 7PM. Veteran’s only.

**Pueblo Historical Aircraft Society:** Ribbon cutting at the restoration hanger. Bill Barret who was one of the recipients of the Quilts for Valor. He is 103 years old, comes in every Saturday, runs the cash register and sits all day long. Currently this is their busy season and has had guests from all over the world. We have had people from at least 48 states come to visit. To this day about 5000 visitors and yearly they usually get about 10,000.

**Pueblo Plex:** working with Sheila and her team in the BRAC Office on the 1st transfer partial property is scheduled for end of the year about 5k acres. Received word that our senators introduced the Pueblo Act which will help the PCAP partial come to us under the BRAC which is good for the community. Compliments the congresswomen’s Pueblo Job act.

Pueblo Veteran Transportation: Absent

Pueblo Veterans’ Ritual: Absent

Pueblo Voter Registration Project: Absent

Pueblo Wireless DOC: Absent

Praise Assembly: Absent

**Roselawn Cemetery:** Memorial Day event was a huge success. 29 Story board and museum tour you can stop by and get a map at the office, they are open 5 days a week from 8-5. You can also get the map at the website at [www.roselawn1981.org](http://www.roselawn1981.org) to print off the map and do the tour. They also have the story board about James Hugh O’ Neill who wrote the Patton Payer. Roselawn cemetery has a funeral home and crematory and offers a 15% discount to veterans, families and first responders. Their interment is at 66000.

**Sangre De Cristo Community Care:** They have reached the highest level from the we are veterans program which is a level 5. Think maybe they are the only organization in Colorado that has reached the level 5 status. T

**Suicide Prevention Coalition PC:** Absent

**TREA Chapter #20:** Compliment Jeannie at the Aircraft Museum and their maintenance team for their work on the aircraft.

**USAFA Peterson:** Retiree appreciation day set for Sept 17, 2023. So far 250 responses. Meet every 2nd Wednesday at Peterson Air Force Base start with meeting then after is lunch.

**US Dept of Veteran Affairs:** Absent

**Veteran’s Overcoming Obstacles:** $1200 (at $22 per person) raised during the Memorial Day 54 mile RUC event at Roselawn . Coming up is the Spartan race at Ft Carson, it is a Saturday and Sunday event. July tough Mudder which is a 15k (10 mile) run.

**Veterans Treatment Court & VUB:** Took veteran son a bike ride, the drive inn and had a BBQ. They can sign off on community service so if we have any services to be done, please let Jacobo know as they can bring veterans down for their community service. Looking for bikes (Mt. Bikes) Always looking for mentors. They have court on Thursdays at 3PM, they meet at 2PM for coffee. They have a little café located in the courthouse as you walk in on the right hand side. For **Veterans Upward Bound**, they are postponing the bike run until August. It is the 20th anniversary for VUB here at CSU Pueblo. They will be having the motorcycle poker run with the VFW Warriors in Pueblo West. Start at PCC and end at CSUP. They will have food trucks, concerts (and a couple of bands), we would like to invite the community to have a table there with information to provide. They are trying to raise money for scholarships. Scholarships right now through PCC to help people going back to school especially veterans who do not have GI benefits who may have exhausted them, or time has run out. They are available for the fall. Other outreach events they took part in were a food truck event at the veteran center trying to expand to Freemont county. Out at Mt. Carmel Veteran Service Center every week. Currently have classes at PCC, CSUP and Pikes Peak. Encourage veterans to return to school. The Homeless Stand Down meeting is set for June 9, at 10AM, hoping to find out a decision on grant. PHEF (Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation) helps a lot with veterans. 2 weeks ago, helped a veteran who needed gear for welding and gave $2000 to the veteran. Having an Antiques road show on June 30th at 5PM at CSUP.

**VFW Pueblo Chapter:** Absent

**Visiting Angels:** Back in Oakshire Veteran’s Home, Brian was able to get back in as a chaplain. Talk to them asking them to use Visiting Angels again. Asked if there was a way to fly the American flag one more time before it is officially retired. Open to any ideas to raise the flag one more time and have it retired correctly. Suggested to reach out to Pueblo Ritual Team or Santa Eddie.

**Volunteers of America:** provided a discounted sheet with housing that is available. Available to any veteran but must meet some qualifications.

**Wells Fargo Bank S:** Nothing to add.

**New to the Meeting Welcome**

**Next Chapter:** Ken and Jose. Partner with members of the community to bring suicide awareness and suicide prevention. They provide no cost services for behavioral health and substance abuse treatment. Partner with Mt. Carmel Veteran Service Center and they have partnered with NAMI in Colorado Springs and are looking forward to partnering with NAMI here in Pueblo. Anything to assist a veteran with suicide prevention to get ahead in front of the crisis. This is at no cost to veterans and family regardless of discharge status. Also the veteran determines who is family. Tied to Pueblo County, those in Pueblo and Pueblo County will qualify.

**Home Care for Heroes:** Brandy Johnson Certified Senior adviser working seniors over 30 years. Specialize in homecare. VA benefits from being paid care giver, to getting home care and aid and attendance. Contact information is 855-366-4376.

**Chamber News:**

**Events for June:**

Wednesday June 14th Flag Day

Wednesday June 14th 5P-7P Andencuico Hot Dog Night

Thursday June 15th 5P-7P Business After Hours

Sunday June 18th Father’s Day

Wednesday June 21st Summer Begins

Thursday June 23-25th National Street Rods in town

Tuesday June 27th 11AM Ribbon Cutting Champion Xpress Carwash 2323 W. Pueblo Blvd

**Events for July:**

Saturday July 1st 4P-8P “The Great Race” on Victoria & B street (Volunteers needed)

Tuesday July 4th Independence Day the Chamber is Closed

Thursday July 6 2P-4P Villa Pueblo Towers Presents “Wall of Honor” 1111 Bonforte Blvd

Friday July 7th 10AM Ribbon Cutting SCIA Pueblo, 102 S Victoria Ave

Wednesday July 12th 10AM Ribbon Cutting Minnequa Works 1549 E Abriendo Ave

**\*\*\*\*Next Meeting Friday July 14, 2023\*\*\*\***