MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING 7/14/23

**U.S. Senators:** Absent

**U.S. Congresswoman Lauren Boebert’s Office:** Congresswoman will be introducing amendment on July 14, 2023, to the National Defense Authorization Act for the Pueblo Plex and Chemical Depot. It originally fell through as they closed off the session the evening of 7.13.23, they are hoping it will move forward on 7.14.23. Last month asked for volunteers to serve on the committee to re-name the post office. That meeting will take place on Tuesday 7.18.23 at Cathy’s office in the Thatcher building at 10AM.

**State Senators and Representatives:** Absent

**Pueblo Chemical Depot:** Change of Command on 06.29.23. Deliver final munition was delivered to PCAP on 06.22.23 and was also destroyed at the SDCC on the 22nd of June. All munitions have been destroyed. PCW did their inspections and gave a thumbs up that all chemical agents are destroyed. Upcoming events: plan on going to the State Fair Parade, the Legislative BBQ, and Military Appreciation Luncheon in August. Employment opportunities, they do have supply tech will close on 7.18.23, Admin Assistance will close 7.21.23 and security guards. They look to hire veterans. Their mission to make sure all those who currently work at the depot (employees and their families), are well taken care of.

**DA Jeff Chostner:** Nothing to add as far as community events.

**Pueblo Veterans Council:** Absent

**Action 22:** Absent

**Air & Space Forces Association:** 4th of July they provided Oakshire lunch next plan they plan to have a banana split social. For the 4th year out of 5 years the pueblo chapter has been awarded the “Small Chapter of the Year” which is a National Award.

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

**American Legion Post #2/Riders:** They will be hosting this year’s Homeless Veterans’ Standdown on Sept 29, 2023. They have provided a letter inviting agencies to participate. If any agencies would like to participate please respond no later than August 31, 2023. Coordinators are Derrick Padilla and John E Martinez. You can email jem.amlpost02@outlook.com this is a new email. If email does not work please call the post. Pull pork sandwiches by young guns being held 7.14.23. This is strictly for homeless veterans.

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

**Aveanna** Healthcare: they have the CNA Parent Program or anyone in the family which they send them to school to become CNA’s and then hire them under their payroll to stay at home to take care of their kids. They have PT and speech therapy in the home, along with all the supplies needed.

**CAE DOSS:** Absent

**Center for American Values:** Absent

**Clasp Life/Veterans Overcoming Obstacles:** **Clasp for Life** web page clasplife.org a lot of information on there. The goal is to get people out of their home to do things and get people out and active. Veterans Overcoming Obstacles: Last event they completed was held at Ft. Carson they did the Spartan Race which was a 5k. They will be sponsoring Tommy in the 50k in Denver and will sponsor Tommy for the World Toughest Mudder in Denver which is 50 miles. At Devil Dog Gym, give veterans a discount to work out there. All based on what the veteran can do.

**Colorado Army National Guard:** Absent

**CONG Family Program:** Absent

**CSU P Veteran Success Center:** Working on fall enrollments. Will be having extravaganza the weekend of July 15-16 from 12p-3p. 5 scholarships worth $1000 each open to any veteran or dependent.

**DMVA State VSO:** Reminder deadline to apply for the PACT Act is August 9, 2023.

**Flags/Santa Eddie:** Absent

**Grand Avenue Dental:** Give grants from the state to help seniors pay for dental care. They can help a lot of veterans whether they are seniors or not. 9/29-9/30/2023 is COMOM Free Dental Clinic in the state of Colorado where all dental care is 100 percent free. They are there for about 12 hours. Services from cleanings, tooth extractions, crowns, etc. For everyone, children up to seniors. No qualifications needed. Will be in Greely but location is unknown at this time.

**HARP:** Absent

**Home Of Heroes:** Start a podcast geared to share stories of veterans in our community. They will start Labor Day weekend, but they are starting to record now. Will air monthly and will be a 15 min story.

**Home Instead:** Service the areas of Pueblo, Freemont, and Custer Counties they will go to other cities East and South as well. They provide companionship care to nurse directive services. They are the only Home Instead location that provides nursing services. Accept VA, they do aid and attendance and homemaker. They passed flyers as they are always hiring.

**Marine Corps and Pikes Peak Nat Cemetery:** July 26 next hamburger night at American Legion located at 701 W 9th St.

**Medicare Mentors:** Absent

**Mt. Carmel Veteran’s Service Center:** update on the past few months. The Quilts of Valor Ceremony honoring 8 veterans spanning from WII to Global War on Terror. Sal is still nominating veterans touched by war for the Quilts of Valor. Partnered with the San de Cristo Arts Center to provide a once a week 1 ½ hour arts expression for veterans. Free begins August 26, 2023. Over 40 recipients have received free acupuncture. 42 veteran/family members received food from our food pantry this month. July 5th was our Helping Hands Community Coalition, and we were able to service 164 clients and over 500 over the past 3 ½ months. Eric Moncibais, who is our local VSO, serviced 139 veterans. October 25, 2023, we will have our helping hands Pueblo veterans update to be held at the Center of American Values. Will be by invitation only and about 100 invitations will go out. Lunch will be served by 21 Steak. The invitations will be going out in the next week. Mt. Carmel Veteran Service Center will support the Pueblo Standdown. Sal is now the Director of Rural Colorado Veteran Services. Moving to Westcliff, Monte Vista, Glenwood Springs, and Trinidad.

**NAMI National Alliance on Mental Illness SEC**: September is suicide prevention month. MCVSC is paring up with NAMI, Next Chapter and Suicide Coalition building a strong campaign to address suicide prevention among our veterans. Dominque is working on a campaign called A.S.K.

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

**Pikes Peak National Cemetery**: 4600 Interments.

**Pueblo Chemical APP:** July 7th the last chemical weapon was destroyed. The nation is now chemical weapon free. Celebrate August 30, 2023 at the Pueblo Convention Center at 2pm. It is open to the public.

**Pueblo Community College:** July 17 movie night will be showing Goonies at the AMP Theater. It is free/snacks are provided. If bad weather will be moved inside.

**Pueblo Historical Aircraft Society:** September 7-10th the Experimental Aircraft Association Ford Tri Motor 1929 airplane. First commercial serviced airplane. Can sit about 9 can pay for rides.

**Pueblo Plex: Pueblo Jobs Act passed.** Base Re-alignment and closure protocol. Laura stood up to talk about the grants. However, I was not able to hear her on my recording.

**Pueblo Veteran Transportation:** Absent:

**Pueblo Veterans Ritual:** Absent

**Pueblo Voter Registration:** Absent:

**Pueblo Wireless Doc**: if we know of a veteran with a skill set fixing pads and phones, he would love to have them. He is willing to put on temper glass at no cost to vets.

**Praise Assembly:** Absent

**Roselawn Cemetery:** Wreaths across America kick off August. The goal is to provide a wreath for every veteran at Roselawn. Sponsored Wreaths are $17 each. Will be December 16, 2023. The veteran does not have to be buried at Roselawn to be sponsored. Flyers will be passed out next month.

**Sangre De Cristo Community Care:** They have received 5-star status with the We are Veterans Program. They are the only nonprofit hospice to receive the highest level from the We are Veterans Program. Means a higher level of care for veterans. In La Junta they started a veterans coffee talk if successful they will try to bring to Pueblo.

Suicide Prevention Coalition PC: Absent

**TG McCarthy Funeral Home:** she also represents Imperial Funeral Home. Take on a project if anyone knows of any unclaimed veteran remains so they can have the service they deserve and be laid to rest with honor. This is no cost to any surviving family members.

**TREA Chapter #20 They** put flags on the graves three times a year. Part of their obligation they take care of the Warren Dockum memorial site at Roselawn. They service the TREA section and the Warren Dockum section. The problem they are having is people taking the flags.

**UC Health/Next Chapter** State funded program to support veterans and their families at **no cost**. It is a wraparound service. Partner with MTVSC and NAMI. Service El Paso, Pueblo, and Teller Counties. Will be working out of MTVSC. Will be participating in the standdown and convoy of hope. If there are any events you would like to have Next Chapter to participate in, please send them an email. Discharge does not play a factor in receiving their services.

**USAFA Peterson:** 250 will be attending their appreciation day at Peterson on Sept 23rd.

**US Dept of Veterans Affairs:** Absent

**Veterans Treatment Court and VUB** They are now able to serve Freemont County. They are staying active by taking veterans to the movies. Always looking for new mentors. Looking for a bike (old bike) they will take and clean it up to provide to a veteran. They can sign off community service. If anyone can use any work that can be done for community service let Jacobo know. **VUB** they assist veterans to go back to school. Theywill be expanding to Ft. Carson as well. VFW Warriors Poker bike run will take place August 5. It is also the 20th anniversary of VUB The proceeds will fund veteran scholarships in Southern Colorado. A flyer was provided at the meeting. If you would like to set up a table at the event, please reach out to Jacobo.

**VFW Pueblo Chapter** Pantry every Monday 10A-12P and 4P-6Pat 724 E 4th street last month average 70 individuals who walked in the door and serviced over 650 people. On the 3rd Saturday of every month they have veteran’s coffee from 10A – 12P. Bingo every Tuesday doors open at 10A starts at 12:30P, also every second Sunday of the month. The reason for bingo is to raise funds because they have very little funding. They have been having issues receiving grants, so they have not applied for the grants.

**Visiting Angels** Rick does seminars at nursing homes where he can offer resources to veterans, so they know how to find help. Example finding DD214.

**Volunteers of America** Help veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless or are homeless. They help with security deposits, rent, help with evictions, help with bedding and housing supplies. They have a lot of funding and not a lot of clients.

**Wells Fargo Bank:** Nothing

**ENT:** Hailey with Ent, Military Liaison. Free financial education. If any organizations would like to do financial education, please reach out to Hailey. Financial education is also offered to young adults. If anyone has any volunteer opportunities let her know as they pay their employees time off for volunteering.

**T-Mobile Fiber** Steven goal to hire 10k veterans nationwide they are at 8500 right now. On November 11 at the Veteran’s Day Celebration showing about the Mission Mt. Mangart documentary by Chris Anthony. Doors open at 6pm event runs to 9PM. The event is being underwritten by T-Mobile Fiber. VIP ticket pricing is $40, general tickets $20 and student/veterans $10. All net proceeds will go to a cause.

**Mortgage Solutions:** Shawnda Padilla if there is a veteran who is having a hard time getting home loan financing. They don’t have a minimum credit score they tell the stories of the veteran so they are able to get them financed. Please contact Shawnda Padilla for assistance.

**Suicide Prevention program:** Staff Sgt Fox who has been doing this for about 4-5 months out of La Junta. He is interested in finding a veteran who is not attached to the VA system so he can try to get into the VA system. He would like to bring a veteran in and show what the VA can do for him.

**Chamber News:**

Events in July

07.28.23 7A-3P Chamber Golf Tournament.

Events in August:

Thursday August 3rd she has Noon at 1401 Fortino Blvd Ste B but during the meeting Ava could not recall what the meeting was for.

**Thursday August 10** 11:30A to 1PM BDL Colorado State Fair is the Sponsor.

Anyone who would like to become a member of the chamber please reach out to Ava after the meeting.

**Veteran’s Parade** they have a parade marshal and an honorary parade marshal. Suggested Gus Sandstrom former DA. Army Special Forces during Vietnam and couple of Purple Hearts. The other is Bob Frantz, a Korean War Veteran.

\*\*James Dunn Clinic on July 20, 2023, free legal clinic for any veteran who needs assistance upgrading their less than honorable discharge. Will be at the VA clinic from 9A to 5P\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*Next Chamber Meeting is August 11, 2023\*\*\*\*