



**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Colorado State Council**

**Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: June 10, 2023 Scheduled Start Time: 1:00 PM

Meeting Facility: Public library in Castle Pines, Colorado, 360 Village Square Ln.

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Meeting Location: Library Conference Room

Meeting called to order by President Tony Nickerson at 12:54 PM

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Tony Nickerson (lead)

**Invocation:** Trini Rael

**Moment of Silence (for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and for those still POW/MIA):** Tony Nickerson

**Roll Call of Officers and Chapter Delegates Present:** Tony Nickerson (President), Stan Paprocki (Immediate Past President), David Lyons (First Vice President), Thomas Dowell (Second Vice President), David Ramey (Treasurer), Milt Omoto (Secretary),

**Absences:** Leonard Smith (Voting Delegate 1071), Larry Peterson (Voting Delegate 1075), Joe Plant (Voting Delegate 1106), Dick Southern (Region 9 Director).

**New Members/Guests:** Trinidad (Trini) Rael (VP Chapter 1071); Doug Nunes (Director, Speakers Bureau Chapter 1071)

**Declaration of Principles:** David Lyons (read)

**Questions on Prior Meeting Minutes.** The March 11, 2023 State Council meeting minutes were emailed to each Council member. An edited version is also posted to the Council website.

- There were two meeting minute corrections noted: (a) Region 9 report, Page 3 change 84,478 to 89,478 total VVA members; (b) Page 5 change six scholarships of \$6,000 each to \$2,000 each (Chapter 1106 report)
- See "Motions" for approval of the minutes.

**Introduction of New Members/Visitors/Guests:** None

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### Region 9 Report: (Dick Southern Absent)

In the absence of Dick Southern, Tony Nickerson reported on National's May 2023 Membership report as follows:

- 87,576 Life Members
- 2,123 IVI Members
- 535 VPHV Members
- Total National Membership: 90,234
- There are 718 Dual Membership members
- Total AVVA Members: 10,438
- Tony reported that National will award those with dual membership at the 2023 National Convention

### Treasurer's Report and HGDP Report: David Ramey

- Treasurer Dave Ramey reported on the May 2023 budget; the report included income, expenses and HGDP transactions;
- Dave reported that he submitted the Council's financial report to National on March 9

### Expenses Against the Council: David Ramey

- The next Veterans Community Living Center donation will go to the Spanish Peaks Veterans Community Living Center in Walsenburg as part of the Council's quarterly support to Colorado Living Centers
- Today's Council lunch

### Reading of Communications: Milt Omoto

- Letter to Ms. Cook of the Veterans Community Center in Walsenburg was read by Milt Omoto

### Member Sickness and Distress

Chapter 1071: Stan reported that Terry Ritenour will have surgery on his good knee, Leonard Smith continues to have back issues, and Terry Zimmer is undergoing cancer treatment

Chapter 1075: Tom reported that Tom Nicksell has a failing kidney, Larry Mackenzie has dementia and Parkinson's, and James Griffin had a leg amputated

Chapter 1106: Dave reported that Joe Plant's wife Dora has severe ear infection; also, Tony reported that he has a blood clot in his lungs that will require three months to heal.

Please pray for these members.

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### Chapter Activity Reports

#### Chapter 1071 (Trini Rael, Doug Nunes and Stan Paprocki)

- The Chapter acquired two new members in March and three in April; the Chapter has 225 regular and 44 Associate members, for a total membership of 269
- The Chapter's web master reported 1152 hits on their website
- The Chapter collected funds from their Memorial Day weekend Poppy Drive
- Doug shared the Chapter's new newsletter that will be issued frequently to encourage members to attend meetings and events; he reported on a special meeting the Chapter will hold at Wings Over the Rockies on July 15<sup>th</sup>; the Chapter paid admission, and everyone is invited;
- The Chapter's Scholarship Committee awarded the following to five student finalists:
  - One \$5,000
  - Two \$3,000
  - One \$4,000
  - One \$1,000
- The Chapter's Speaker's Bureau has completed 12 of 23 scheduled speaking engagements with local High Schools; one middle school requested a presentation to compare the military drafts between the Civil War and the Vietnam War period;
- Jonah Martins of Green Mountain High School conducted a project to honor Chapter 1071's Speakers Bureau by acquiring a plaque for display at the school. He is one of the Chapter's scholarship winners and will present his paper at the Chapter's August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### Chapter 1075 (Tom Dowell)

- Tom reported that the Chapter registered for the El Paso County's 2023 Standdown;
- The Chapter will again participate in this year's Monument Fourth of July Parade; the parade attracts over 85,000 people; this year there will be 114 entries including floats and groups; the Chapter has been awarded first in the military float category for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021;
- The Chapter has eight Honor Bell volunteers that now serve as Bell Guards;
- The Chapter conducted an AVVA membership drive by contacting member spouses; two new AVVA members were acquired;
- The Chapter also conducts a membership drive from June to September, paying for a new applicant's life membership;
- The Chapter's application to install a time capsule was approved by Fort Carson; the Chapter raised funds for construction of the time capsule memorial; it will be located at the main gate area; this will be a memorial to all Vietnam Veterans;
- The Chapter conducts quarterly breakfasts for members and spouses;
- Chapter members toured the memorial to Vietnam Veterans at the Air Force Academy
- On May 29<sup>th</sup>, Chanel 13 featured a seven-minute segment on the Honor Bell, featuring Chapter member Larry Peterson, who explained why a second bell is needed for the Pikes Peak National Cemetery;
- The Chapter awarded two \$2,000 scholarships to graduating students; applicants are from El Paso County schools;

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- The Chapter now has a dedicated meeting room at the Skills Academy that they share with the local DAV;
- The Chapter made donations to the Honor Bell, the Honor Flight and incarcerated veterans ministry;
- The Chapter will be sending three delegates to the National Convention;
- For the past three years, President Tom Dowell goes to a Charter School's music class to talk about the most popular music during the Vietnam War; the students appreciate and enjoy this discussion;
- Tom also reported that the Colorado Springs Skills Academy is seeking donations of tools and wheelchairs.

### Chapter 1106 (David Lyons)

- The Chapter invited the Central Colorado Corvette Club to the April membership meeting; the Club spoke about the history of the Corvette and provided interesting facts about the car; members of the Club brought over 30 cars that were displayed in the parking lot;
- The Chapter will participate in this year's Fourth of July parade in Highlands Ranch; the Central Colorado Corvette Club will have their vehicles in the parade and allow Chapter members to ride in them;
- Quilts of Valor will again be awarding 15 quilts to Chapter members at the July meeting; so far, Quilts of Valor has presented 71 quilts to members
- The Chapter's Scholarship Committee received 14 scholarship applications; the Committee is reviewing each and will interview each student; six \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded; winners will present their papers at the August meeting;
- The Chapter's Memorial Day weekend Poppy Drive at four King Soopers stores collected funds from this activity;
- The Chapter's Color Guard presented Colors at the Wind Crest Retirement Home to dedicate a flagpole and veterans honor plaque;
- The Chapter's Speaker's Bureau has been quite this year;
- The Chapter has 194 regular members and 43 Associate members for a total of 217;
- The Chapter conducted a field trip to the WWII Aviation Museum in Colorado Springs on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Unfinished Business**

- None.

### **New Business**

- President Tony Nickerson raised the issue of Chapter interface support; he encouraged Chapters to interact with each other and let members know what other Chapters are doing; Milt stated that Chapters 1071 and 1106 post their meeting minutes on their respective websites; State Council minutes are also posted to the State Council website;
- A discussion ensued regarding acquiring poppies for Chapter Poppy Drives; the VFW and American Legion will not sell their red poppies to other veteran organizations; Chapters

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1071 and 1106 use the Vietnam color poppies; the quality is improving with less poppies falling apart; see “Motions;”

- Tony requested the Council approve his expenses to attend the National Convention; see “Motions;”
- The Proposed Convention Resolutions and Constitution Committee’s final report to delegates (Proposed Constitutional Amendments) can be downloaded from the National website; delegates are encouraged to study these documents prior to attending the National Convention;
- Colorado has three At-Large delegate positions that can be filled;
- The current Colorado delegates attending by Chapter are:
  - Chapter 1071: 4 delegates
  - Chapter 1075: 3 delegates
  - Chapter 1106: 1 delegate currently, possibly 2.
- Note that any delegate can attend the AVVA luncheon at the Convention
- Tony reported that the National Board of Directors is concerned about the many rumors that VVA’s demise is soon; while the delegates from last year’s Convention voted for a “Last Man Standing” organization position, the Colorado State Council and three Colorado Chapters are each registered as corporations with the State; at the point when National is dissolved, each entity can continue operating if they so choose.

### Motions

**Motion 1.** Motion to accept the March 11, 2023 State Council meeting minutes as corrected made by Dave Lyons and second by Tom Dowell. The minutes were accepted.

**Motion 2.** Motion to continue using the Vietnam color poppies for Poppy Drives was made by Stan Paprocki and second by Tom Dowell; the motion was approved by the Council.

**Motion 3.** Motion for the Council to pay for President Tony Nickerson’s expenses to attend the National Convention made by Stan Paprocki and second by Milt Omoto; the motion was approved.

Note: There were no motions to approve the May Treasurer’s Report; it was approved by default.

### Good of the Order

- Stan reported that the funds collected by Jonah Martins of Green Mountain High School for the plaque to honor Chapter 1071’s Speakers Bureau were donated to the Chapter.

### Closing Ceremony

A closing prayer was provided by Trini Rael.

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## Colorado State Council

**The Next Colorado State Council Meeting: October 14, 2023 @ 1300-hour, Castle Pines Library; note that we have the Conference Room only for two hours (1:00PM to 3:00PM)**

The meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections at 2:22 PM by President Tony Nickerson.

This Colorado State Council Meeting minutes submitted by: Milt Omoto, State Council Secretary.

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*Published 06/12/2023*

*Circulation Notice: These minutes may contain sensitive and/or personal information; therefore, please use discretion when sharing this information with non-VVA members. This is the web version of the minutes posted to the Council's website.*