



## Colorado State Council

### Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: December 14, 2019 Start Time: 1:00 PM  
Meeting Location: Philip S. Miller Library, 100 S. Wilcox St. Castle Rock, CO 80104

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Meeting called to order by President Stan Paprocki at 1257 hour.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Stan Paprocki (led)

**Invocation:** Terry Ritenour (1071)

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

**Roll Call of Officers and Chapter Delegates Present:** Stan Paprocki (President), David Lyons (First Vice President), David Ramey (Treasurer), Milt Omoto (Secretary); Thomas Dowell (voting Delegate 1175), Terry Ritenour (voting Delegate 1071), Leonard Smith (non-voting Delegate 1071)

**Absences:** Joe Plant (voting Delegate 1106), Larry Peterson (non-voting Delegate 1075), Ron Smith (non-voting Delegate 1106)

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

**Mission Statement:** Stan Paprocki (read)

**Questions on Prior Meeting Minutes.** Minutes from the September 14, 2019 Colorado State Council meeting, revised version, was distributed to Council members prior to this meeting. No questions were raised on meeting minutes. A reminder that minutes distributed prior to the meeting for review do not need to be read at the meeting (RONR 11<sup>th</sup> ed. pp. 354-355). A motion to accept the minutes was made by David Lyons and second by Terry Ritenour. The minutes were approved by Council vote.

**New Members/Guests:** Guests, Dick Southern (Region 9 Director); Michelle Mallin, Executive Director, Honor Bell Foundation

**Region 9 Report:** Dick Southern requested to report after Chapter reports.

#### **Treasurer's Report: David Ramey**

David Ramey distributed the November 30, 2018 State Council Treasurer's Report to Council members. Total balance in the Council's account is \$29,133.29.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Terry Ritenour and second by David Lyons. The Treasurer's Report was approved by Council vote.

Household Goods program income for October was \$3,250. Each Chapter was disbursed \$900 for October/

## Colorado State Council

### Expenses Against the Council: David Ramey

Expenses Against Council include monthly HGDP distribution payments to Chapters (please see the State Council Treasure's Report for November for details).

A check for \$500 and letter was sent to the Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center at Florence. This is the Council's quarterly allocation to each of the Veteran Community Living Centers in Colorado. The cost for today's Council lunch was \$178.

**Reading of Communications.** Milt Omoto read the letter to the Veterans Community Living Center at Florence that will receive a Check for \$500 from the Council.

### Member Sickness and Distress

None presented.

### Chapter Activity Reports

- Chapter 1071 (Terry Ritenour, Chapter Board Member)
  - Chapter membership is at 201 regular and 36 AVVA for a total of 237; a recent Chapter meeting drew 83 member attendees
  - For their December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Chapter will provide a free Christmas breakfast to members at the Elks Lodge prior to the Chapter meeting
  - Chapter members participated in today's Wreaths Across America at Fort Logan and Crown Hill
  - The Chapter visited six high schools on Veterans Day to participate in each school's events to honor veterans; of note was Mountain Range High School that provided a breakfast, lunch, tee shirts and honor event; veterans walked through the halls of the school that were lined with students to show respect to veterans
  - The Chapter is experiencing about one passing of veteran member per month; the Chapter attends these honor burials; recently, Lindsay E. Smith passed
  - The Chapter's web site had 1034 hits last month with an average of 1600 hits per month
  - The Chapter is encouraging its members to sign up for the Honors Flight program to Washington DC
  - Colorado Woodworks provides urns to the Chapter for honors burials; Dave Ramey (1075) asked if they can get a sample of the wood urns; Terry will look into this request
  - The Chapter's Veterans Day weekend Poppy Drive at four King Soopers net \$5900 in donations
  - The Chapter supports the Healing Warriors Program that provides non-narcotic therapy to service members and their families for pain, PTSD and sleep.
  
- Chapter 1075 (Thomas Dowell, Chapter President)
  - The Chapter had a very successful Stand Down participation with 117 hygiene kits distributed to homeless veterans in Colorado Springs
  - Chapter members participated in the Veterans Day parade; the Chapter entered a float; the parade lasted two hours on a very cold day; there were 134 entries; of interest were the 560 ROTC cadets that participated;
  - Chapter members are participating in today's Wreaths Across America; Pike's Peak National Cemetery did not ask the Chapter for support for this event
  - The Chapter has a very successful membership recruiting program; recently they signed up 17 new members; Thomas promised to share their success method with the other Chapters
  - The Chapter had their annual Christmas Celebration event
  - The Chapter submitted their end of Fiscal Year Erwin Estate Disbursement Report;

## Colorado State Council

- Thomas reported that he made a very well received presentation at Vanguard High School on the Vietnam War experience; he listed ten of the most played songs during the Vietnam War; the teacher played each song as Thomas spoke; the most popular song for the students: “We Got to Getta Out of This Place” by the Animals (1965)!
- Chapter 1106 (David Lyons, Chapter Vice President)
  - Chapter members participated at various school Veterans day events that honor local veterans
  - The Chapter’s Veterans Day weekend poppy drive at four King Soopers net \$4700 of donations
  - Chapter membership is at 140 members and 34 Associate members for a total of 174
  - The Chapter continues to assist veterans in need by working with HUD-VAST to identify and help veterans stay off the street; the Chapter provides funds for food, pays utility bills directly and provides other assistance
  - The Chapter continues in the creation of a promotional video to show at events to educate about VVA, the Chapter’s activities and to recruit new members
  - The Chapter’s end of year Christmas luncheon is being held today
  - Dave stated that some members visited Cherry Creek’s Innovation Campus, located at 8000 S. Chambers Road Centennial; the school has an advanced program and 17,000 sq. ft. facility to prepare students to work in various industries such as hospitality, culinary, automotive servicing, aeronautics and information technology; the school can accommodate up to 1200 students; you can visit their website at: <https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/ccic>
  - David reminded Council members that the Chapter has seven motorized wheel chairs available to veterans in need; five are operational and two need new batteries; the Chapter also has many handicap aids including walkers, manual wheel chairs and other equipment.

### Region 9 Report: Dick Southern

- Dick reported that he attended the Nevada State Council meeting and the the California State Council meetings; he stated that the venue that the California State Council uses for their meetings raised the price for meeting rooms and increased the minimum purchase required for food and beverage; however, he found another hotel that charges \$4,000 for a meeting room rental, but if the organization purchases a minimum of \$300 in food and beverage, the meeting room cost is waived; the California State Council holds a 3-day meeting;
- Dick lead the National Membership Committee meeting as Chairman during the October CSCP meeting in Silver Spring; Leonard Smith (1071) is a member of the Committee and attended the meeting;
- The New Mexico State Council has issues with one of its Chapters that, due to a variety of reasons, have not submitted required reports to National; it was recommended that they terminate the Chapter as is and start a new Chapter with existing members; they submitted the required paperwork
- Dick also reported on his Philippine and Guam trips; the trips were very reasonable costs at \$945 for Philippine (airfare, per diem and transportation) and \$1045 for Guam; the Philippines have 145 members and Guam has 122 members; there are approximately 12,000 American veteran and service connected retired in the Philippines; there are two Veteran Administration service in the Philippines: (a) the US National VA and (b) the VA run by Congress in the Philippines (to address the many Filipino Nationals who fought with US troops);
- Dick reported on National Membership Committee items: he is working to update member emails to make it current; as Region Director, he does not receive State Council rosters unless the State lacks a State Council, in which case he receives the roster; Colorado raised its total membership by 12, putting it fourth in membership growth nationally; the average Chapter membership is 108;
- Dick is planning a Region 9 meeting sometime in June 2020; he is planning the meeting at Salt Lake City, UT; the Utah State Council President Dennis Howland very much wants attendees to visit the Wall in Layton, UT; however, transportation logistics need to be worked out as it is a fair distance from Salt Lake City;
- Dick stated that he may run into difficulties funding Region meetings with the new VVA Treasurer, Jack McManus, who will dictate Region Director’s budgets;

## Colorado State Council

- The deadline to submit articles to the next issue of *The VVA Veteran* publication is January 3, 2020; submit articles to Michael Keating, (301) 585-4000 x-152, [mkeating@vva.org](mailto:mkeating@vva.org)
- Dick suggested that each Chapter set aside funds for Chapter members to attend the 2020 Leadership Conference and the 2021 National Convention; estimate the cost of travel, per diem and other expenses for your delegates; he anticipates that the 2021 National Convention will be important as a turning point for the future of the organization;
- Dick will plan a Region meeting prior to the 2021 Convention to allow potential delegates to educate themselves and obtain needed information;
- A question was asked whether AVVA plans to lower membership costs; Dick stated that most likely not, because at 10,299 members, they are not large enough to afford that; the AVVA also pays VVA National \$25K for office space, administrative support and other services;
- Dick stated that this is his thirteenth year as Region Director. Congratulations Dick!

### **Special Guest Presentation by Michelle Mallin, Executive Director, Honor Bell Foundation**

Michelle Mallin presented the plans for creating a second Honors Bell for use at the new Pikes Peak National Cemetery, the Air Force cemetery and at other events in Southern and Southwestern Colorado; the first Honor Bell contains twelve artifacts from twelve Colorado veterans; it completed its 2000<sup>th</sup> toll at Fort Logan recently; Fort Logan is the sixth busiest National Cemetery;

The Foundation has three principle programs:

1. Honors Bell
2. Dignity Veterans Outreach
3. Respect Education

The second bell will be a 1,000 pound pure bronze bell that will also contain veteran artifacts; the plan is to start the first of 2020; Michelle showed a short video, “Forged From Honor” about the casting and dedication of the first bell; the plan for the second bell is to collect sufficient funds to sign a contract with the Verdin Company of Ohio by mid-2020; the casting would occur in October, and then transported to Colorado where the bell dedication would be at Pikes Peak National Cemetery on November 11, 2020; The Foundation needs to raise \$100K by June to sign the contract; vehicle expense for the second vehicle for the bell is another large expense; the Foundation has set the following financial milestones:

- 1) \$50K by March 2020
- 2) \$100K by June 2020;

A motion was made for the State Council to donate \$2,000 to the Honor Bell Foundation; see “Motions” below for details; in addition, Chapter President Thomas Dowel presented Michelle with a check for \$1500 from Chapter 1075; pictures were taken of the check awards and is posted on the State Council’s web site;

### **Unfinished Business**

- David Ramey stated that the HGDP Report for the second half of the fiscal year ending February 2020 will be prepared with inputs from Chapters; please submit your Chapter HGDP reports to David at or before the March 2020 State Council meeting

## Colorado State Council

- Each Chapter was provided the Erwin Estate Funds Disbursement report to describe how funds were used during the fiscal year; reports are completed for the State Council, and Chapters 1075 and 1106; Leonard Smith will complete and submit the report for Chapter 1071; the breakdown of the current fiscal year funds disbursed is:
  - State Council: \$ 1,000
  - Chapter 1071: \$11,500
  - Chapter 1075: \$11,500
  - Chapter 1106: \$11,500
- The FY 2020/2021 funds will be disbursed to Chapters in March 2020
- Milt reported that the State Council's Web Master, Bob Rotruck, stated that the web site is "stale" with not much new news or items of interest; Milt proposed that he and Bob extract pictures and information from each Chapter's web site for use on the State Council's site; each Chapter is good at maintaining their web site with current and interesting information that will be appropriate to post on the Council's site;
- Stan Paprocki reported on the October Conference of State Council Presidents meeting; he stated that they received an education on financial balance sheets from the new National Treasurer; Stan stated that Chapters should get involved with younger veteran organizations, talking to their members and inviting them to VVA Chapter meetings for the purpose of continuing the legacy and work of VVA; the Household Goods Program employs 300 people and is a good source of income for the organization; not all states have HGDP, some do not allow such operation; we are fortunate in Colorado to have this program
- When asked whether the CSCP meetings are worthwhile, Stan stated unequivocally that they were because of the dynamic nature of the organization and new issues constantly arising;
- Stan handed out the schedule for CSCP and the National Leadership Conference dates.

### New Business

- David Lyons stated that, as part of his PTSD healing, he participates in "Bowling for Vets" program sponsored by the Summit Bowling League that enables veterans with PTSD to use bowling as a form of therapy; there are five Vietnam Veterans in the program; David asked the Council for a donation to support this program; see "Motions" below;
- David Lyons stated that the meeting with Chapter representatives regarding the formation of a 501(c)(3) organization that can represent the three Chapters has been moved to early 2020; Stan stated that he has an attorney looking into the process for forming such an organization; Dave Lyons stated that it is advantageous for all three Chapters to be under one such organization; David Ramey stated that there is no advantage for the State Council to have such a parallel organization;
- David Lyons has secured the meeting room at the Castle Rock library for State Council meetings in 2020 as follows:
  - March 14, 2020
  - June 13, 2020
  - September 12, 2020
  - December 12, 2020
- David Lyons will also be responsible for making lunch reservations at the Union Bistro restaurant prior to each Council meeting
- Milt Omoto reminded the Council that State Council officer elections are to be held at the June 2020 meeting; an Election Committee of one person will be formed to collect nominations for officer positions; note that the Council must approve the Election Committee person; the Committee must report nominees at the March 2020 meeting;
- David Ramey reported that he has found a resource that can prepare the Council's 990 Form for IRS reporting at no cost to the Council; David was not fully satisfied with the CPA that prepared this year's 990 Form;
- The Council members signed a Christmas card to be sent to James Dreiling

## Colorado State Council

### Motions

- An initial motion was made by David Ramey for the State Council to donate \$1500 to the Honor Bell Foundation without second; however, a subsidiary motion by Terry was put fourth for the State Council to donate \$2,000 to the Honor Bell Foundation to help fund a second bell; the second motion was second by Dave Lyons; and, it was approved by vote of the Council, and a check was presented to Michelle Mallin for the \$2,000 amount; note that the first motion is considered the main motion and while it was pending, the subsidiary motion was made and approved; the main motion was thus not met and redirected to the subsidiary motion;
- A motion was put fourth by David Lyons for the State Council to donate \$500 to the Denver Veterans Center Bowling League, a one-time donation; the motion was second by Leonard Smith; the motion was passed by vote of the Council; David will personally deliver the check to the organization.

### Good of the Order

- Stan Paprocki circulated an image of the new Colorado Woman's Veterans License plate.

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### **The Next Colorado State Council Meeting: March 14, 2019 @ 1300-hour, Castle Rock Library**

The meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections at 1509 hour by President Stan Paprocki.

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

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