



## Colorado State Council

### Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: June 8, 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 Lee White at 1254 hour.

**Invocation:** Joe Plant, Chaplain

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Lee White

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

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

**Roll Call of Officers Present:** Lee White (President), David Lyons (Second Vice President), David Ramey (Treasurer), Milt Omoto (Secretary)

**Absences:** Stan Paprocki (First Vice President)

**Chapter Delegates, Representatives and Members:** Terry Ritenour (Voting Delegate, 1071), Thomas Dowell (Voting Delegate, 1075), Joe Plant (Voting Delegate, 1106), Larry Peterson (Non-Voting Delegate 1075), Leonard Smith (Non-Voting Delegate, 1071), Ron Smith (Non-Voting Delegate, 1106)

**New Members/Guests:** Guest, Dick Southern (Region 9 Director); Al Roettger (Board Member, Chapter 1071)

**Meeting minutes** from the March 9, 2018 Colorado State Council meeting. 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). No proposed corrections were made, and the minutes were automatically approved as submitted.

#### **Region 9 Report: Dick Southern**

Dick announced a new Chapter has formed in Region 9, Chapter 1139, of the Island of Hawaii (a.k.a., the "Big Island"), State of Hawaii.

The Region 8/9 Conference was held June 1, 2019 at the Nugget Resort Casino in Sparks, NV. Accommodations and meals were reported good (except hotel coffee prices for meeting rooms are excessively high). This was a pre-Convention conference serving as informational to members. Candidates were there to speak and meet with attendees, that included the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Board of Directors (Regional and At-Large). An Official Candidates Roster can be found on National's website.

John Rowan spoke about Working Groups One and Two and stated the high likelihood that no definitive decision will be made at this year's Convention. He stated that about 60% of members feel that VVA should be a "Last Man Standing" organization, continuing until there is lack of sufficient members to operate effectively, and 40% who favor the formation of a new organization.

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Dick noted that all required reports from the State Council and each Chapter must be submitted to National in order to ensure that attending Delegates from Colorado can vote at the National Convention. Reports are due by July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Milt Omoto reported that documents for self-nomination of the Colorado State Council was submitted to National. Results will be announced at the Convention.

Any delegate can put forth an amendment or resolution from the floor at the Convention. Milt will look into the process. He would like to propose an amendment that changes Article III, Chapter Provisions, Section 1 – Chapter Formation, from 25 to 15 members who can petition for a new chapter.

Dick reported that this year's Convention may have significantly less attendees than prior Conventions; the New Orleans Convention (2017) drew over 800 attendees. So far, about 450 have registered for this year's Convention. Late submittals and on-site registrations may boost this figure slightly.

Dave Ramey attended the Region 8/9 Conference on behalf of the Council. He reported that the Conference was informative and will be providing Conference information to Thomas Dowell who will be attending the National Convention from Chapter 1075. Dick stated that incumbents typically get re-elected. On Wednesday and Thursday evenings, there will be separate sessions for individual Regions where candidates can meet, speak and answer questions from delegates.

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

As of May 31, 2019:

Household Goods program income received: \$3,250 from VVA (this is the new monthly amount for this fiscal year). HGDP disbursement to the three Chapters: \$2,700 (\$900 each). Please note that no action of acceptance by the Council is required, or proper, on the Treasurer's Report (Roberts Rules of Order, Section 48, Page 479).

Dave Ramey reported that the CPA he is working with completed IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, that was required this year due to the large donation from the Erwin Estate. The CPA will submit the completed form electronically (E-file) to the IRS with a copy to Deb Johnson at VVA National.

David Ramey reported that the HGDP reports are due every 6-months; The next reporting date is October 15, 2019.

David presented the Council budget for the new fiscal year, March 2019 through February 2020. The Northwestern Certificate of Erwin Estate fund investment balance is projected to produce \$150 to \$200 of interest monthly. The Council will keep earned interest in the fund accumulating until the certificate's 5-year expiration period is up. The budget was accepted by the Council by default with no objections.

### **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 May for details). A check for \$425 was made out to the CPA who completed IRS Form 990 for the Council.

**Reading of Communications.** An appreciation letter for a donation made by the Council from the Veterans Community Living Center in Rifle was read by Milt Omoto. A letter to the Veterans Community Living Center in Walsenburg for the next \$500 donation that was prepared by David Ramey was also read by Milt Omoto.

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**Member Sickness and Distress:** Joe Plant reported that founding member Pat Serena (1106) who recently had surgery is having difficulties from a recent leg amputation in addition to heart problems; Terry Ritenour stated that, being an amputee himself, he will call Pat and encourage him; Thomas Dowell stated that Chapter 1075 member Patrick Dewitt is being treated for cancer; we were all glad to see Al Roettger (1071) at the meeting, who spent 260-days in the hospital and has recovered. He is active with Chapter 1071's Speakers Bureau.

### Chapter Activity Reports

- Chapter 1071 (Terry Ritenour, Board Member)
  - Chapter membership is at 189 regular and 28 AVVA for a total of 217
  - The Chapter conducted their Memorial Day weekend fund raiser at four King Sooper stores, with 40 Chapter members participating; they collected about \$4,500
  - The Speakers Bureau is active with 152 school visits, speaking to over 2200 students, and accumulating 1500 student contact hours; three new schools were added recently
  - The Chapter will be sending four delegates to the National Convention in addition to Stan Paprocki who is attending on behalf of the Council
  - The "Wall that Heals" mobile Wall will be at Faith Bible Chapel (6250 Wright St, Arvada, CO 80004), June 19 to 23, 2019; volunteers will be recognized with their yellow hats; additional volunteers can sign-up on-site for various duties; the event is sponsored by Chapter 1071, Faith Bible Chapel and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund; the display is a ¾ replica of the Wall in Washington, DC and will be available 24-hours during these dates; opening ceremony will be on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM and the closing ceremony will be on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 PM; attendees are allowed to do etchings on the Wall; Chapters can participate in wreath laying on either Saturday or Sunday
  - Terry stated that all Colorado delegates should meet at the National Convention to review and discuss how they will vote on the candidates, amendments and resolutions; Dick stated that there are several opportunities when Colorado delegates can meet on the first day of the Convention
  - Milt stated that he appreciates the pictures posted on Chapter 1071's website, especially those of the placement of the HU-1 aircraft at Wings Over the Rockies and those of the ribbon cutting ceremony; Ray Holtz of the Chapter takes the pictures; Milt also noted that you can see a video of an interview with Colonel McPherson and Colonel Overturf on the Wings Over the Rockies website;
  - The Chapter plans to continue with their Honors Burial program;
  - Chapter 1106 would like to meet with Chapter 1071's Speakers Bureau to get ideas on strengthening 1106's Speakers Bureau program.
- Chapter 1075 (Thomas Dowell, President)
  - Chapter members placed 1560 flags for Memorial Day; the Chapter also supervised the Boy Scouts on flag removals after the event
  - There are 735 burials at the new National Cemetery in Colorado Springs; there are still some remains being relocated from Fort Logan Cemetery;
  - The Chapter's Memorial Day weekend fundraiser was conducted at City Market in Woodland Park; despite the harsh weather (cold, snow and strong winds), the Chapter persevered and collected \$625;
  - The Chapter is active in recruiting new members; they added four new members since March;
  - The Chapter awarded two scholarships to high school graduates; reviewers were impressed with the high caliber of candidates
  - The Chapter has allocated \$9500 of the Erwin Estate funds it received to various organizations that support veterans and their families; some of the potential organizations include Healing Waters, Hawk Quest and Mt. Carmel; Mt. Carmel is 100% funded by Phil Long (of Phil Long Ford);
  - The Chapter continues to work with Mt. Carmel to find temporary lodging for veterans and their family in need on an urgent basis; the Chapter works with several hotels that reserve rooms for this need and provide these rooms

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at a significant discount; candidates are all recommended by Mt. Carmel; the frequency is 1 to 3 monthly, and the Chapter works with the local DVA and American Legion chapters to share costs

- The Chapter is planning a trip to Angle Fire (New Mexico), August 6-7, 2019.
- Chapter 1106 (Lee White, President)
  - Current Chapter membership is at 165 with 132 regular members and 33 AVVA members
  - The Chapter conducted a “Bike Show and Contest” fund raiser at Grand Prix Motor Sports and raised about \$500 from the event; this will likely become an annual event
  - The Chapter’s Memorial Day weekend poppy drive collected about \$5500 from four King Soopers stores
  - Chapter members will participate in this year’s Highlands Ranch Fourth of July Parade
  - Volunteers from the Chapter will participate at the Wall That Heals;
  - The Chapter awarded six \$2,000 scholarships to graduating high school students; scholarship awardees read their papers at a recent Chapter member meeting
  - The Chapter will be attending the June 30<sup>th</sup> Rockies baseball game; this is a fundraiser for the Chapter; contact Barry Fiore (Chapter 1106) for information on how to participate in this program
  - The Chapter will attend and participate in the Cherry Creek School District’s veteran’s appreciation event and football game, September 7, 2019
  - The Chapter’s Speakers Bureau is active speaking at high schools
  - The Chapter continues to provide veteran emergency assistance to veterans in need;
  - Anyone needing power wheel chairs, the Chapter has several available.

### Unfinished Business

- David Lyons attended the recent Council of State Council Presidents (CSCP); he reported that it was very informative and was a good experience, especially to meet other State Council Presidents and Regional Directors; he stated that there was a diverse position of views on the future of VVA
- The State Council website was updated with pictures and bios of members
- Final Erwin Estate fund reporting forms were distributed to Council members.

### New Business

- Lee White discussed the need to identify veteran organization and organizations that support veterans and their families for State Council funds donations; Lee identified several including the Fisher House and Volunteers of America; David Ramey stated that at the Region 8/9 Conference, the President of Chapter 582 reported that there are still Chapter members in dire need of support after being displaced by the wildfires; they have Chapter members living in tents since the fires late last year; Dick stated that they have enough MRE meals, clothing and bottled water; what they need is cash;
- Dick Southern stated that due to California bureaucracy, it is costly (\$80K to \$100K) to have a site inspected and approved for re-building; the VVA California State Council drafted a resolution to the State Legislature to have this process waived for victims of the fire so they can rebuild in a timely and affordable manner.

**Motion:** A motion was put fourth for the Council to donate \$2500 to California Chapter 582. The motion was approved by Lee White and seconded by David Lyons. The motion was approved by the Council.

- Milt stated the need for a formal process to identify and approve organizations to receive Council donations; this will be discussed at a future Council meeting
- Milt asked whether the State Council should, on occasion, set up a table at the new VA hospital to promote VVA, provide information to veterans and interact with veterans; we would need permission from the VA and seek volunteers from Chapter; to be discussed at the next meeting.

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### Good of the Order

- Milt encouraged each Chapter to invite a non-Council member from their Chapter to attend a future Council meeting; there are three Council meetings remaining before the June 2020 election; it is important that we continue to have sufficient participation by each Chapter at the Council level, and select members should be introduced to Council activities to encourage their involvement;
- Lee White, President of the State Council, formally hand-in his resignation letter to council members. Per the Colorado State Council By-Laws, Article IV, Membership, Section 3 Vacancies, and Article VI State Council Officers, Section 3, Election, Term and Vacancies, such vacancy shall immediately be filled by the first alternate; therefore, the First Vice President, Stan Paprocki, is next in line for the Presidency; based on the defined succession process, Stan Paprocki is the new State Council President, effective this date, and until elections are held at the June, 2020 meeting; current Second Vice President, David Lyons, assumes the position of First Vice President until the June 2020 election; the position of Second Vice President will remain vacant; no objections were made by Council Delegates;
- Lee White was awarded a recognition plaque for his leadership role as past State Council President for the past three-years by Council Delegates; thank you for your service!

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

The meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections at 1440 hour by Past President Lee White.

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

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*Circulation Notice: These minutes may contain sensitive and/or personal information; therefore, please use discretion when sharing this information with non-VVA members.*