



**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Colorado State Council**

**Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: June 11, 2022 Scheduled Start Time: 1:00 PM  
Meeting Location: Philip S. Miller Library, 100 S. Wilcox St. Castle Rock, CO 80104

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Meeting Location: Library Conference Room

Meeting called to order by President Stan Paprocki at 1:02 PM

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

**Invocation:** Trini Rael

**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), Thomas Dowell (Second Vice President), David Ramey (Treasurer), Milt Omoto (Secretary), Larry Peterson (Voting Delegate 1075)

**Absences:** Leonard Smith (Voting Delegate 1071), Joe Plant (Voting Delegate 1106)

**New Members/Guests:** Dick Southern (Region 9 Director), Trinidad (Trini) Rael (VP Chapter 1071); Remote (on-line): Tony Nickerson (Chapter 1106)

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

**Questions on Prior Meeting Minutes.** The March 12, 2022, State Council meeting minutes were emailed to each Council member. An edited version is also posted to the Council website.

- There were no questions regarding the minutes and no corrections
- The March 2022 State Council meeting minutes were accepted as submitted

**Region 9 Report: Dick Southern**

- HGDP report was issued by VVA National on June 6, 2022; the HGDP funds to the California State Council were cut in half; David Ramey will check with Debora at National to learn the status for Colorado;

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- Seminars for the National Leadership conference have been submitted; view on-line at the VVA Conference Website; note that it is getting expensive to travel;
- Membership Affairs: VVA now has a total of 89,500 regular members; Committee Chairman Dick Southern would like to hit the 90,000 mark by Leadership; while we continue to lose members, we are gaining more, a net overall increase; Nichole Kennedy is leading National membership activities;
- Tom Powell is the new VVA financial lead;
- Veterans Day 2022: this year will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wall; VVA is planning activities, ceremonies, and receptions; they would like a VVA color guard from every State to attend; expenses will be paid by National;
- Friday, Veterans Day, will have events at the Wall; need to plan for eight days total if attending.

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

- David reviewed the State Council treasurer's report for May
- David also prepared the FY 2022/23 Council Budget; however, the HGDP monthly income amount may get modified once he gets an update from National.

### **Expenses Against the Council: David Ramey**

- The cost for the accountant to prepare the IRS Form 990-EZ for 2022 was \$125;
- The next Veterans Community Living Center donation of \$500 will go to the Florence Veterans Community Living Center as part of the Council's quarterly support to Colorado Living Centers;
- Today's Council lunch was paid by an anonymous restaurant guest; we provided a \$30 tip.

### **Reading of Communications: Milt Omoto**

- Letter to Bruce McCandless at the Florence Community Living Center for the State Council's quarterly donation was read;
- A thank you letter from Mr. John Horan, Chair of the National Hmong Memorial Foundation for the Council's donation was read;

### **Member Sickness and Distress**

Chapter 1071: Please continue to pray for Chaplain John and for Council member Leonard Smith for their recovery; Trini reported the good news that his daughter-in-law has a final chemotherapy treatment to take;

Chapter 1075: Tom reported that his latest neurological assessment may indicate early Parkinson's; his next evaluation is June 30<sup>th</sup>; please pray for him;

Chapter 1106: Please pray for Joe Plant who is recovering from an illness and for his wife Dora who fell and injured her head; please continue to pray for Cookie Lee.

### **Chapter Activity Reports**

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### Chapter 1071 (Trini Rael)

- Trini reported that the Chapter held it's Memorial Day weekend Poppy Drive at four King Soopers stores and collected \$4,610;
- Scholarships were awarded to five students for a total of \$18,000; winners will present their essays at Chapter meetings;
- The Chapter is working on their next Honors Burial; date not yet established.

### Chapter 1075 (Tom Dowell)

- Tom reported that the Chapter held their elections; Tom will continue as the Chapter President; Leroy Trusty is the new Vice President and David Ramey continues as the Treasurer;
- The Chapter awarded two \$2,000 scholarships this year; they will be presented at the June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting;
- The Chapter will participate in this year's Fourth of July Parade in Monument; it is expected to draw over 100,000 attendees;
- This year's Standdown is planned for October 22<sup>nd</sup>;
- The Chapter will be sending their newly elected Vice President and Secretary to the National Leadership Conference;
- Two Chapter members were selected for the Colorado Honors Flight;
- The Chapter provides free Life-Time VVA membership to those joining between June and November; they gain new members as a result;
- The Chapter will be moving to a new location for their monthly meetings;
- Tom reported that information to start a new Chapter in Alamosa was presented at a meeting that drew seven attendees; they have until July 27<sup>th</sup> to find the fifteen interested members and submit paperwork; they are confident they can get the required members.

### Chapter 1106 (David Lyons)

- Chapter elections were held at the April Chapter meeting; David Lyons is the President, Milt Omoto Vice President, Clarence Rebolledo Secretary and Mike Huber Treasurer;
- Quilts of Valor presented quilts to nine members at the June meeting;
- The Chapter's Memorial Day weekend Poppy Drive on May 28<sup>th</sup> was held at five King Soopers stores; \$7,635 was collected;
- The Chapter will participate in this year's Highlands Ranch Fourth of July Parade;
- The Chapter is currently meeting at the Cherry Hills School District Freemont building; a contract was signed with the South Metro Denver Fire and Rescue Headquarters for the 2023 year.

### **Unfinished Business**

- The Council agreed at the March 12 meeting to change Council meetings from four to three annually; this requires a change to the Colorado State Council By-Laws; Article V, Section 3; A motion was made to enable this change; the motion was approved (see Motion 2, below).

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### New Business

- Per Article V Meetings of the State Council, Section 3 Bi-Annual Election Meeting, the Colorado State Council conducted its election; Trini Rael served as the Election Chairman; candidate Tony Nickerson attended virtually on the phone; Leonard and Joe were absent; the Council had a quorum for the election;
- At the recommendation of David Ramey, a progression check was made prior to the election; each current Officer was asked whether they would be interested in running as Council President; no one accepted; there were no additional nominations from the floor;
- The following were elected as State Council Officers and Delegates for a two-year term:
  - President: Tony Nickerson
  - First Vice President: David Lyons
  - Second Vice President: Thomas Dowell
  - Treasurer: David Ramey
  - Secretary: Milton Omoto
  - Chapter 1071 Voting Delegate: Leonard Smith
  - Chapter 1075 Voting Delegate: Larry Peterson
  - Chapter 1106 Voting Delegate: Joe Plant
- Milt will prepare the VVA Election Report and submit it to VVA National;
- Per Dick Southern's recommendation, swearing in of Council members will be held at the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting;
- Tony Nickerson was encouraged to attend the August National Leadership Conference; the State Council will pay for expenses as there is no State Council President's meeting at the Conference, so National will not pay.

### Motions

**Motion 1.** Motion to accept the May 2022 Treasurer's report was made by Stan Paprocki and second by Dave Lyons; the Treasurer's report was accepted by the Council.

**Motion 2.** Motion to Amend the Colorado State Council By-Laws, Article V Meetings of the State Council, Section 1 Regular Meetings, from four (4) annual meetings to three (3) made by David Lyons and second by Trini Rael; the motion was approved; the By-Laws will be revised and distributed to Council members.

**Motion 3.** Motion to prepare a check in advance to pay for the Council's PO Box which is due in August was made by Treasurer David to enable Stan to sign today since we will not meet until October; second by Milt; the Council approved the motion.

**Motion 4.** Motion for the Council to donate \$2,000 to the Honor Bell Foundation made by David Ramey and second by David Lyons; the Council approved the donation.

### Good of the Order

- Dick Southern reported that he now has a copy of "The Paper Safe" in fillable PDF format and will share it with the Council; the document provides a way to consolidate all important information about veteran benefits and last wishes in one document;

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- Larry Peterson provided an update on the Honor Bell Foundation; they will have their 5,000<sup>th</sup> tolling at a service at Fort Logan; the Honor Bell is at the Pike’s Peak National Cemetery once a month; the Foundation continues with innovative fund-raising events;
- Milt reported that he will work with Renee, our Council webmaster, to update the website based on newly elected Officers.

**Closing Ceremony**

A closing prayer was provided by Trini Rael.

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**The Next Colorado State Council Meeting: October 8, 2022 @ 1300-hour, Castle Rock Library; note that we have the Conference Room for two hours (1:00PM to 3:00PM)**

The meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections at 2:27 PM by President Stan Paprocki.

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

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