



**Vietnam Veterans of America
Colorado State Council**

Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 8, 2022 Scheduled Start Time: 1:00 PM
Meeting Facility: Philip S. Miller Library, 100 S. Wilcox St. Castle Rock, CO 80104

Meeting Location: Library Conference Room

Meeting called to order by President Stan Paprocki at 1:07 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

Swearing In of Newly Elected Officers

Stan Paprocki, out-going Council President, conducted the swearing-in of newly elected State Council Officers. Upon completion of the ceremony, newly elected President Tony Nickerson conducted the meeting. A picture of the Council Officers for the swearing-in is posted on the State Council website.

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), Leonard Smith (Voting Delegate 1071)

Absences: 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 June 11, 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 June 11, 2022 State Council meeting minutes were accepted as submitted

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Region 9 Report: Dick Southern (Absent)

Treasurer's Report and HGDP Report: David Ramey

- Treasurer Dave reported on the September budget; the Council had income from HGDP, and expenses for disbursement of HGDP funds to each Chapter
- The Treasurer's report was approved by the Council
- The Council will purchase another fidelity bond from Hays Companies; National pays for part of the cost and the Council pays the balance for a \$25,000 liability 3-year premium;

Expenses Against the Council: David Ramey

- Fidelity bond purchase
- The next Veterans Community Living Center donation will go to the Aurora Veterans Community Living Center as part of the Council's quarterly support to Colorado Living Centers

Reading of Communications: Milt Omoto

- Letter to Melissa of the Aurora Community Living Center for the State Council's quarterly donation was read;
- A thank you letter from the VVA Kentucky State Council for the Council's \$2,000 donation for Western Kentucky Tornado Recover was read;

Member Sickness and Distress

Chapter 1071: Please continue to pray for Council member Leonard Smith for his continuing recovery;

Chapter 1075: Please pray for Manny Pedraza, Larry Mackenzie and James Kobelt for healing and comfort

Chapter 1106: Please pray for Patti Ehline's husband Dave who is still in the hospital, and for Joe Plant's recovery; please continue to pray for Cookie Lee.

Chapter Activity Reports

Chapter 1071 (Trini Rael)

- The Chapter received new members and associate members, they now total 259 membership
- The Chapter's webmaster reported 965 visits to their website; there are updated information and pictures of the Wall That Heals (Mead CO Aug 16-21), the Chapter BBQ Sept 10, 2022, and Green Mountain H. S. Flagpole Plaque (placed May 23, 2022); check out Chapter 1071's website at: <https://vva1071.org/index.html>
- Chapter members were honored at the Green Mt Military Appreciation Football Game held 10/6/2022
- The Chapter plans to award scholarships again
- They will conduct their Veterans Day weekend poppy drive at four King Soopers stores
- The Chapter donated to the Puerto Rico State Council and to the Florida State Council for hurricane recovery assistance; they also donated to Wreaths Across America

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- They will have a Quilts of Valor ceremony at their October 15th meeting
- The Elks Club provided a free breakfast to Board members at their meeting; their membership BBQ was also held at the Elks Lodge
- The West Metro Veterans Fair will be held October 20, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Elks Lakewood Lodge #1777.

Chapter 1075 (Tom Dowell)

- Tom reported that from June through December, the Chapter is active recruiting new members by paying for their Life Membership; they have 10 recent new members
- The Chapter awarded two scholarships this year
- They also received a donation from the family of a deceased veteran
- The Chapter has a redesigned website; check it out at: <https://www.vva1075.org/>
- The Chapter won an award for their float entered in this years Fourth of July parade in Monument
- Tom reported that information to start a new Chapter in Alamosa was presented at two separate meetings; the second meeting only had four attendees; Tom feels there is no interest in starting a VVA chapter there; the veterans there are more focused on local organization activities
- The Chapter will be holding monthly meetings at a new facility at the Skills Academy (1575 Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs)
- Newly elected Chapter officers were sworn in; Tom Dowell, President, LeRoy Trusty, VP, George Meriam, Secretary, David Ramey, Treasurer
- The Chapter submitted a proposal for a time capsule that contains a box with Chapter items that will be uncovered in the year 2044
- The El Paso County Standdown will be held October 18th; homeless veterans are vetted then escorted by a military volunteer; there are 102 stages for various services and items for the veteran
- The Chapter will enter the Colorado Springs Veterans Day parade with their float; there will typically be 152 entries
- The Chapter's Holiday lunch will be held December 17 at the Red Lobster restaurant
- The Chapter donated to Puerto Rico, to Florida and to Kentucky VVA State Councils for disaster assistance relief
- The Chapter handed out copies of the Paper Safe as well as sent the electronic PDF fillable version to each member; they will follow-up with members.

Chapter 1106 (David Lyons)

- The Chapter awarded three scholarships this year; awardees were invited to a Chapter meeting to read their essays
- The Chapter's speaker's bureau is active with engagements at various Cherry Creek School District schools
- The Chapter's Summer picnic was held in August
- The Chapter will conduct their Veterans Day weekend poppy drive at five King Sooper stores on November 12th

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- The Chapter will participate in various Veterans Day events including Ben Franklin Academy and Wind Crest retirement home
- The Cherry Creek School District's military annual military and veteran appreciation community celebration and football game was held October 1st; Legacy Stadium in Aurora; it was well attended
- The Chapter's end of year Holiday lunch will be held December 10th at Maggiano's restaurant in Centennial
- The Chapter has established a Memorial Committee to assist members and spouses to plan for end of life; the Chapter has a page on their website that contains important information on legacy planning: <https://www.vva1106.org/> go to "Home" then "Plan Your Legacy."

Unfinished Business

- HGDP Report (Dave Ramey): Each Chapter Treasurer shall complete their HGDP report of how funds were spent; these reports are due before the March 2023 Council meeting; send to Dave Ramey; the final HGDP report for Colorado is due to VVA National by the end of March.

New Business

- VVA 2022 Leadership Conference Report (Tony Nickerson): Tony provided a recap of this year's Leadership Conference, held August 9 to 13 in Greenville South Carolina; Tony reported that this year's conference was perhaps the best in the last ten years, according to attendees, which numbered over 300; the keynote speaker was retired Marine Corps General Walter Gaskin; U-Haul and Lowe's Companies received the President's Award for supporting veterans; Diane Carlson Evans who lead the effort to build the National Vietnam Woman's Memorial received the Lifetime Achievement Award; the proposal to revise VVA's name to "Veteran Voices of America was presented and discussed;
- Erwin Dreiling Estate Funds Disbursement Chapter Reports (Milt): Report templates will be sent to each Chapter Treasurer for completion by the end of the year; Milt will then compile all reports along with the State Council report and submit to James Dreiling, the estate executor; (*note: received completed report from Chapter 1075*)
- Fidelity Bond (Tony, Dave): The Council will purchase a 3-year policy Fidelity Bond from Hays Companies; effective this month;
- Credit Card for Maintaining State Council Website (Tony and Dave): Tony raised the issue of Stan having to use Chapter 1071's credit card to pay for the cost to maintain the Council's website; Dave explained that the web service company is located in Israel and will only accept credit card payments; Tony stated that the Council should have its own credit card; Dave disagreed, indicating that there is no need for the Council to have such; Dave stated that VVA National is the one that set-up the Council's website provider; Tony to discuss this with National to see if a US web service supplier can be used;
- Current Mileage Expense for Council Business per IRS Guidelines (Tony and Dave): Tony raised the issue that mileage reimbursement for Council member travel should be the IRS business travel amount; the current rate authorized by the Council is 50-cents per mile; VVA National uses 52.5-cents per mile and IRS guidelines use 62.5-cents per mile; the Council reimburses mileage for Chapter 1075 members to travel to Council meetings due to the distance (they carpool); other than that, there are rarely any mileage expenses incurred by

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the Council; after much discussion, it was agreed to leave Council mileage reimbursement at 50-cents per mile.

Motions

Motion 1. Motion to accept the September 2022 Treasurer’s report was made by Tony Nickerson and second by Milt Omoto; the Treasurer’s report was accepted by the Council.

Good of the Order

- Stan reported that the VVA membership application has changed; the eligibility date has been revised to accept an entry date as early as: November 1, 1955; the new application can be found on National’s website; the AVVA membership application form has also been revised; Life membership now cost \$100.00;
- Milt stated that Council meetings for the 2023 year will be March 11, June 10 and October 14; Dave Lyons will secure conference rooms for these dates with the Castle Rock Library;
- Tony distributed a sample member satisfaction survey and asked if Chapters seek feedback from members; Tom stated that Chapter 1075 does; for example, some of his members requested rather than a 9:00 AM meeting start, that the Chapter have a coffee social from 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM, then start the meeting; they will consider this; Dave reported that 1106 has coffee available from 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM for members to socialize, then the meeting starts; there is also time after the meeting for socialization; the Chapter also conducts “Buddy Calls” to each member as a way to stay in touch; Tom also reported that he sends out cards for birthdays, anniversaries and other special events to their members at his own person cost; members greatly appreciate this;
- Tom reported that Chapter 1075 member Larry Peterson volunteers with the Honor Bell; the Chapter made a show of force whenever the Honor Bell tolled at the Pikes Peak National Cemetery; Tom will inform each Chapter whenever the Honor Bell will be at the cemetery; Note: Pictures are also posted on Chapter 1075’s website.

Closing Ceremony

A closing prayer was provided by Trini Rael.

The Next Colorado State Council Meeting: March 11, 2023 @ 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 2:58 PM by President Tony Nickerson.

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

Published 10/11/2022

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.