



**Vietnam Veterans of America
Colorado State Council**

Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 9, 2024 Scheduled Start Time: 1:00 PM
Meeting Facility: Public library in Castle Pines, Colorado, 360 Village Square Ln.

Meeting Location: Library Conference Room

Meeting called to order by First President Dave Lyons at 12:28 PM

Pledge of Allegiance: Dave Lyons (lead)

Invocation: Trini Rael

Moment of Silence (for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and for those still POW/MIA): Dave Lyons

Roll Call of Officers and Chapter Delegates Present: Stan Paprocki (Immediate Past President), David Lyons (First Vice President), Thomas Dowell (Second Vice President), David Ramey (Treasurer), Milt Omoto (Secretary), Larry Peterson (Voting Delegate 1075)

Absences: Tony Nickerson (President), Leonard Smith (Voting Delegate 1071), Joe Plant (Voting Delegate 1106)

Declaration of Principles: Tom Dowell (read)

Questions on Prior Meeting Minutes. The October 14, 2023 State Council meeting minutes were emailed to each Council member. An edited version is also posted to the Council website. June 10, 2023 meeting minutes corrections:

- (a) Page 3, Chapter 1075 report, changed \$20 to \$50 for each memorial brick at Fort Carson
- The Minutes were approved by declaration of the Council

Introduction of New Members/Visitors/Guests: Dick Southern (Region 9 Director), Trinidad (Trini) Rael (VP Chapter 1071); Doug Nunes (Director, Speakers Bureau Chapter 1071), James Ramirez (Chapter 1075), John Vargas (Board Member Chapter 1106)

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Region 9 Report: (Dick Southern)

- Our Region 9 Director has been busy attending State Council meetings, the Conference of State Council Presidents, Board of Directors meetings, and Chapter meetings; his Chapter has 608 members; he spent Memorial Day at the Mall in Washinton DC
- The 2024 VVA National Leadership Conference is scheduled for Reno, NV; August 20 – 24, 2024
- National has a new Finance Director that cut a 100+ page budget down to 31 pages; he is reported to be a “get things done” person; a significant change for Region Director travel funding is the establishment of a “funding silo” where Region Directors have access to needed funds depending on their specific Region support needs that varies by Region
- The next Council of State Council Presidents is April 18, 2024 in Silver Spring MD; Dave Lyons will attend

Treasurer’s Report and HGDP Report: David Ramey

- Treasurer Dave Ramey reported on the February 2024 budget; Dave reported on the month’s income and disbursement activites
- Dave Ramey asked about the FY2024/25 HGDP amount; Dick stated that the contractors will meet in March, and a decision by National’s Board will be made in April; we will find out then
- Dave reported that there were several HGDP payments missing; he followed up with National and will continue to monitor the account to determine receipt
- The annual financial report is due to National; Dave will submit
- HGDP reports are due end of April; all Chapters must submit their report to Dave so he can compile the report

Expenses Against the Council: David Ramey

- Today’s Council lunch

Reading of Communications: Milt Omoto

- None

Member Sickness and Distress

Chapter 1071: Stan requested prayers for two members who are undergoing chemotherapy; Trini loss his brother in December

Chapter 1075: Tom requested prayer for a member in hospice care, and for Manny Pedraza who’s health is failing

Chapter 1106: Dave requested prayers for Tony Nickerson who underwent a major surgery and will be in recovery for several weeks; also a member who just had a quadruple bypass; the Chapter loss three members so far this year

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Chapter Activity Reports

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

- The chapter is providing assistance to the Elks Club's Robinson House, a 15-room facility for homeless veterans; Chapter members provide furniture, appliances, etc.; the facility is located at Wadsworth and Colfax
- The Chapter also supports Recovery Works, a facility in Lakewood that also provides shelter for homeless with an emphasis on veterans
- Their March speaker will feature George A. Zervos, Chapter 1071 member, who will talk about his experience as an Army Aerial Surveillance Officer with the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (Aerial Reconnaissance Support), in Vietnam from 1967-1968
- The Chapter's newsletter is posted on their website:
https://www.vva1071.org/uploads/3/4/4/6/34460116/newsletter_volume_1_issue_6_october_9.pdf
- Quilts of Valor presented 12 quilts to members at their February meeting
- The Chapter has a total of 278 members
- The Chapter will conduct an Honors Burial at Fort Logan on April 16 and April 30; Chapter members have been working with a local mortuary to identify unclaimed cremains of military veterans; they identified 26; the Chapter has identified 130 unclaimed cremains over the years
- The Chapter will conduct Poppy Drives at six King Sooper stores in May

Chapter 1075 (Tom Dowell)

- Since 2021, the Chapter has a program to provide free membership to new members; from June through December, they acquired 47 new members; from June 2023 through February 2024, they have 53 new members
- The Chapter sets up a table at the VA to explain VVA and recruit new members; 16 of the 53 recent new members came in this way; the Chapter does this twice a month
- The Chapter raised funds for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the front gate of Fort Carson; memorial bricks cost \$50; they also buried a time capsule that will be opened in 2044 that contain artifacts of Vietnam veterans
- Chapter members participated in the Veterans Day parade and Wreaths Across America
- Their Christmas lunch drew 53 attendees
- Monthly attendance at Chapter meeting average 32 to 51
- Chapter members are active with the Honor Bell at the Colorado Springs National Cemetery
- The Colorado Springs Gazette newspaper featured articles on the Honor Bell and Chapter President Tom Dowell
- The Chapter donated to the Southern Colorado Honors Flight
- The Chapter features a member to present their bio every fourth month; Larry Peterson did the first
- The Chapter will be at the Colorado Springs National Cemetery on Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29th along with the Honor Bell

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Chapter 1106 (David Lyons)

- Quilts of Valor will be presenting quilts at the Chapter's June meeting; so far they have presented a total of 86 quilts to Chapter members
- The Chapter is working with the Eastern Colorado Veterans Administration Health Center to setup a Chapter table to explain VVA and the household goods program
- The Chapter's membership is at 251 total
- Veterans Day 2023 weekend Poppy Drive was conducted at four King Soopers locations
- We also did a Veterans Day fund raiser at Texas Roadhouse in Parker
- Holiday Lunch was held at Maggiano's restaurant in December; a great success with 100 attendees; awards were presented
- February membership meeting was cancelled / changed to on-line due to snow
- We continue to loose members due to passing
- Our Color Guard remains active at many veterans and public events
- A special Board meeting was held in February to map out the Chapter's plans for the next seven years and review FY2024/25 finances; plans for the coming year
- We will again host the Central Colorado Corvette Club at our May 4th meeting; everyone is invited
- Poppy drive Memorial Day weekend at three double-door King Soopers; they do much better than single door stores
- The Chapter will be awarding five scholarships this year
- The Chapter awarded The Chapel of Four Chaplains bronze medal to our Chaplain, Garry Turks at the January membership meeting; this is a very prestigious award to Chaplains that serve beyond their call to duty

Unfinished Business

- No unfinished business was carried over from prior meetings.

New Business

- Reservations have been secured for our June 8th State Council meeting; however, all library facilities are not available for our October 12th meeting; Dave will continue to investigate alternative facilities
- Tom stated that he can get special personalized challenge coins for \$6 each; Tom also reported that on May 2nd, he and his wife will be departing for a tour of Cambodia and Vietnam
- The State Council's election will be conducted at the June 8th meeting; the slate of candidates are as follows:
 - President: Dave Lyons
 - First VP: Tom Dowell
 - Second VP: Milt Omoto
 - Treasurer: David Ramey
 - Secretary: Doug Nunes
 - Voting Delegate Chapter 1071: Trini Rael (Council Chaplain)

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- Voting Delegate Chapter 1075: Larry Peterson
- Voting Delegate Chapter 1106: John Vargas
- Trini Rael will also serve as our Elections Chairman

Motions

None made.

Good of the Order

- Dick reported that the Life Member Rebate account will be disbursed to State Councils and Chapters this year; \$9/member to Chapters, \$2/member to State Councils; At-Large member rebates are \$11/member; payment most likely in May; this is the last year for Member Rebates
- Larry reported that Chris Boyer is no longer with the Honor Bell Foundation; he is now commander of the VFW post in Castle Rock; the 2024 Welcome Home Celebration is Saturday, March 23, 2024, 12:00 PM 3:30 PM, Fraternal Order of Eagles in Castle Rock; the Honor Bell will be at the Colorado Springs National Cemetery on March 29th, Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Closing Ceremony

A closing prayer provided by Trini Rael.

The Next Colorado State Council Meeting: June 8, 2024 @ 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 1:56 PM by First Vice President Dave Lyons.

This Colorado State Council Meeting minutes submitted by: Milt Omoto, 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. This is the web version of the minutes posted to the State Council's web site..