



Colorado State Council

Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: December 9, 2017 Start Time: 1:00 PM
Meeting Location: Philip S. Miller Library, 100 S. Wilcox St. Castle Rock, CO 80104

Meeting called to order by President Lee White at 1253 hour.

Invocation: Terry Ritenour (VP Chapter 1071)

Pledge of Allegiance: Lee White

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

Roll Call of Officers Present: Lee White (President), Manuel Pedraza (First Vice President), Stan Paprocki (Second Vice President), David Ramey (Treasurer), Milt Omoto (Secretary)

Absences: Joe Plant (Chaplain)

Chapter Delegates, Representatives and Members: David Lyons (Delegate, 1106)

Guests: Terry Ritenour (1071), Dick Southern, Region 9 Director

Reading of Declaration of Principles: Manuel Pedraza; **Reading of Mission Statement:** Stan Paprocki

Meeting minutes from the September 9, 2017 Colorado State Council meeting. Minutes approved without modification.

Member Sickness and Distress: Dan Dietz (1071) has at home hospice care; Al Roettger (1071) has been in the hospital for the last 3-weeks (Porter Hospital, Denver); Larry Peterson (1075) is ill; Joe Plant (1106) is at home ill.

Region 9 Report by Dick Southern, Director Region 9

- a) Next leadership meeting is scheduled for July 2018 in Palm Springs
- b) National State Council President's Conference is scheduled for January 11-14, 2018, Silver Spring, MD
- c) Dick recently completed a 3-week trip to the Philippines and Guam to meet with VVA chapters there
- d) Honors Life Member recognition: purpose is to recognize someone (who is not eligible to be a member) for outstanding service to the VVA; the form can be found on-line and must be submitted 30-days prior to a National Board of Directors Meeting (where the person is recognized with a certificate); this includes Associate members; a suggestion was to submit Representative Mike Coffman's name;
- e) Elections for 2018: Chapter elections by April and State Council by June
- f) Dick stated there are 30 VVA chapters in California
- g) Dick recognized Chapter 1075's videos posted on their Facebook site that are well done; they include one on Suzanne Sigona at the "Wall" in Washington DC; the Chapter's website is www.vva1075.com

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- h) Dick provided a quick update on California wild fires: the fires are all in Southern California and does not impact where he lives in Sonora; the former Santa Rosa fire was close; the Rim fire impacted mostly forest land; California provides grants for select communities to establish a community center that can serve as an emergency shelter in times of need; a \$10M grant was awarded to Sonora
- i) Dates for 2018 Colorado State Chapter meetings are: March 10, June 9, September 8 and December 8
- j) There have been no communications from the two working groups on the future of the VVA; a status report may be provided at the 2019 National Conference in Spokane
- k) California Chapter 223 was provided funds from the effect of the wild fires; National sent them \$5,000; Dick reported that no other California Chapters requested assistance
- l) Dick requested inputs from each Chapter on items he can include in the next Region 9 article for the National Veterans publication; in 4-weeks he must submit the article; he will report on Chapter 1071 Cremation Remains Honor Burial Program; send items to Dick (email: dsouthern@vva.org)

Treasurer's Report: David Ramey

As of November 30, 2017:

Income:	\$ 2,629 (HGDP for November)
Expenses:	\$ \$658 (HGDP disbursements to each of three Chapters)
Account Balance:	\$ 19,320.35

Additional expenses include \$58 for a plaque and \$175 for today's Council lunch.

HGDP reports from each chapter are due at the March 2018 Council meeting; each chapter is responsible for reporting on their HGDP receipts (\$3,945) for the period September 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018; the HGDP report is due to National in April; a new HGDP contract will be established in February 2018.

Please continue to promote VVA household goods program and pickups in your community.

Reading of Communications: none

Chapter Activity Reports

- a) Chapter 1071 (Stan Paprocki, President and Terry Ritenour, Vice President)
 - The chapter manned four King Soopers stores during the Veterans Day poppy drive and raised a total of \$7,000; chapter members also visited local schools to talk about the Viet Nam War experience;
 - The chapter is having success with the King Soopers Reward card program; they raised \$530 in the last 8-weeks; for every \$5,000 spent, the chapter will receive \$500; Stan stated that there is minimum maintenance overhead, but that members must be reminded to continually re-load their card prior to spending
 - The chapter continues with the Honors Burial program, with the next burial planned for March/April 2018; an article about the program will be sent to the Veteran magazine
 - There is now a total of 184 members (regular and Associate)
 - The chapter's scholarship program will award a single \$6,000 scholarship next year
 - They made donations to VVA chapters in need in Santa Rosa, Florida, Texas and Puerto Rico of \$1,000 each
 - Chapter attendees to the annual VFW banquet held at the Brown Palace had an opportunity to promote VVA
 - Terry reported on the chapter's support of the Veterans Treatment Court in Jefferson County; three members meet every Tuesday, arriving early to interact with the veterans in the program and before the court begins; they serve as mentors to these veterans; a Mentor's Guideline handbook is being prepared; many of the veterans of the court are younger, and it takes time to establish trust with them; these veterans are on probation and must attend treatment as part of their responsibilities; there are successes, including a homeless veteran who successfully completed the program and was provided \$30,000 in back VA benefits; these veterans report weekly to the court and tell the judge their status, next goals, etc.; these veterans need support once they are released; mentors need to commit to the program, weekly 10:00AM to Noon Tuesdays; there is a graduation ceremony provided; there are four phases to complete the program and it may take 2 or more years to complete; 1071 chapter member Bruce

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Gottschulk is coordinator; those wishing to be mentors must complete an application and a successful background check

- On another note, a “Veterans Pad” was established for Jefferson County correctional facility where veterans are physically in one area, with guards in this area who are also veterans; a library was started by mentors;
- The chapter will investigate qualifications for VVA’s Incarcerated Veteran of the Year, a recognition made at the National Convention

b) Chapter 1075 (Manuel Pedraza, President)

- The chapter supported and participated in this year’s Veterans Stand down in Colorado Springs; the event is sponsored by the El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition with support from all veteran groups; volunteers included doctors that provide free medical exams, dentists, the Veterans Administration, etc. the chapter handed out clothing and hygiene kits that they made up; chapter members volunteered for the event; homeless veterans are verified on-line when they enter; each veteran is escorted through the facility; the Chapter has supported this event annually; The chapter also fed 30 veterans as part of the stand down providing a catered dinner
- Manuel spoke at a military academy school (K through 8) on the Vietnam War experience
- The chapter had a holiday drawing, raffling out gifts and earned \$145
- The chapter made a book drop off to Landmark High School, a facility that deals with problem students; the chapter collected and provided over 100 books
- Their chapter guest speaker was Suzanne Sigona who spoke on the “Wall”
- David Ramey talked about the new Pikes Peak National Cemetery in El Paso County that just broke ground; the cemetery will begin to receive veterans for burial by October 2018; Dave and Tom are planning a wreath laying ceremony for next Saturday (December 16) and will coordinate getting other veteran organizations and the media to be present; American Legion Post 209 is leading an effort for an Honors Guard for burial ceremonies

c) Chapter 1106 (Lee White, President)

- The chapter’s Veterans Day poppy drive was held at three King Soopers with a total of \$2700 collected
- Chapter members participated in the annual Castle View High School breakfast honoring veterans on December 9
- The Speakers Bureau has a new brochure; the Scholarship Committee is planning to award four \$1500 scholarships for 2018
- The chapter’s annual Holiday Lunch is scheduled for December 16th and expects 40 to 50 to attend
- A new Social Committee was formed to plan chapter social events
- Chapter members participated at the Ben Franklin Academy’s Veterans Day event
- Chapter members attended the 23rd annual Veterans Salute held on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum; the chapter purchased a table
- Members attended the WWII Aviation Museum in Colorado Springs
- The chapter has a total of 114 members (regular and Associates)
- Dave Lyons continue to call chapter members
- An article about the chapter’s trip to Soldier Stone was featured in the recent Veterans magazine

Old Business (Lee White)

1. Establishment of New Colorado Chapters. Lee White, Tom Werzyn and Thomas Dowell attended a meeting of the Pueblo Veterans Council on December 5; the team had 15-minutes to present “Why Start a VVA Chapter in Pueblo;” they received a good reception; the group is mixed with members ranging from WWII to current veterans; results of the meeting are to be determined; Lee will also contact the new VFW State Commander for an opportunity to present at a meeting in Loveland; Lee stated that in addition, there is an informal group of veterans that meet every Saturday at a Golden Corral in Loveland; this may be an opportunity to present the idea of starting a VVA chapter in Loveland;

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2. Stan discussed his attendance at the Council of State Presidents on October 18 to 21; he stated the value of meeting VVA National officers, view the operations of National, attended five committee meetings and met other State Council Presidents; he was impressed by the PTSD/Substance Abuse Committee;

New Business

- a) Stan brought up the topic of starting VVA chapters in Colorado prisons; it was discussed that it is difficult to do in Colorado with each prison having their own requirements; Dick stated that you need committed volunteers to make this program successful;
- b) Lee will be attending the State Council Presidents Conference January 11-14, 2018
- c) The Castle Rock Library meeting room for Council meetings has been reserved for 2018 for State Council meetings
- d) Manuel suggested a Colorado State VVA meeting in June, 2018, a one-day event that would focus on Agent Orange, PTSD, etc. There would also be an evening event; he is searching for a venue; it was suggested that the topic seems more like a town hall meeting.

Good of the Order

- a) Dave Lyon reported on the article in a recent VVA Web Weekly on Liver Fluke, a waterborne parasite that causes liver problems; if you want to be tested, you must specify this to your primary care physician; there is no cure currently available
- b) Terry reported that Senator Bennett's office provided Certificate of Accomplishments to graduates of the Veterans Treatment Court
- c) David Ramey stated that Chapter 1071 sent funds to three VVA chapter in Puerto Rico; David also suggested that the Council should consider shirts for officers and voting delegates
- d) Manuel suggested that chapters conduct a special poppy drive and provide collected funds to the State Council; Lee stated that the Council currently has sufficient operating funds;
- e) Milt reminded Council members to support Bob Rotruck, webmaster for the Council's web site by providing fresh pictures, articles and calendar events to keep the website current; the website URL is: www.vvacostatecouncil.org

Next Colorado State Council Meeting: March 10, 2018 @ 1300, Castle Rock Library

The meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections at 1444 hour by President Lee White.

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

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