



**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Colorado State Council**

**Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: October 14, 2023 Scheduled Start Time: 1:00 PM  
Meeting Facility: Public library in Castle Pines, Colorado, 360 Village Square Ln.

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Meeting Location: Library Conference Room

Meeting called to order by President Tony Nickerson at 12:52 PM

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Tony Nickerson (lead)

**Invocation:** Trini Rael

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

**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), 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); Doug Nunes (Director, Speakers Bureau Chapter 1071)

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

**Questions on Prior Meeting Minutes.** The June 10, 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 2, under "Member Sickness and Distress," Chapter 1075, corrected Terry Mikesell (was Tom Nicksell), failing kidney
  - (b). Page 3, under "Chapter 1075 Chapter Activity Report", corrected to "On May 29th, Channel 5 featured a 2:24 minute segment on the Honor Bell"
- The Minutes were approved by declaration of the Council

## Colorado State Council

### Introduction of New Members/Visitors/Guests: Dick Southern (Region 9 Director)

#### Region 9 Report: (Dick Southern)

- The VVA 2023 Convention was good and well attended with 705 attending; hotel accommodations were good; delegates voted to change the 2028 end date to “T.B.D.” for the proposed end date for VVA; Dick, as Membership Chairman, stated that with the current membership level and new member activity, we will most likely continue for the next 10-years; the end date will more likely depend on a “last dollar” strategy and funds begin to dwindle over time; VVA ends when income ends;
- Dick was reelected as Region 9 Director; this is his ninth term and has served for 17-years in this capacity; Wayne Renolds was elected as Treasurer for National
- The National Board of Director’s meeting is October 20-21 in Silver Spring MD
- VVA will have a tent at the Washington DC Wall mall during Veterans Day weekend
- Next year’s Leadership Conference will be held in Reno, NV in August; they expect about 300 attendees
- The next Convention will be held in New Orleans in 2025
- Current VVA membership is over 91,000; we are losing less members through death and gaining 200-300 new members per month, so experiencing a net growth in membership
- A Committee was established to look into and plan for dissolving VVA assets at end of life
- Some of the VVA committees are being assessed to determine whether they should continue (Veterans’ Health, Homeless Veterans, etc.)
- VVA’s General Council serves full time and can practice in both MD and NY, and so can address dissolution plans and asset allocation requirements for the State of New York
- There are 10,005 AVVA members and 714 dual members; AVVA is growing; dual members get to vote in both organizations
- Currently there are 88 suspended Chapters and 606 total Chapters (numbers prior to the Convention)

#### Treasurer’s Report and HGDP Report: David Ramey

- Treasurer Dave Ramey reported on the September 2023 budget; he reported on the income and expenses for the Council

#### Expenses Against the Council: David Ramey

- The next Veterans Community Living Center donation of \$500 will go to the Veterans Community Living Center in Homelake as part of the Council’s quarterly support to Colorado Living Centers
- Today’s Council lunch cost \$220.

#### Reading of Communications: Milt Omoto

- Letter to Ms. Self of the Veterans Community Center in Homelake CO was read by Milt Omoto

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### Member Sickness and Distress

Chapter 1071: Stan requested prayers for Leonard Smith, and the Chapter's Chaplain; prayer request for Trini's brother-in-law

Chapter 1075: Tom requested prayer for Paul Kortenhoeven who has terminal cancer; for Charles Dietz who is ill and whose wife recently passed away;

Chapter 1106: Dave requested prayers for Carl Sanchez who is hospitalized with pneumonia and Joe Plant who is recovering from a back procedure.

### Chapter Activity Reports

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

- The Chapter conducted a clothing drive for veterans
- The Chapter held their July meeting at Wings Over the Rockies
- Trini reported that the West Metro Veterans Fair was held on October 5<sup>th</sup>; the Chapter had a presence there
- A donation was made to the Loveland Veterans Plaza
- Their September meeting guest speaker was COL Clifford A. Porter, MD, Combat Surgeon. Dr. Porter has served various combat tours of duty in Kosovo, and Afghanistan (twice)
- Their October meeting will feature SSGT CJ Climp, of the Colorado National Guard, will share the history of the Chinook Helicopter, CH-47
- 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](https://www.vva1071.org/uploads/3/4/4/6/34460116/newsletter_volume_1_issue_6_october_9.pdf)
- Note: Doug mentioned that Chapters should share their newsletter with each other
- The Chapter will have tables at six King Soopers for their Veterans Day Poppy Drive
- Their ex-Treasurer (John Pascente) won the 2023 St. Jude Dream Home
- The Chapter's program to speak at high schools continues with 28 high schools and two Junor Colleges

#### Chapter 1075 (Tom Dowell)

- Tom reported that since last May, the Chapter participated in 17 Honor Bell burials at the Pikes Peak National Cemetery; the organization provided the appropriate dress for volunteers
- This is the third year that the Chapter is conducting a new member drive; between June to September, the Chapter recruited 31 new members; the Chapter sets up a recruiting desk at the Colorado Springs VA twice monthly
- The Chapter had a third participant going on the Honor Flight
- The Chapter assists in the El Paso Standdown; the Chapter purchased 100 jackets to give to those in need
- The Chapter arranged a Vietnam Veterans memorial at Ft Carson; memorial bricks cost \$50 with the Vietnam veteran's name engraved

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- Tom also reported that Chapter members will help at the Colorado Springs Skills Academy, where they hold Chapter meetings, by assisting disabled children at an event that evening
- The Chapter will enter their float in this year's Veterans Day Parade in Colorado Springs

### Chapter 1106 (David Lyons)

- The Chapter awarded six \$2,000 scholarships to graduating high school students
- Dave attended the Pre-Convention Region 8, 9 conference in Reno
- The Chapter held their Summer picnic in August
- The Chapter's Color Guard has been busy supporting many events; the Color Guard gets requests from all organizations from many geographic areas; they determine which ones they can support; they have two engagements in support of Veterans Day events at local schools in November
- The Chapter will conduct Poppy Drives at four King Soopers on Veterans Day
- The Chapter participated in the Highlands Ranch Fourth of July parade along with the Central Colorado Corvette Club who's members brought their cars to the event; their theme was "Vetts for Vets"
- At a recent meeting, a representative from the Orange Heart Medal Foundation talked about how Vietnam veterans who were affected by Agent Orange can apply for a medal to recognize that fact; to apply go to: <https://www.orangeheartmedal.org/>
- Tony mentioned that the Chapter features a member "bio" at each meeting as an opportunity for members to present their background and military service experience
- Milt reported that Cherry Creek School District conducts an annual military veterans community celebration in honor of active military and veterans; this year's event was held on September 9<sup>th</sup> and was well attended
- Milt presented Dick Southern, as Region Director, with a challenge coin from each of the three Colorado Chapters

### **Unfinished Business**

- No unfinished business was carried over from prior meetings.

### **New Business**

- Tony provided an overview of the National Convention and proposed Constitution Amendments
- Tony also reported that he will not be able to attend the October Council of State Council President's meeting in Silver Springs MD

### **Motions**

None made.

Note: There were no motions to approve the September Treasurer's Report; it was approved by default.

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**Good of the Order**

- Tom reported that he recently learned that veterans who serves less than two years cannot be buried in a National Cemetery
- Tony reported that there may be a new Chapter forming in the San Luis Valley area; Tony will review their package submittal for new Chapter formation; the Southern Ute Veterans Association, Vietnam Era members, may be the key participants
- Milt reported that Council meetings for 2024 will continue to be held at the Castle Pines Library and that lunch will be at Duke’s Steakhouse
- Larry reported that the Honor Bell Foundation has \$115,000 toward a second bell (total cost \$300,000) that will serve Pikes Peak National Cemetery; they are targeting Veterans Day 2024 for bell completion including the transport van that will cost another \$80,000
- Milt reminded that next year is election year for the Council and Chapters
- Stan reported that due to health issues, Leonard Smith will be stepping down as voting delegate for Chapter 1071 and that Trini Rael will replace him; on a side note, Milt asked if Trini would also serve as the Council’s Chaplain and he agreed.

**Closing Ceremony**

A closing prayer was provided by Trini Rael.

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**The Next Colorado State Council Meeting: March 9, 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 2:24 PM by President Tony Nickerson.

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

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