



**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Colorado State Council**

**Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: March 12, 2021 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 1:01 PM

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

**Invocation:** Joe Plant

**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), Leonard Smith (Voting Delegate 1071), Joe Plant (Chaplain and Voting Delegate 1106)

**Absences:** Larry Peterson (Voting Delegate 1075)

**New Members/Guests:** Dick Southern (Region 9 Director), Trinidad (Trini) Rael (VP Chapter 1071), Manny Pedraza (Past Council President and Past Chapter 1075 President), Lee White (Immediate Past Council President and current Chapter 1106 President), Tony Nickerson (Chapter 1106)

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

**Questions on Prior Meeting Minutes.** The December 11, 2021, State Council meeting minutes were emailed to each Council member.

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

**Region 9 Report: Dick Southern**

- Dick reported that the over 700 delegates to the 2021 National Convention voted for the VVA to be a "last man standing" organization (GA-23); represents about 60% of delegate approval;

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- The M-3 “Courtesy Resolution” that was voted on at the National Convention, and approved by delegates, states that Korean National soldiers who fought in the Vietnam War should be allowed full membership in the VVA; Dick stated that Resolutions in general are “feel good” statements and not policy or necessarily actionable; for M-3, this Resolution is not effective despite being passed because the VVA Constitution clearly states that membership in the VVA is limited to those who served in the US Armed Forces for 180 days and possess a valid DD-214; this Resolution was rejected by the Membership Committee but was placed on the floor at the Convention and voted on by delegates; this issue will be discussed at the April 2022 BOD meeting; Tom Dowell asked if the final decision will be published in the Veteran magazine; possibly; Manny asked if Montagnard of Vietnam would also get consideration for VVA membership; Dick stated that, like the Korea Nationals, membership in VVA requires a valid DD-214;
- Dick reported that membership in VVA continues to slowly increase;
- Dick reported that Chapter 20 in New York is closing due to no members wanting to be a Chapter officer, despite they have 617 members; the Chapter will become inactive and members will be encouraged by the Membership Committee to join another Chapter near their residence or become at-large members;
- The Membership Committee has a new manager, Nicole Kennedy;
- National has a new IT Web Master who is revamping the National website; this activity caused certain sections of the site to be unavailable; everything should be up and running now;
- HGDP Program: Dick reported that the 2021 HGDP year ended on a favorable note; due to the increase in HGDP income, and National’s December deadline for the FY 2022 budget, the BOD voted to delay finalizing the budget until a better estimate for FY 2022 HGDP income can be established, to the April BOD meeting; Dave Lyons will be attending the BOD meeting and will secure a copy of the final budget;
- The HGDP program now has a lifetime agreement and will not be annually renewed;
- David Ramey reported that the CO State Council’s HGDP report to National will be completed this month;
- This year’s Leadership Conference is August 9 to 13 in Greenville, South Carolina;
- Dates coming up include April Chapter elections and June State Council elections; the VVA Election Report is due to National by July 15<sup>th</sup>;
- VVA National is working to clean up the list of suspended Chapters and State Councils; a major issue is communication sent to an incorrect person from National;
- Debora Johnson is the Finance Director for VVA National.

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

- The February Treasurer’s report was emailed to Council members; Dave reported on the end of February Council balance; Chapter HGDP for February was received; donation to Louisville fire victims was made; income included amount transferred from the NW account for Dreiling fund distribution, for February HGDP, and a donation from the Nebraska State Council to assist Louisville fire victims;
- Dave reported on the NW Account balance as of 02/28/22; the final amount will be distributed to Chapters in March 2023;

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- **Action Item:** For HGDP reporting to National, David Ramey needs reports from Chapters 1071 and 1106; Dave will then compile the final report and submit to National;
- Stan stated that at the January National BOD meeting, he reported on the Marshall Fire that affected a number of veterans; only the Nebraska State Council donated funds to Chapter 1071 to assist veterans as a result; two veterans were awarded donations each by Chapter 1071; the Colorado State Council provided funds to Chapter 1071 for this purpose; the Boulder Veterans Center is assisting veterans to acquire their DD-214; Lee stated that Chapter 1106 will donate funds to Chapter 1071 for this purpose;

### Expenses Against the Council: David Ramey

- The next Veterans Community Living Center donation will go to the Homelake Veterans Community Living Center as part of the Council's quarterly support to Colorado Living Centers;
- Today's Council lunch was paid for twelve people;

### Reading of Communications: Milt Omoto

- Letter to Ms. Self at the Homelake Community Living Center for the State Council's quarterly donation;
- No other communications.

### Member Sickness and Distress

Chapter 1071: Chapter member Ray Holtz had a heart valve replacement procedure that was successful; however, during a follow-up exam, Ray, when leaving the hospital, drove his car into the hospital building; this caused the hospital to review their post-procedure policy; Ray is in rehab at home; Stan reported that some families tend to keep quiet the passing of a family member who is also a member of the Chapter; the Chapter finds out; later;

Chapter 1075: Tom reported that a founding member of the Chapter was hit by a car while walking and was killed; Larry Peterson made a Honor Bell toll video for the family; pray for Manny for health; please also keep Tom and his wife in your prayers for their health;

Chapter 1106: Chapter member Rich Eisenberg recently passed; his internment is March 15<sup>th</sup> at Fort Logan; the Chapter Color Guard will be present; a number of Chapter members passed in the last several months; Jack Paulson is recovering from COVID and still has difficulty breathing.

### Chapter Activity Reports

#### Chapter 1071 (Trini Rael)

- Trini reported that the Chapter made donations to two Louisville fire victims, both veterans; the Chapter received a donation from the Nebraska State Council;
- The Chapter will conduct their next Honors Burial for unclaimed cremains on April 14<sup>th</sup> at Fort Logan; there are five Army, one Marine and one Navy to be honored;
- National Vietnam War commemoration day is observed March 29<sup>th</sup>; this date corresponds to when the last combat personnel were withdrawn, and the names of POWs released;
- The Chapter is working with DU teachers and students to educate them on the Chapter's Honors Burial program with the intent that they will get involved;
- The Windsor Gardens Quilts of Valor Chapter presented quilts to eleven Chapter members;

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- The Chapter conducted their November Poppy Drive at four King Soopers stores and collected donations for the Chapter.

### Chapter 1075 (Tom Dowell)

- Tom reported that the Chapter added three new members;
- The Chapter will be awarding two scholarships this year; deadline for student submittals is March 31<sup>st</sup>;
- The Chapter is planning a trip to Angle Fire NM in April; the Chapter will make hotel reservations for those interested;
- Election of Officers and Board members will be held in April; there were no new member nominees who stepped forward, so the same slate of current Officers and Board members will be running;
- The Chapter has invited Scott Ryan from the Colorado Springs VA to speak about VA benefits and updates to members; spouses are welcome to attend;
- The Chapter is involved with and supports the Good News Prison Ministry in Canon City; their Chapter Chaplain volunteers time with this Ministry; the Chapter purchased a fund raising event table, scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup>;
- Let Chapter member Larry Peterson know about Honor Bell Toll needs; he can also provide a Toll video to families.

### Chapter 1106 (Lee White, David Lyons)

- The Chapter has worked to reconnect with Quilts of Valor; Chapter member names were submitted, and the presentation is scheduled for the June 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting;
- The Chapter is also reconnecting with the Daughters of the American Revolution;
- The Chapter is planning their Memorial Day weekend Poppy Drive on May 28<sup>th</sup> at five King Sooper stores;
- Chapter elections will be held at the April meeting; Lee will not be running for President; however, he will continue to be involved as an Advisor to the Board;
- Speakers have been lined up for the April, May and June Chapter meetings;
- The Chapter is not aware of any local events for the March 29<sup>th</sup> Vietnam War Commemoration Day;
- The Chapter's end of year 2021 Holiday lunch was successful with about 120 in attendance;
- The Chapter will continue to meet at the CCSD Fremont Building facility for monthly meetings to the end of the year; the South Metro Fire and Rescue facility is being made available, and the Chapter is maintaining their option for this facility;
- Six scholarships will be awarded this year;
- Chapter members volunteered at CCSD schools during a period when schools needed help; these volunteers were recognized by CCSD with appreciation certificates; the Chapter also supports CCSD's annual veterans' appreciation day event;
- A memorial bench dedication for Michelle Mallin is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> at Plum Valley Park in Highlands Ranch; information is fourth coming.

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### Unfinished Business

- The Dreiling Estate annual report from the State Council was submitted to James Dreiling, the executor, on January 20<sup>th</sup>;
- The proposal to change Council meetings from the current four annually to three was put fourth for discussion; the recommendation is to have meetings in March, June and October; a motion for three annual Council meetings was made by Milt and second by Joe Plant; this will be effective for the fiscal year 2022/23; after discussion, the motion was voted on and approved by the Council;

***Note that this proposal requires an amendment to the CO State Council By-Laws; Milt will draft the amendment for review, discussion and voting at the June Council meeting.***

### New Business

- Dreiling Estate funds for FY2022 were presented to each Chapter President by Dave Ramey;
- The CO State Council elections will be held at the June 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting; Stan Paprocki announced that he will not run for President for another term; the Council approved Trini Rael to be the Election Chairman and will compile the list of nominees; the following are the nominees as of this date:
  - President: Tony Nickerson
  - First Vice President: David Lyons
  - Second Vice President: Tomas Dowell
  - Treasurer: David Ramey
  - Secretary: Milton Omoto
  - Chapter 1071 Voting Delegate: Leonard Smith
  - Chapter 1075 Voting Delegate: Larry Peterson
  - Chapter 1106 Voting Delegate: Joe PlantAdditional nominees may be submitted to Trini Rael @ [tgrael@comcast.net](mailto:tgrael@comcast.net);
- Milt will develop the election record form and send to Trini.

### Motions

**Motion 1.** Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Dave Lyons and second by Trinidad Rael ; the Treasurer's report was accepted by the Council.

**Motion 2.** Motion to change State Council meetings from four to three annually was made by Milt Omoto and second by Joe Plant; the Council will have meetings in March, June and October starting this fiscal year; the State Council By-Laws will be amended and voted on at the June Council meeting; after discussion, the motion was voted on and approved by the Council; this change is effective for the fiscal year 2022/23;

**Motion 3.** Motion for the State Council to donate to the National Lao-Hmong Memorial made by Dave Ramey and second by Milt; this donation was suggested by Larry Peterson at the December meeting; the memorial will be built in Westminster; the motion was voted on and approved by the Council; a check will be provided to Larry Peterson to send to the Lao-Hmong Memorial fund.

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### Good of the Order

- Tony Nickerson reported that he was approached by a woman from New York who's veteran husband passed away and wanted a color guard for his Colorado funeral; Tony is Commander of the Chapter 1106 Color Guard; Tony provided an American flag for the burial and arranged for a trumpeter; Tony suggested that all three Chapters pool their resources to provide this type of service to any Chapter member or veteran family member (potential costs include American flag, trumpeter, etc.); Stan stated that Fort Logan will provide a free burial American flag; Chapter 1071 also has flags;
- Lee reported that Chapter 1106 is planning a flag retirement ceremony; Stan suggested contacting the Denver Boy Scouts of America Council for arrangements;
- Tony reported that Cherry Creek School District (CCSD) has an annual veterans' appreciation day that is well done to honor military veterans; they provide food and gifts for veterans; a football game is also part of the event;
- Milt reported on the Texas Roadhouse fund raiser conducted in November 2021; as part of the restaurant's recognition to veterans, customers had the opportunity to complete appreciation cards to veterans; Milt provided these cards to Stan for Chapter 1071 members to read.

### Closing Ceremony

A closing prayer was provided by Joe Plant.

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### The Next Colorado State Council Meeting: June 11, 2022 @ 1300-hour, Castle Rock Library

The meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections at 2:50 PM by President Stan Paprocki.

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

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Published 031322

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