



Colorado State Council

Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 8, 2018 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 1257 hour.

Invocation: Joe Plant, Chaplain (Chapter 1106)

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), David Lyons (Second Vice President), David Ramey (Treasurer), Milt Omoto (Secretary)

Absences: Stan Paprocki (First Vice President)

Chapter Delegates, Representatives and Members: Terry Ritenour (Voting Delegate, 1071), Joe Plant (Voting Delegate, 1106), Thomas Dowell (Voting Delegate 1075). Larry Peterson (Non-Voting Delegate 1075)

Guests: Dick Southern, Region 9 Director

Declaration of Principles and Mission Statement: read by David Lyons

Meeting minutes from the June 9, 2018 Colorado State Council meeting. Lee White noted the following corrections: (a) Under "Guests", change Leonard Smith from (1075) to (1071); (b) Under "Chapter 1106 (Lee White, President)", change "raising several thousand dollars" to: "\$3,919". Motion to approve minutes as submitted with the above corrections made by Dave Lyons and seconded by David Ramey.

Member Sickness and Distress: Chapter 1071: Al Roettger spent from November 17, 2017 to September 18, 2018 in the hospital with kidney illness was released and is now at home. He is able to drive and attended the 1071 Board Meeting. He now has house care service. Chapter 1075: none reported. Chapter 1106: AVVA member Dee Lyons is scheduled for back surgery on September 14, 2018. Also scheduled for surgery in the near future are Joe Plant and Dave Lyons.

Introduction of New Members: none

Treasurer's Report: David Ramey

As of June 30, 2018:

Checking:	\$ 22,870.69
NFCU:	\$ 7,380.33

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Expenses Against Council (August) include Leadership and Education Conference attendance for Lee White, Milt Omoto, Tom Werzyn, and Stan Paprocki; HGDP distribution to Chapters; PO Box rental payment (for details, see VVA Treasurer's Report August 2018). Future expense includes a \$250 donation to the Veterans Community Learning Center, Florence, CO).

Region 9 Report, Dick Southern

Dick Southern provided a summary report on the various activities he attends, supports and is engaged in, including State Chapter and Council meetings, National Conferences, and special events, including the dedication of an 83% sized replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall on donated land in Layton Utah. The project was led by Dennis Howland, president of the Northern Utah chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America, who has been working on the project since 2014 and secured \$500,000 in donations and support. National VVA President John Rowen and Region 9 Director Dick Southern attended the July 14th dedication.

The Region 9 Conference may be held in Reno (Sparks) NV next year. Dick reminded that the cut-off date to register for the October 2018 Conference of State Council Presidents Meeting is September 14th. The Conference will be held October 18th at 8727 Colesville Rd, Silver Spring, MD. VVA National is working to improve the National web site.

The Future of VVA Working Groups I and II will have emails available for correspondence. Any decision will NOT likely be made by the 2019 VVA National Convention in Spokane, WA. Progress reports will continue in the "Veterans" publication. Issues include closing of the VVA Corporation and continuing the legacy of VVA. Each State Chapter can continue to operate independently since each is established as a separate Corporation in their respective States. The HGDP program will likely go away if National is dissolved. Milt Omoto stated that the HGDP program is a good source of consistent income for the State Council and Chapters. Not all States have this program, and there are options to continue the program as a separate Corporation should National be dissolved. That also applies to other National functions such as Legislative Actions, Conferences and Convention planning, and other non-profit management activities.

The status of the life time membership fee will be discussed at the October Conference of State Council Presidents. Dick stated that an investment fund pays for any deficit in the program. The primary purpose for this program is to lower National's membership dues administrative costs (processing annual dues receipts, sending out renewal reminder letters, and other overhead burdens).

Reading of Communications. Secretary Milt Omoto read an appreciation letter from the State Veterans Community Living Center, Homelake, CO, Mindy K. Montague, Nursing Home Administrator, for the \$250 donation made by the State Council. David Ramey stated that any donations made should state that the funds are to be used to support the "Veterans Activity Fund."

Chapter Activity Reports

- Chapter 1071 (Terry Ritenour, 1071 Vice President)
 - Membership is at 202, 176 regular members and 26 Associate members; the Chapter meets the third Saturday of each month;
 - The Chapter awarded a \$6,000 scholarship to a student. The Chapter plans to award two \$6,000 scholarships next year
 - The Chapter supported Wings Over the Rockies Museum with a donation of \$3,000 for a new UH-1 Huey helicopter and display. The aircraft was donated to the museum. The Chapter held their recent Board meeting there.
 - The Chapter is participating in this year's Arvada Harvest Festival (today, September 8th) with Chapter President Stan Paprocki as Grand Marshall and members in the parade

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- On October 24, 2018, Chapter members will again perform an interment ceremony for fourteen veteran cremains from the East Lawn Mortuary at Fort Logan, Shelter A at 2:00PM; The veterans include seven WWII, 2 Korean War, one combined Korean and Vietnam War, two Vietnam War and two peace time veterans. They will receive full military honors burials. Channel 9 provided good media coverage at the last July 18th Honors Burial.
- This completes the work at Crown Hill Cemetery to identify unclaimed cremains of veterans
- The Chapter continues to be active with High School visits including Dakota Ridge and Green Mountain High Schools.
- Chapter 1075 (Thomas Dowell, President)
 - Chapter fund raising continues with one in Woodland Park, one at a Wal Mart in Colorado Springs and King Soopers
 - Scholarship packets were distributed to local schools early this academic year
 - Chapter members will support the Colorado Springs Standdown on October 16th by preparing sanitation kits to hand out; local hotels donate shampoo, conditioner, soap, etc. and Chapter members put together up to 200 kits; the Standdown is for homeless veterans who are verified prior to entry and escorted by active military personnel at the Standdown. Merchants such as Cabela's donate outdoor clothing. The Chapter also sponsor a dinner for veterans
 - The Chapter will participate in the November 3rd Veterans Day Parade in Colorado Springs. They have a float that they enter and members walk
 - The Chapter received 35 quilts for award to members and to sell as donations. The quilts have branches of each service and some with generic messages.
 - The Chapter Chaplain will visit the Florence prison to contact Vietnam veterans. The chapter supports incarcerated veterans at \$1,000 annually.
- Chapter 1106 (Lee White, President)
 - The Chapter conducts annual field trips to locations of interest. A field trip was made to the Pueblo Aircraft Museum on June 23, 2018. A recent trip was to Grand Junction/Fruita to visit the Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial Park. Included in the trip was a visit to the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado (a State run cemetery), Veterans Art Center in Grand Junction, and the Palisade Peach festival. The trip was made August 17 through 19th.
 - The Chapter participated in the Highlands Ranch Fourth of July Parade
 - Three members of the Chapter attended the Leadership and Education Conference in Palm Springs
 - The Chapter will be participating in Cherry Creek Schools Annual Veterans and Active Military Appreciation Football Game on September 15th. The Chapter's newly formed Color Guard will lead the event. The Honor Bell will also be in attendance.
 - The Chapter has formed a Color Guard for presentation of Colors at select events
 - The Chapter will be conducting their annual Veterans Day Poppy Drive November 10th at the Parker Wal Mart and several King Soopers
 - The Chapter's Scholarship committee awarded four \$2,000 scholarships in a ceremony at the July Chapter meeting; the committee is working on next year's scholarships award program.
 - The 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day recognition event will be held at Fort Logan November 11th. Dave Lyons and Jim from the Chapter will participate in the event.
 - The Chapter's Speakers Bureau continues to be active with school outreaches.

Old Business

- Milt Omoto raised the point of needing a clear direction for use of Council funds. For example, surplus funds can be used to support Chapter activities, since each Chapter has in place mechanisms and processes for veteran emergency support and scholarship awards. Dave Ramey reminded that the current and only source of income for the Council is the HGDP funds, and that the Council must support Council member attendance to National Conferences and Conventions, provide various approved donations, and maintain on-going expenses such as PO

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mail box and web site fees. Milt Omoto asked the Council to consider planning for new income sources and expenses.

- Leadership and Education Conference recap: Seminars attended were good (Lee), the event was well organized (Thomas), seminars were informative but some needed facilitators to manage audience monologues (Milt). The Awards Banquet needs to be managed better to control the reserving of tables by various self interest groups.
- Chapter Expansion update (Lee White): Chapter members from 1106 attended the PAM Vets breakfast on August 25th to show continued support for the formation of a VVA Chapter in Loveland. At the PAM Vets meeting, Lee White committed to \$500 to help interested veterans with their first-year annual dues or part of life time dues as a way to kick start the formation of the chapter. So far, 10 to 12 new applications were processed. David Ramey expressed concern that this is not appropriate use of Council funds, not proper procedure, and that the Council will support any newly formed Chapter once and only once they are officially designated a Chapter. Dick Southern suggested that once the group has a petition of 25 members signed, then the Council can help pay for membership. Transfers of at-large members can be made at no cost. Terry Ritenour stated he will ask Chapter 1071's Board to support the kick start of a Loveland chapter. Again, the Council will support any newly formed Chapter once they are officially sanctioned as a Chapter by National.
- Pikes Peak National Cemetery Update (Thomas Dowell): Several 1075 members attended the recent quarterly meeting for the Cemetery planning. The planned opening is on schedule for 2019. Interested veterans should complete the VA Form 40-1007, VA National Cemetery Administration Pre-Need Burial Eligibility Determination.
- Visit to Fitzsimons Senior Living Center Update (Joe Plant): Volunteer opportunities exists at the Center. Chapter 1106 donated a new flag to the Center.

New Business

- The Council was asked to consider a future donation to Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (a fact sheet was circulated)
- Lee White will be attending the CSCP meeting that includes the 40th Anniversary Celebration
- The following State Council elected officials, voting and non-voting delegates to the Council were clarified:
 - President: Lee White
 - First Vice President: Stan Paprocki
 - Second Vice President: David Lyons
 - Treasurer: David Ramey
 - Secretary: Milt Omoto
 - Voting Delegates:
 - Chapter 1071: Terry Ritenour
 - Chapter 1075: Thomas Dowell
 - Chapter 1106: Joe Plant
 - Non-Voting Delegates:
 - Chapter 1071: Leonard Smith
 - Chapter 1075: Larry Peterson
 - Chapter 1106: <vacant>
- Treasurer David Ramey stated that HGDP reports are due twice annually, August 31 and February 28; Chapters have provided their reports, and David will submit the consolidated Council HGDP report to National (Deb Johnson, with copy to Dick Southern). The total HGDP to report is \$24,550 with \$6,121 for the Council and \$18,429 to the three Chapters. The next cycle's reporting forms will be distributed to Chapters at the December Council meeting and are due at the March 2019 meeting.
- Lee reminded that the State Council's web site needs to continually be supported with fresh content. Provide pictures, articles and events of interest to Lee and he will forward to Bob Rotruck, the web site content manager.

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Good of the Order

- a) Thomas Dowell: Chapter 1075 ordered two top covers and two table top covers at \$1,000 each for use at fund raisers and other Chapter events. The cover is 10'by 10' and are easy to set-up.
- b) Thomas Dowell: reported that the Chapter partners with other veteran organizations in the Colorado Springs area to provide hotel to veterans new to the area and in need of urgent lodging, those with families and single veterans, who cannot afford hotel costs. They work with Mt. Carmel to verify veteran status. There are agreements with three hotels who provide rooms at discounted rates.
- c) Terry Ritenour: Terry encouraged Chapters to support the Wings Over the Rockies Museum's new UH-1 Huey helicopter and display and to see the exhibit. Chapter 1071 donated \$2,000 and a membership matching program is in place.
- d) Terry Ritenour: Placed a motion on the floor to have the Council consider increasing the \$250 quarterly donation amount to Veterans Community Living Centers. David Ramey counter motioned to keep quarterly donations at \$250 each and to re-visit this issue next year. After discussion, David Ramey's motion was voted on and passed with no objections. Terry's initial motion was withdrawn with no further consideration.
- e) Terry Ritenour: The West Metro Veterans Fair will be held September 25, 2018 from 11:00AM to 3:00 PM at the Lakewood Elks Lodge 1777, the location where Chapter 1071 holds their monthly meeting

Next Colorado State Council Meeting: December 8, 2018 @ 1300, Castle Rock Library

The meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections at 1459 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.