



Colorado State Council

Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 10, 2021 Scheduled Start Time: 1:00 PM
Meeting Location: Philip S. Miller Library, 100 S. Wilcox St. Castle Rock, CO 80104

Meeting Location: Library Conference Room

Meeting called to order by President Stan Paprocki at 1259 hour.

Pledge of Allegiance: Stan Paprocki (led)

Moment of Silence (for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and for those still POW / MIA): Stan Paprocki (led)

Invocation: Joe Plant, Chaplain (1106)

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), Larry Peterson (voting Delegate 1075)

Absences: Dick Southern (Region 9 Director)

New Members/Guests: Guests, Lee White (President, Chapter 1106), Manuel Pedraza (1075), Second Immediate Past Council President

Declaration of Principles: David Lyons (read)

Questions on Prior Meeting Minutes. Minutes from the September 12, 2020 Colorado State Council meeting was distributed to Council members prior to this meeting. Note that the originally distributed minutes were subsequently revised based on feedback from David Ramey regarding his report that National could not find his submitted report; he was referring that this applied to Chapter 1075 and not the State Council as recorded. The Secretary has the corrected version. A motion to accept the minutes was made by David Ramey and second by Lee White. The minutes were approved by Council vote.

Region 9 Report: Dick Southern.

Absent

Treasurer's Report: David Ramey

David Ramey distributed the March 2021 State Council Treasurer's Report to Council members prior to the meeting. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Milt Omoto and second by Tom Dowell. The Treasurer's Report was approved by Council vote.

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David will prepare the semi-annual and annual HGDP reports of usage of funds and submit to National. Each Chapter submitted their HGDP usage report to David. The Council will report their usage. Treasurer David will complete the HGDP Reports as required and submit to National.

Expenses Against the Council: David Ramey

Today's Council lunch

Expenses Against Council include a donation check to the Florence Veterans Community Living Center as part of the Council's quarterly support to Colorado Veterans Community Living Centers.

A check was written to the Honor Bell Foundation as a donation from the Council

Reading of Communications. There were no reading of communications by the Secretary. Copies of The VVA Veteran digest (Vol. 40 No. 6) were distributed.

Member Sickness and Distress

Chapter 1071: John Altfeltis continues to battle prostate cancer. He served as the Chapter as Chaplain for many years. Stan's wife and for Stan as caregiver.

Chapter 1075: James Kobelt, Manny Pedraza.

Chapter 1106: Lee's wife Cookie who was recently hospitalized but is recovering at home now.

Please continue to pray for all our members in sickness and in need.

Dave thanked those who donated to the ALS Foundation and the Denver Hospice in his wife Dee's memory.

Chapter Activity Reports

- Chapter 1071 (Stan Paprocki, Chapter 1071 President)
 - The Chapter is in need of a new webmaster
 - They are continuing regular calls to members (244 members) as a way to stay in touch with everyone
 - The Chapter met face-to-face for the first time since the pandemic started for their March meeting; 55 members attended
 - The Chapter donated a new flagpole to Green Mountain High School after the old pole was damaged
 - The Chapter donated funds for two benches to be placed at the Huey exhibit at Wings Over the Rockies museum; the dedication placement of the benches was to be this morning
 - A very significant activity conducted by the Chapter is the Honors Burial Program; Chapter members work with mortuaries that have unclaimed cremains in storage; members undergo a painstaking process to record all information of each and send collected data to the VA for veteran status recorded verification; recently, they identified 19 veterans for honors burial qualification at a National Cemetery; generally the honors event is held at Fort Logan; however, this year, Fort Logan refused to grant permission for the event; so the honors burial event will be held at Fairmount Cemetery on May 29th beginning at 9:50 AM with the procession of cremains; the event will be held at the cemetery's chapel; urns will then be transported to Fort Logan for internment
 - Many mortuaries refuse to cooperate with the Chapter's request due to potential liability issues
 - The Chapter has not held elections for the 2020 to 2022 year as yet; they continue to file for 90-day exemptions before filing their Chapter Election report; the Chapter plans to hold elections this year
 - The Chapter continues to conduct presentations at schools on the Vietnam War experience
 - Chapter members will volunteer at the Wall That Heals September this year
 - The Chapter will be holding a Veterans Fare this September
 - Their May Poppy Drive fund raiser is on hold with King Sooper stores
 - They recently donated to a Homes for Veterans organization.

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- Chapter 1075 (Tom Dowell, Chapter 1075 President)
 - The Chapter will again change their meeting location to a new location starting in May; a non-profit organization that provides support to those with socialization issues recently received a large grant, enabling them to move to a larger facility at Garden of the Gods; this organization will provide a dedicated room to the Chapter for meetings at no charge
 - Chapter member Larry Peterson is now on the Honor Bell Foundation Board of Directors
 - The Chapter received seven paintings from the wife of an Air Force General; the Chapter will display these paintings at their new meeting location
 - Chapter President Tom Dowell continued with his Songs of Vietnam program to high school students; he recently did a program at Vanguard Charter School's music department; he plays 12 era songs and the students enjoy it
 - Tom also helped two high school students through the application process and the securing of Congressional letters to enter the Air Force Academy; both students will attend the Academy this Fall
 - Tom reported that today there will be eight WWII veterans at the National Museum of World War Two Aviation in Colorado Springs;
 - Let Tom know if you would like to attend an Honor Flight; he can coordinate with Mark Shaffer
 - The El Paso County Fourth of July Parade is still tentative;
 - The annual El Paso Homeless Veterans Stand Down (September 21st) is still tentative
 - Mount Carmel provides employment education and guidance for active military and retirees
 - The Chapter plans to work with the Salvation Army to support veterans in need
 - The Chapter's scholarship program will be active for this school year.
- Chapter 1106 (Lee White, Chapter 1106 President)
 - The Chapter membership is at 200
 - The Chapter will award four scholarships this year
 - The May 29th Poppy Drive is on hold while we wait for a decision from King Sooper stores
 - We plan to have our first face-to-face meeting June 5th since the pandemic; this will be a combined live and Zoom meeting to enable those who wish not to attend to still participate
 - The Chapter has conducted virtual Board and Membership meetings during the pandemic
 - Buddy check calls continue with 15 members making monthly calls to each member
 - The July 4th Parade in Highlands Ranch is still tentative
 - The Chapter applied for a 501(c)(3) status for a parallel organization to the current Chapter 501(c)(19)
 - The Cherry Creek School District is planning to hold its Veterans Appreciation on September 19th
 - The Chapter continues to support veterans in need.

Unfinished Business

- The Council will continue with quarterly donations to four Veteran Living Centers in Colorado
- Dreiling Estate funds were distributed to the three Chapters; Treasurer Dave presented the checks to each Chapter President today (pictures will be posted on the Council website)
- Chapter 1075 presented a check to the Honor Bell Foundation to support the second bell; President Stan and President Tom each presented their checks to Honor Bell Foundation Board member Larry Peterson (pictures will be posted on the Council website)

Motion 1

Milt put fourth a motion to the floor that the State Council meeting minutes that get posted onto the Council's website should not contain details of the Treasurer's fiscal report; the motion was second by Dave Ramey; the Council approved the motion

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New Business

- Stan informed that the National Convention 2021 website is up
- Those wishing to volunteer for the Wall That Heals in September can sign up on the City of Brighton website
- Milt asked the Council whether we should place a link to the Pleural Mesothelioma Center's organization website; the Council decided not to do so
- Dave will meet with his CPA for accounting support and IRA reporting
- Lee stated that he has access to various handicap braces if anyone has need for them.

Good of the Order

- Tom shared that he sends cards to Chapter members on special occasions like birthdays (both member and spouse) and anniversaries; he states this is a good way to stay in contact with members and encourages them to attend meetings; he purchases the cards himself
- Stan stated that they will start taking pictures of their Chapter members so each can be readily recognized
- Larry thanked the Council and Chapters 1071 and 1075 for their donations to the Honor Bell Foundation; Larry has personally tolled the Bell over 350 times; he stated that virtual tolls can also be requested; the second bell is targeted to be on Veterans Day 2021.

Closing Remarks

None.

The Next Colorado State Council Meeting: June 12, 2021 @ 1300-hour, Castle Rock Library

The meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections at 1418 hour by President Stan Paprocki.

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

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