



Vietnam Veterans of America
Colorado State Council

Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: June 8, 2024, Scheduled Start Time: 1:00 PM

Meeting Facility: Public library in Castle Pines, Colorado, 360 Village Square Ln

Meeting Location: Library Conference Room

Meeting called to order by Vice President Dave Lyons, 12:38 PM

Invocation: Joe Plant

Pledge of Allegiance: David Lyons (lead)

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

Roll Call of Officers and Chapter Delegates Present: 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), Joe Plant (Voting Delegate 1106)

Absences: Trini Rael (Voting Delegate 1071),
Tony Nickerson (President)
Antonio Read (Chapter 1153)

Declaration of Principles: Thomas Dowell (read)

Questions on Prior Meeting Minutes. No questions were received, the minutes were filed on the Council website.

Introduction of New Members/Visitors/Guests:

John Vargas Chapter 1106 (Chapter Board) Introduces himself; in Vietnam he was assigned to 4th Div then later assigned to 25th Div as a door gunner, was wounded and received the DFC

Dr. Wayne Reynolds National Treasurer was visiting, currently Alabama State Council President 1998, introduced himself, has been National Treasurer for six terms, he stated, "Colorado is God's Country".

Report from National, we are doing well financially. We are paying for all State Council Presidents to attend the Leadership Conference in Reno. VVA National made an agreement with the Military Order of the Purple Heart. They have lost all their funding and cannot hire support to represent them in Congress; VVA will provide this support. We have everything to gain from an affiliation with each other. There is nothing like combat wounded and MOPH is a perfect fit of helping brothers.

Dr. Reynolds advised that the per diem rate had changed to \$60 per day and likely to change next year to \$70.

Doug Nunes Chapter 1071, (Chapter Board and Treasurer)

Treasurer's Report and HGDP Report: David Ramey

Expenses Against the Council: David Ramey

There was a discussion about Chapter 1153 and if a donation to the Chapter should be proposed. David Ramey was concerned that the Chapter had not yet provided a list of the required 15 members. Dave Lyons provided a copy of the Chapter Charter and confirmed that the Chapter had been authorized, but that there was a mix up in the Chapter member registrations and that they all ended up being listed as "At Large". Dave Lyons suggested that he and Milt Omoto will help clarify the list of names and get them re-designated to Chapter 1153. Dr. Wayne Reynolds offered to help directly with National.

There was a short discussion of the backup signatory for the Council's checking account, Tom Dowell is the backup signer.

Reading of Communications: Milton Omoto
No Communications were received.

Member Sickness and Distress

Chapter 1106: David Lyons reported: Sad situation, Chapter Member Patty Eline, has an aggressive brain tumor, she moved into an assisted living facility. Also, Remember Lee White, his wife passed away. Council President Tony Nickerson is not well. (Chappy) Garry Turks is also, not doing well.

Chapter 1075: Tom Dowell reported that Paul Kortenhoeven is in hospice. Manny Pedraza is declining in his health.

Chapter 1071: Stan stated: His wife, Susan, 68 years old, does not know him, is not well and in hospice, (But it was later learned that during the Council meeting Stan received word that Susan had passed away, please keep Stan in your prayers.). Leonard Smith is doing better but not 100%, from Long COVID, Doug Nunes stated that Jerry Zimmer received a diagnosis of terminal cancers, Cliff Fejfar has been receiving radiation and chemotherapy for many cancers. We are hopeful both these super guys beat the diagnosis. Trini Real was having surgery this date for a sleep apnea electronic device (Inspire).

Chapter Activity Reports

Chapter 1071 (Doug Nunes and Stan Paprocki). Very busy. Growing 290 members, webmaster reported 1053 hits, Honors Burial was in April two sessions, 26 total, wood box to hold the cremains, engraved with the logo of the service they served in, dog tags and significant ribbons earned were attached to the top.

Each veteran was researched by a history class student, at the University of Denver, and these forgotten veterans were found, brought into the light, recognized and laid to rest with all military honors. Bill Bridges is our Director of Burial Services. Bill also has set up and organized a YouTube Channel for the Chapter. We now document all speakers and have a growing list of subjects that can be viewed. VVA1071YouTube

Chapter 1075 (Tom Dowell). **Honor Bell:** Larry Peterson was asked to speak about the Honor Bell by David Ramey. He reported that the Honor Bell was up to 94 responses for funerals. The truck carrying the Honor Bell was in an accident and is now being repaired. They are raising funds for a second truck and bell at a proposed cost of \$380,000. They currently have \$140,000 in donations for the Pikes Peak Honor Bell. Danny Dietz, Jr Memorial. Lorrie Kuntz is now Executive Director of the Honor Bell Foundation. Tolling was also performed, for the Freedom Memorial. Governor Polis appointed Chapter Member, Howard Richards, 1075 Member, to the Colorado State Veterans Affairs Committee. He is past Chairman of the Southern Ute Tribe and has ties to the New Mexico State Governor as well.

Tom Dowell traveled to Vietnam with his wife and had a wonderful trip. Visited several cities and recommend the trip highly. One highlight that was surprising is he visited a large American Eagle statute with a tribute to John McCain inscribed on it.

Tom Dowell also just returned from an Honor Flight to DC. Also, a great experience. He was overwhelmed by letters he received from more than 112 folks, 19 friends and many school children with drawings, and from State Governors and Mayors.

Chapter 1075 set up a new VVA Information table at the Colorado Springs VA Hospital, starting last March and has recruited 19 new members.

The Chapter attended the Vietnam Day celebration at the Colorado Spring National Cemetery, Larry Peterson was the guest speaker and did a great job.

Chapter 1106 (Milton Omoto) The Chapter will participate in the Highland Ranch Fourth of July Parade, and those that can't walk will be able to ride in the Corvettes who will accompany our members.

The Annual summer picnic is scheduled for the 2nd week in August.

The Chapter has a table at the VA Hospital in Aurora, to explain the household goods program and membership in VVA; the Chapter recruited 2 new members from there.

The Chapter is considering donating a new bench to the new PTSD unit at the VA Hospital. This is opportunity to put VVA on a plaque on the bench, but the Chapter Board will help decide if cost is justified.

Chapter 1153 (Milton Omoto, for Antonio Read). Antonio did not come to the State Council Meeting as it is a 4 ½ hour drive.

Chapter 1153 is in the process of creating a logo and shirt for the Chapter and it may be a cowboy shirt.

They had a dinner and 9 members, and 2 spouses attended.

There was a mix up in registering members to the Chapter and many members were registered "At Large". David Lyons and Milton and Dr. Reynolds will help get this resolved.

Unfinished Business. There is no unfinished business. Milton explained that under Roberts Rules of Order there is no "old business", only "unfinished business".

New Business

- 1. Colorado State Council Elections** were held. The slate of Officers collected and reported by Election Chairman, Trini Rael, are unopposed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the listed slate, *All where in favor.*

Colorado State Council President: **David Lyons**

Colorado State Council 1st Vice President: **Thomas Dowell**

Colorado State Council 2nd Vice President: **Milton Omoto**

Colorado State Council Secretary: **Doug Nunes**

Colorado State Council. Treasurer: **David Ramey**

Voting Delegate Chapter 1071: **Trini Rael, Council Chaplain**

Voting Delegate Chapter 1075: **Larry Peterson**

Voting Delegate Chapter 1106: **John Vargas**

Non-Voting Delegate Chapter 1106: **Joe Plant (Alternate Council Chaplain)**

The Secretary will forward a report of the Election to National

2. Re-allocation of funds to include Chapter 1153 (Alamosa/San Luis) in the future.
Council Treasurer, David Ramey will include the Chapter in all future funds received.

3. Chapter and State Council attendees to the 2024 VVA National leadership Conference, Reno, NV August 20-24, 2024:
David Lyons will be going to the Conference paid for by National.
Doug Nunes will go paid by the State Council.
Antonio Read (Chapter 1153) will go paid by the State Council.
Chapter 1071 will send Bill Bridges
Chapter 1075 will send 1 member
Chapter 1106 will send new Treasurer Bob Brown

Good of the Order: No comment made.

Closing Ceremony

A closing prayer was provided by Joe Plant

The Next Colorado State Council Meeting: October 12, 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 David Lyons.

This Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes submitted by: Doug Nunes, State Council Secretary.