



**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Colorado State Council**

## Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: June 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 First Vice President David Lyons at 12:54 PM

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Dave Lyons (lead)

**Invocation:** Joe Plant (Chaplain 1106)

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

**Roll Call of Officers and Chapter Delegates Present:** David Lyons (First Vice President), David Ramey (Treasurer), Milt Omoto (Secretary), Leonard Smith (Voting Delegate 1071), Larry Peterson (Voting Delegate 1075), Joe Plant (Chaplain and Voting Delegate 1106)

**Absences:** Stan Paprocki (President); Thomas Dowell (Second Vice President)

**New Members/Guests:** Dick Southern (Region 9 Director), Manuel Pedraza (1075, Second Immediate Past Council President), Lee White (Immediate Past Council President)

**Declaration of Principles:** Milt Omoto (read)

**Questions on Prior Meeting Minutes.** None. Dave Lyons moved that the minutes be approved; Manny Pedraza seconded; the minutes were approved.

### **Region 9 Report: Dick Southern**

- VVA National survived the 2020 year; it now has good financials; the VVA Veteran is back in hard print;
- For the 2020 year. Life Member distributions were made in 3-payments; this approach was recommended by a stock investment advisor; the result was VVA made additional money because a large lump sum payment was not made and funds were allowed to grow in a stock fund due to the strong market performance; for the 2021 year, one lump fund payment is resumed;
- The Region 9 Director's budget for the FY was approved;
- Most Region 9 Chapters are in good shape and operating; the Philippines are still under quarantine with limited activity;
- Chapters in Utah and Colorado are doing OK; the State of California should relax soon which will enable more Chapter activities; the California State Council is conducting business via Zoom;

## Colorado State Council

- The Region 8/9 Pre-Convention Conference is scheduled for September 14-16, live in Reno; applications have been sent out;
- The 2021 National Convention will be held live; the issue with a virtual Convention versus live was one of voting security; apparently, they could not ensure secure votes with a virtual Convention;
- Resolution GA-21 has mostly ended; VVA will be a last man standing organization;
- David Ramey asked whether the HGDP monthly payments will increase back to pre-pandemic times; Dick stated that for many HDGP facilities, inventory is up but personnel are still below what they were; he does not know whether National will make any adjustments; Dick will ask the appropriate person while at the National Convention;
- Dave Ramey asked why the National Convention and the 2022 Leadership Conference are both being held in East Coast States; why not select locations central to a majority of members; Dick responded that it has to do with the price of the hotel/conference center, what types of perks are provided, and other concessions; the Board of Directors vote on the venue location.

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

The April and May Treasure's reports were sent out in secure embedded format to Council members; this will not be done in the future as the file cannot be saved or printed by the recipient;  
The HGDP form that reports how funds were spent will be sent to Chapters in September.

### **Reading of Communications: Milt Omoto**

The letter to the Veterans Community Living Center in Aurora for the Council's donation was read; the letter is signed by Council President Stan Paprocki.

### **Member Sickness and Distress**

Chapter 1071: Michael Craig has cancer; Leonard had back surgery and is recovering; John Altfeltis is still battling cancer.

Chapter 1075: Tom Dowell has inner ear problems and thyroid issues

Chapter 1106: Michell Mallin has stopped chemotherapy for now; she continues to be in pain.

### **Chapter Activity Reports**

#### Chapter 1071 (Larry Peterson)

- The Chapter's latest Honor Burial was held on May 29<sup>th</sup> at Fairmount Cemetery; Channels 7 and 9 covered the event;
- The Chapter is currently in negotiations with another funeral home to identify unclaimed cremains of veterans;
- The Chapter's first live meeting since the pandemic was held recently with good attendance because the Chapter provided free breakfasts to everyone;
- Two \$6,000 scholarships were awarded to graduating students this year;
- The Chapter replaced a broken flagpole at a local high school.

## Colorado State Council

### Chapter 1075 (David Ramey)

- The Chapter made a donation of \$1,500 to the Honors Flight of Southern Colorado; Chapter representatives were invited to Cannon City for a meeting and dinner;
- The Chapter will hold its first live meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> at their new facility at the Skills Academy in Colorado Springs; they have a dedicated room in which to meet;
- The El Paso County Stand Down will be held September 29<sup>th</sup> in the parking lot of a local church; the Chapter did not participate last year and may not this year;
- Larry reported that WWII veterans were recently honored with the Honor Bell; the DAV Auxiliary invited the Chapter to participate in the El Paso County Fair to share booth space with them; the Honor Bell will take part in the opening and closing ceremonies; the booth has space for the Chapter to promote VVA;
- Larry reported that Honor Bell still needs to raise \$160K for the second bell; the organization is actively pursuing funds and grants; the bell has to be cast this year or they will lose a Daniel's Fund grant;
- Larry reported that the Southern Colorado Honor Flight will be doing a flight in September and another in April next year;

### Chapter 1106 (Lee White, President 1106)

- The Chapter awarded four \$2,000 scholarships this year; two of the recipients presented their paper at the Chapter's June live meeting;
- The June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting was the Chapter's first live meeting since the pandemic;
- The Chapter will participate in this year's Highlands Ranch Fourth of July parade;
- The Chapter's Poppy Drive, that was rescheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup>, is waiting on King Soopers to approve setting up tables in front of stores; so far, two out of five stores have given permission to set up tables; the Chapter will also schedule with King Soopers stores the November 13<sup>th</sup> for the Veterans Day weekend Poppy Drive;
- The Cherry Creek School District's military and veteran's appreciation and fall football game is scheduled for September; they also recently held a military induction ceremony for 60 students who will be entering military service;
- The Wall that Heals will be in Brighton September 2 to 6.

### **Unfinished Business**

None

### **New Business**

- Stan Paprocki and David Ramey will be attending the Region 8/9 Conference in Reno;
- Stan Paprocki will be attending the National Convention; the State Council President is automatically a delegate and his expenses are paid by the CSCP, not by the State Council, as Stan is the State Council President (this is according to Dick Southern); the Council can send two more delegates; however, their expenses must be approved by the Council;
- Tom Dowell (President 1075) and Paul Kennedy (VP 1075) will be attending the National Convention and their expenses are being paid by the Chapter;
- Chapter 1071 can send up to 5 delegates, 1075 2 delegates and 1106 4 delegates; a delegate is authorized for every 100 at-large members;

# Colorado State Council

## Motions

None

## Good of the Order

- Lee White asked Dick Southern how many Chapters are closing; he stated that 6 in Region 9; all financial reports are due to National July 15<sup>th</sup>, and this will determine what Chapters and State Councils go into suspense and may not continue; the latest suspension list had 41;
- Lee White asked why National did not provide leadership to State Councils and Chapters during the pandemic, with guidance, suggestions and support on how to continue to operate and stay in contact with members; Dick responded that National had issues of their own and were self-focused to survive; 15 employees were terminated and everyone worked from home;
- A Larry asked about the current status of Angle Fire; no one knows; we will check on it.

## Closing Remarks

None

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## The Next Colorado State Council Meeting: September 11, 2021 @ 1300-hour, Castle Rock Library

The meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections at 2:07 PM by First Vice President David Lyons.

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

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