



**Vietnam Veterans of America
Colorado State Council**

Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: December 11, 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 12:59 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), Larry Peterson (Voting Delegate 1075), Joe Plant (Chaplain and Voting Delegate 1106)

Absences: None

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

Declaration of Principles: David Lyons (read)

Questions on Prior Meeting Minutes. The September 11th 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 stated that the Region 8/9 Conference in Reno drew about 75 attendees; John Rowen did not attend due to health reasons;

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- Dick reported that the final count of attendees at the VVA 2021 National Convention was 695 delegates, the Convention was held in Greensboro, North Carolina; Jack McManus was elected to serve as National President of Vietnam Veterans of America; Linda Schwartz was elected Treasurer, up seating Wayne Reynolds;
- Dick attended the Hawaii State Chapter meeting, but no trips to the Philippines or Guam due to pandemic quarantines;
- A question was asked about the future of AVVA; Dick stated that AVVA is working to be better organized; membership is low; they lack funds and need to focus on fundraising;
- Another question was asked if there were discussions on how long VVA will continue as an organization at the Convention; it will be a “last man standing” organization because the resolutions to change the name of VVA was not approved by delegates;
- Proposed Constitutional Amendment – 09 (submitted by Milt Omoto, Chapter 1106) to revise the requirement to start a new Chapter from 25 to 15 was approved by delegates; Dick reported that this will help two new Chapters in California trying to start;
- The next Conference of State Council Presidents is schedule for January 13, 2022, in Silver Spring, MD.

Treasurer’s Report and HGDP Report: David Ramey

- The total HGDP received by the CO State Council in October as a result of an adjustment;
- The November HGDP check was received late on December 3rd;
- The November Treasurer’s report shows no income and expenses for the month;
- Dave reported that funds from the Dreiling Estate for 2022 will be received by the Council in February, and distributed to each Chapter on March 12, 2022, at the State Council meeting;

Expenses Against the Council: David Ramey

- The next Veterans Community Living Center donation will go to the Spanish Peaks Veterans Community Living Center in Walsenburg as part of the Council’s quarterly support to Colorado Living Centers;
- Today’s Council lunch;
- Dave reported an expense to the Secretary of State Colorado License to continue the State Council as a member in good standing.

Reading of Communications: Milt Omoto

- A thank you note from the Veterans Community Living Center in Rifle for the Council’s donation was read; the Living Center appreciated the donation;
- No other communications.

Member Sickness and Distress

Chapter 1071: Trini’s daughter-in-law is receiving cancer treatment; Michael Craig passed;

Chapter 1075: Tom reported on the passing of a Chapter member; Chapter member Edward Florez and wife contracted COVID; he is on 24-hour oxygen and wife is doing better; please continue to pray for Manny Pedraza’s healing; Tom had a bone marrow exam and is awaiting results;

Chapter 1106: Michell Mallin, Executive Director for Honor Bell Foundation and Associate member of the Chapter passed; Rich Eisenberg is suffering from terminal cancer; Sonny Gorsuch is in a

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nursing home and no doing well; Alvin Arrowood, Chapter member, passed; we continue to pray for those who are sick and for shut ins.

Chapter Activity Reports

Chapter 1071 (Trini Rael, Stan Paprocki, Leonard Smith)

- Trini reported that the Chapter was honored by Green Mountain High School and Mountain Range High School on Veterans Day; they provided breakfast, lunch and programs for veterans in attendance;
- The Chapter conducted their Poppy Drive at four King Soopers stores; they collected over \$5,000;
- The Windsor Gardens Quilts of Valor Chapter presented quilts to eight Chapter members;
- The Chapter donated \$500 to the Woodworkers Guild (the organization that provides wooden urns for veterans Honor Burials); they in turn wanted the money donated to a charity (Tunnels 2 Towers);
- Chapter members participated in the Wall That Heals in Brighton in September;
- Stan reported that the Wall That Heals will be in Mead, CO August 18 to August 21 in 2022;
- The Chapter donated to Wreaths Across America for December 18th at Crown Hills Cemetery's veteran section; Stan reported that some family members do not want wreaths place on their loved one's grave;
- Chapter member Harry Johnson is in the VVA 2022 calendar.

Chapter 1075 (Tom Dowell)

- Tom provided his summary of the VVA National Convention as an attending delegate;
- He stated that California has one of the best homeless programs for veterans, and was successful in minimizing the impacts of COVID on residents living in veteran homes; Dick Southern explained that the head of CALVET that manages veteran homes in California is a former military physician and saw ahead of time the pending pandemic and took measures to protect residents in veteran homes; there are eight homes with about 100 residents in each home; they suffered 10 deaths total;
- Tom reported that Kansas City is building tiny homes for veterans; Stan stated that Longmont is also building these small homes for veterans;
- Tom reported that H.R. 234, the Korean American VALOR Act enables Koreans from the Republic of Korea who served during the Vietnam War, now living in the U.S., and are now American citizens can get health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs; the Act is known as the "Korean American Vietnam Allies Long Overdue for Relief Act";
- Tom stated that Walter Reed Hospital is now able to grow limbs of amputated patients to minimize the use of prosthetics; it is reported that there are over 5,283 amputees from the Vietnam War;
- The Chapter donated \$2,000 to the Kentucky VVA State Council for relief from the 200-mile-long tornado that devastated the State.

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Chapter 1106 (Lee White, David Lyons)

- The Chapter conducted two recent Poppy Drive fund raisers, on October 9th and November 13th; there were four King Soopers locations for October and five for November; the Chapter did well;
- The Chapter has been having face-to-face meetings since June; prior to that, virtual online meetings were held;
- The Standing Committee list continues to be updated as more volunteers are recruited;
- The Chapter is considering a flag retirement ceremony to properly dispose of worn American flags;
- The Chapter continues to work with Quilts of Valor; a recent ceremony was held to honor veterans;
- Chapter representatives are working with TREA on ideas for fund raising;
- The Chapter partnered with Texas Roadhouse restaurant in Parker on fundraising during the month of November; the fundraiser was successful with the Chapter to receive gift cards from the restaurant as a result of customers supporting veterans; all month of November, guests got a free appetizer card when they donate; they also could complete an appreciation note that the restaurant will give to the Chapter at the end of the month; monies collected will be converted to gift cards and given to us; on November 11th (Veterans Day); the Chapter set up a table with information and donation requests; the restaurant handed out vouchers for a free meal that had a “fact sheet” of VVA Chapter 1106 attached;
- The Chapter’s Color Guard participated in the Ben Franklin Academy Veterans Day celebration;
- The Chapter continues to work with the Cherry Creek School District on veteran events; CCSD recently donated funds collected by staff members, teachers and students to the Chapter;
- Joe reported that the Chapter continues to work with VA HUD-VASH to help get homeless veterans off the street; we verify that the person is a veteran; the Chapter spends a considerable amount per year on this program.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

- Re-cap of the VVA National Convention, November 2 to 6, 2021; already covered
- Dreiling Estate Funds Annual Report. A completed Chapter report was submitted by Chapter 1075; Milt will send the electronic version of the Chapter report to Leonard Smith for completion by Chapter 1071; Milt will complete the form for Chapter 1106; the disbursement report for the State Council was signed by Stan Paprocki and David Ramey;
- Milt will package the completed reports and submit them, with a cover letter, to James Dreiling, the executor of the estate, in January.

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Motions

Motion 1. Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report was made by Dave Lyons and second by Manny Pedraza; the Treasurer’s report was accepted by the Council.

Motion 2. Motion for the State Council to donate \$2,000 to the Kentucky State Council as a result of the tornado damage was made by Dave Lyons and Second by Larry Peterson. The motion was approved by the Council.

Good of the Order

- Larry attended an event for the unveiling of the design for the National Lao-Hmong Memorial, October 2nd at the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport in Broomfield; there was a North American T-28 aircraft there that will eventually be the centerpiece of the memorial; the memorial is planned to be built in Westminster in 2022; Larry supported Lao Hmong pilot training in Thailand and provided air support to ground troops;
- A suggestion was made by Larry to donate to the National Lao-Hmong Memorial organization to support building of the memorial; the Council agreed to donate the amount at the March 2022 Council meeting;
- A suggestion was made by Tom to have State Council meetings three times a year rather than the current four; the meetings would be in March, June and to possibly move the September meeting to October or November; the rationale is that December is a very busy month with many activities; this was proposed a suggestion at this point, not a motion.

Secretary’s Note: The By-Laws of the Vietnam Veterans of America Colorado State Council, Article V – MEETINGS OF THE STATE COUNCIL, Section 1 – Regular Meetings, states that ***“Regular meetings of the State Council shall be at least four (4) times per year at such times and locations as the State Council shall designate.”***
Should this suggestion become a motion and passed by the Council, the By-Laws will require revision to this Article.

Closing Remarks

A closing prayer was provided by Joe Plant.

The Next Colorado State Council Meeting: March 12, 2022 @ 1300-hour, Castle Rock Library

The meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections at 2:24 PM by President Stan Paprocki.

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

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