



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1106

Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: August 1, 2020

Meeting Start Time: 9:00PM

Meeting Location: ZOOM Video/Teleconference Host Michelle Mallin

Meeting called to order by President Lee White at 9:01AM

Meeting Topics

1. Welcome to the meeting by President Lee White
2. Moment of Silence (for our MIA and POW) and Invocation by Chaplain Garry Turks
 - And prayers for those in need including John McMaster's family

3. Pledge of Allegiance (all)

4. Board Member Roll Call

Officers and Board Members Present on Call: Officers: Lee White (President), David Lyons (Vice President), Mike Huber (Treasurer), Milt Omoto (Secretary); Board Members: Joe Plant, Tom Werzyn, Dan Green, Ron Smith, Glen Payne John Vargas; AVVA Liaison Representative: Litta Plant-Schaper (11)

Absences: Patti Ehline (Excused)

5. Membership Roll Call Members Present on Call:

Bob Crago, Richard Eisenberg, Dan Green, Mike Huber, Jack Hunter, Alan Jaffe, Mike Karch, Cliff Lawson, Bob Lee, Jesse Maldonado, Bob Mallin, Mark Nickell, Bob Palmi, Steve, Robertson, Joseph Robinson, Bob Rotruck, Carl Sanchez, John Sheadel, Suzanne Sigona, Charles Smith, Gary Weston, Jim Williams, Darryl Wright, Mike Vallow, Joe Dempsey, Michelle Mallin, Leann Stelzer, Garry Turks. (44 total on-line)

Guests: Shannon Cunningham, Emma Bebart, Austin Jandik (scholarship winners)

6. Chapter Meeting Minutes Approvals

Motion to approve the VVA Chapter 1106 Minutes dated June 6, 2020 as transcribed, made by John Vargas and second by Tom Werzyn;



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Motion to approve the VVA Chapter 1106 Minutes dated July 4, 2020 as transcribed, made by Tom Werzyn and second by John Vargas

7. Scholarship Recipients Reading of Essays

Introduction by Mike Karsh

The Scholarship Committee visited 40 schools, drove 350 miles and talked to numerous school counselors, teachers and staff; thanks to the Committee for their hard work in reviewing all essays and selecting the top 6 winners. Reading of essays:

a) Austin Jandik

The irony behind veteran suicides. Every day, 22 veterans take their lives. These are the very people that volunteered to serve our Country. This accounts for a high percentage of all US suicides. It may be due to the difficult transition from military to civilian life. Mental issues, PTSD and depression must be addressed. The irony: why would people volunteer to serve when they end up in a category for higher potential suicide?

b) Shannon Cunningham

The effects of PTSD on returning veterans. Her grandfather served two tours in Vietnam and she personally saw the effects of his war experience on his behavior. Her great-grandfather served in the 10th Mountain Division and was killed in action. Her grandfather now suffers from agent orange caused melanoma.

c) Emma Bebart

Emma's essay discussed veteran suicide. It is inappropriate for veterans to be separated from service without the proper transition help to civilian life. The Veterans Administration does have mental health services, but many veterans don't take advantage of this. And, private insurance may not cover certain services. As a Country, we need to support veteran mental health services. Her father was a military physician and saw the effects of combat on personnel.

8. Chapter Video (shown)

9. President's Report: Lee White

During the President's report, Jack Hunter presented a slide show of member pictures.

- The Chapter Board Meeting was held on July 18th
- The Chapter has a large inventory of membership items for suggested donations, including shirts, tee-shirts and wind breakers, all with Chapter logos; members are encouraged to make a donation for these items



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- Chapter Committees that need additional member support:
 - The Scholarship Committee can use an additional 1 to 2 new members; contact Mike Karsh if you are interested; we encourage new members to join;
 - The Grants and Fundraising Committee is seeking someone with an interest in this area; contact Lee or Milt if interested; also send Milt Omoto any suggestions for grants and sources of funding for the Chapter
 - If interested in the Speakers Bureau, Contact Tom Werzyn
 - Member “Buddy Check” calls are continuing
 - The next Board Meeting is scheduled for August 29th
 - The next Chapter Membership Meeting is scheduled for September 5th
 - The November Poppy Drive fund raiser is still tentatively scheduled for November 14th
10. Vice President’s Report: Dave Lyons
- Thanked members who attended John McMaster’s service at Fort Logon
 - Welcome and thanked to new members
11. Treasurer’s Report: Mike Huber
- The Chapter currently has \$25,680.64 in Checking and Savings accounts
 - Uncleared checks for scholarships is \$12,000
 - This leaves a balance of \$13,680.64 total
 - Expense for veteran assistance for July was \$1,000
 - Ear-marked for 2021 Scholarships is \$250
12. Secretary’s Report: Milt Omoto
- Nothing to report
13. Board Member and Committee Reports
- a) John Vargas. It was good to see some of the Chapter members at John McMasters’ funeral; John Vargas placed American flags with VVA logo on neighbors’ lawns on Fourth of July; he encourages others to do likewise at the next opportunity;
 - b) Glen Payne. Very satisfying to be on the Scholarship Committee;
 - c) Dave Lyons, Membership. National has a total of 87,178 VVA members and 10,371 AVVA member; 105 regular members have passed, and 12 Associate members have passed.
 - d) Joe Plant, Voices for Veterans. Recent changes at the VA include improved access to mental health with more counselors being hired;
 - e) Milt Omoto, Grants and Fundraising. The VVA Household Goods program is back in operation, and pickups of donation items can be scheduled via telephone or on-line; this is a good source of income for the Chapter; Bob Rotruck suggested that we move forward with the November Poppy Drive, instilling necessary health precautions;
 - f) Bob Rotruck, Webmaster and Newsletter. The September/October Newsletter will be delayed as Bob and Barbara will be in San Diego attending their son’s Change of Command



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- Ceremony; Bob encourages members to write a short story about an experience or item of interest from your military service;
- g) Ron Smith, Chapter Events. No events currently planned due to the pandemic; he stated that we should contact King Soopers to schedule our November Poppy Drives;
 - h) Joe Plant, Veterans Assistance Program. The Chapter assisted three veterans in July; one female veteran to fix her car; two others were provided power wheelchairs;
 - i) Glen Payne, Social Committee. No social events are currently planned;
 - j) Dan Green, Color Guard. No practices are being held due to the current COVID situation;
14. Chapter Promotional Items, Lee White
- Lee will send out an email listing Chapter promotional items for suggested donations; for example, Chapter Polo shirts are \$40.00 for sizes Large and XL, and \$45 for sizes 2XL and 3XL; other products include tee-shirts, wind breakers and Chapter logo decals; members are encouraged to purchase promotional items.
15. Roundtable
- a) Joe Robertson, PGA HOPE. Joe attended, as part of 20 participants, the PGA Hope event in Washington DC and is coordinating this program locally; PGA HOPE introduces golf to Veterans with disabilities to enhance their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being; The program introduces the game of golf through a developmental 6-8 week curriculum, taught by PGA Professionals trained in adaptive golf; Joe will keep the Chapter members informed on this program; transportation will also be provided locally;
 - b) Cliff Lawson, Veterans Portrait Program. Cliff's veterans portrait program is back in operation; he showed a video of the program; any veteran can have his portrait taken by Cliff; he asks for a small donation of \$90 to cover studio costs, that includes two portraits; contact Cliff directly to schedule an appointment with him: Phone: (303) 520-3910; Email: clifflawson@mac.com
16. Membership in Sickness or in Need of Support
- a) We are still not sure of the status of Sonny Gorsuch (Joe Plant continues to contact him a number of times with no success)
 - b) Jack Paulson is still in the hospital at Sky Ridge; he is out of ICU and in a regular room; he has been hospitalized for 30-days;
14. Drawing (by Litta Plant-Schaper)
- Drawing for Picnic Basket with Cooler
WINNER: Mike Karsh! Litta will ship it to you;
16. Announcements
- a) Michelle Mallin. Elks Club, Littleton is sponsoring a picnic for Colorado National Guard and all military veterans; September 20th from 2 to 5PM at Sterne Park, Littleton (5798 S Spotswood St., Littleton); a flyer will be sent to Chapter members; please RSVP;



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- b) Lee White. There are free admission days at Colorado National Parks on select days; check their websites;
- c) Lee White. For those interested, a recent virtual VVA Board of Director's special meeting held on July 18th video is available on the VVA National Website (click on the "Info for Members" dropdown)
- d) Notable events:
 - August 4th, Coast Guard Day
 - August 7th, National Purple Heart Day
 - August 10th, Agent Orange Day (It marks the day in 1961 when the U.S. began aerial spraying of toxic herbicides over Vietnam) Awareness Day
 - August 6th and 9th are the anniversaries of the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively
- e) Lee White. Our September Membership Meeting will feature a guest speaker from Qualified Listeners; the Oath of Office for newly elected Officers and Board Members will also be conducted;
- f) Tom Werzyn. The Cherry Creek School District's Fall Football Game that recognizes military personnel and veterans will continue to be held on August 29th at 6:00PM; no fans are allowed; it will be available for viewing online;

17. Other

- Richard Eisenberg stated that he is very glad to be a member of this Chapter after hearing the Scholarship winners read their essays and Chapter activities;
- Dan Green with follow-up with Michelle Mallin to provide the Chapter color guard at a dinner event.

The Next Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2020 – online via ZOOM

The membership meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections by President Lee White at 10:24AM

This Chapter Membership Meeting minutes is submitted by Milt Omoto, Chapter Secretary.

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Circulation Notice: These minutes may contain sensitive and/or personal information; therefore, please use discretion when sharing this information with non-VVA members.