



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1106

Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 6, 2021

Scheduled Meeting Start Time: 9:00 AM

Meeting Location: ZOOM Video/Teleconference Host: Gary Weston

Meeting called to order by President Lee White at 9:03 AM

Meeting Topics

1. Welcome to the meeting by President Lee White
2. Invocation by Chaplain Garry Turks and Moment of Silence (for all our MIA and POW)
 - Prayers for those in need and those sick and shut-ins
 - Pray for Michelle Mallin and Dee and David Lyons and family
3. Pledge of Allegiance (all): lead by Lee White
4. Board Member Roll Call

Officers and Board Members Present Roll Call: Officers: Lee White (President), Mike Huber (Treasurer), Milt Omoto (Secretary); Board Members: Glen Payne, Tom Werzyn, Patti Ehline, Reverend Garry Turks, Dan Green, Ron Smith, John Vargas; AVVA Liaison Representative: Litta Plant-Schaper.

Absences: David Lyons, Joe Plant

5. Membership Roll Call Members Present on Call:

David Yates, Bob Rotruck, Coy Richie, Carl Sanchez, Mark Nickell, Wendell Wallace, Jack Hunter, Dan Wagle (audio), Litta Plant-Schaper, Leann Stelzer, Bob Mallin, Alan Jaffe, Jim Williams, Suzanne Sigona, Rich Eisenberg, Mike Karsh, Jesse Maldonado, Gary Weston, Walter Leuci, Mike Messenger, Allen Jaffe, Mark Nickell, Steve Robertson, Gary Bentzen, Clarence Rebolledo, Don McNeely, Robert Lee, Marc Rafeld, Chris Boyer, Lou Grounds

There were a total of 38 online connections at one point.

Secretary's Note: If you were an attendee but your name does not appear on the list, that is because you didn't pre-register with Lee and we did not recognize you on the call.



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6. New members, first time attendees, guests:

Marc Rafeld (Zillo Veterans Support) first time attendee (referred by Alexis Winemiller)

7. Chapter Meeting Minutes Approval

Minutes of the February 2021 Chapter Membership meeting were emailed to each member.

Motion 1. Motion to approve the VVA Chapter 1106 Minutes dated February 6, 2021 as transcribed made by John Vargas and Second by Tom Werzyn; the minutes were approved.

8. Member Bio Presentation: none for this month; we will schedule one for our next meeting

9. Special Award Presentations (John Vargas)

- Tom Werzyn for leading the Speaker's Bureau, coordinating the Chapter video, liaison with Cherry Hills School District and leading the effort to establish the 501(c)(3) organization, thank you!
- Suzanne Sigona for your patriotism, dedication and effort consistently for many years as a volunteer at the "Wall" in Washington DC, your support of the travelling "Wall that Heals," and Chapter involvement, thank you!

10. President's Report: Lee White

- The Chapter Board meeting was held February 27th;
- The Chapter wishes to recognize members who assisted Donna Chaney with urgent help when her apartment unit water pipe broke; members assisted with cleanup and move of items to a storage unit; several members also donated funds to assist Donna with expenses; Donna currently lives in Cannon City but drives to Denver to care for member Gwendolyn Wilson;
- Those who make monthly buddy check calls are asked to notify Lee if they hear of any member needing assistance or support;
- Lee is trying to get on the Parker King Soopers for the May Poppy Drive;
- Members may want to have small group get togethers for coffee and social as a way of easing into more face to face contacts; all safety protocols should be observed including masks, social distancing and proper sanitation;
- Lee will check with Lauri at the South Metro Fire and Rescue HQ to determine the status of when the Community Room may become available;
- There are 34 VVA At-Large members in Colorado that Lee would like to invite to our monthly Zoom meetings; however, the list that National puts out does not have email addresses; Jack Hunter is working with Lee to generate letters that will be mailed to these members requesting their email address so we can stay in contact with them;
- Lee is working with Jack Hunter to determine having a physical meeting (with limited attendance) together with Zoom capability so others can join virtually; Jack has done this with his organization; Internet access is needed along with two computers; Jack can assist with the set-up of this arrangement;



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- The Chapter is planning for a food drive during the May/June time period; we are working to identify a food bank that we can donate the collected items to; Lee has identified the Health and Hope Center in Castle Rock, but members are asked to provide their recommendation;
- A reminder that Newsletter editor Bob Rotruck is requesting a photo of when you were young and in the military for the next newsletter; email your picture to Bob at: bobrottruck73@gmail.com

11. Treasurer's Report: Mike Huber

- Mike presented the February end Treasurer's report

Motion 2. That the February Treasurer's Report be approved. Motion by Tom Werzyn and Second by John Vargas; the motion was approved.

Note that this is the Fiscal Year End financial report; the fiscal year ended February 28, 2021;

12. Secretary's Report: Milt Omoto

Nothing to report as Secretary

13. Board Member Reports

- a) Joe Plant (absent)
- b) Tom Werzyn. Tom reported that the 501(c)(3) parallel non-profit organization is still awaiting formal approval from the IRS;
- c) Patti Ehline. Mr. Kilmer of the VA health care system plans to conduct quarterly teleconferences for veterans and their family; Patti reported on the existence of variants of COVID; please continue to maintain all safety precautions and avoid large gatherings; you can get infected again even after taking the vaccine;
- d) Ron Smith. Nothing to report;
- e) Dan Green. Nothing to report;
- f) John Vargas. John reported that Cherry Creek School District and Smoky Hill Quilt Club will be having a Quilts of Valor presentation on Friday, March 12th at the Freemont Building, 14603 E. Freemont Avenue Centennial; Chaplain Garry Turks will be awarded a quilt; volunteers are needed for the event; please contact John Vargas for more information;
- g) Glen Payne. Nothing to report;
- h) Chaplain Garry Turks. Garry continues to call Chapter members to see how they are doing; he will visit Michelle Mallin and Dee Lyons; please let Chaplain know of any member needed pray or support;

14. Committee Reports

- a) Voices for Veterans, Patti Ehline. The next meeting is Monday, March 8th;
- b) Grants and Fundraising, Milt Omoto. A reminder that the King Soopers Rewards program is now active for the Chapter; if you shop at King Soopers, and have a rewards card, be sure to



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register your card by linking it to our Chapter; you will know you are properly registered when you see “Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1106” at the bottom of your receipt; Please continue to support the VVA household good program; schedule a pickup by calling or going on line; donate your unwanted cloths, appliances, and other household items to the VVA; encourage your friends and neighbors to donate;

- c) Scholarship Committee, Mike Karsh. Requested a short meeting of committee members after the Zoom meeting; they have started to contact schools;
- d) Chapter Events, Ron Smith. No Chapter events are currently scheduled;
- e) Social Committee, Glen Payne. The Social Committee is looking into possible outdoor events for the Chapter for the Summer at a safe venue; the Chapter’s end of year Holiday event is tentatively scheduled for December and the Committee is reviewing the restaurant contract;
- f) Color Guard, Dan Green. No current Color Guard activity; they are standing by for any requests.

15. Roundtable

- a) Suzanne Sigona thanked the Chapter for her recognition award; she reported that for the Wall that Heals, once a Volunteer Coordinator is assigned, that person will take volunteers and provide training; Suzanne reported on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund’s (VVMF) Vietnam Veterans In Memory Program; the In Memory program enables families and friends of those who came home but later died due to Agent Orange exposure, PTSD and other illnesses as a result of their Vietnam service with the opportunity to have them be forever memorialized; on June 20th (Father’s Day) the VVMF will host a reading of names; visit <https://www.vvmf.org/In-Memory-Program/> for more information and the on-line application; Suzanne also shared a video on Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day; you can see the video at this you tube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJBDgo1AVRM>
- b) Rich Eisenberg reported that his wife applied for the VA Care Giver program and encouraged others to do so;

Secretary’s Note: Please see the February meeting minutes for information about the VA Caregiver Program as reported by Justin Cobler RN, VA Caregiver Program, that include the web site link and phone number. Justin was one of our February VA guest speaker.

16. Membership in Sickness or in Need of Support

- a) Please continue to pray for those in need
- b) Please let Chaplain Garry Turks know of members who are ill or in need of support.

17. Announcements

- a) National Vietnam Veterans day is Monday, March 29th (observed);
- b) The Wall that Heals will be on display in the city of Brighton, September 2 to 5, 2021
- c) Patti encouraged all members to enroll in the VA system; the VA office is open from 8:00AM to 4:00PM;



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- d) Dr. Mallin reported that Michelle is undergoing her fourth chemo treatment; she is under pain management; they are cautiously optimistic;
- e) John reported that the Honor Bell is planning on a 3,000th toll event at Fort Logan;
- f) Lou Grounds reported that he has recovered from COVID; he had a difficult several months, but thanks to his wife who works in the health industry, he was well cared for and recovered;

18. Give Away (Litta Plant-Schaper)

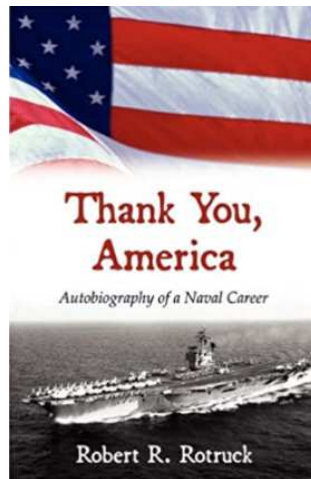
Bob Lee won a Chapter wind breaker

18. Book Review by Tom Werzyn

Book and Author: *Thank You, America* by Robert R. Rotruck

Chapter member and author Bob Rotruck, Chief Warrant Officer, U.S. Navy (Retired) had a wonderful career serving the people of the United States from 1959 to 1979. He feels very blessed to have had the opportunity to be a part of a unique community of American citizens that choose to serve their country through the military. This book details each of his duty stations in a short story format, making it an easy and enjoyable read.

Bob Rotruck shows the indomitable spirit of American service men and women in *Thank You, America*. "It was a wonderful life," Bob says. "I wouldn't trade it for anything!" Smooth seas and fair winds!



19. Schedule

- a) The next Chapter Board Meeting is scheduled for March 27th at 9:00AM;
- b) The next Chapter Member Meeting is Saturday April 3rd ;
- c) The next Colorado State Council Meeting is March 13th .



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20. In recognition of National Vietnam War Recognition Day, Stars and Stripes is commemorating the Vietnam War at 50 with a series of articles:

<https://www.stripes.com/news/special-reports/vietnam-at-50>

The Next Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2021 at 9:00A – online via ZOOM

The membership meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections by President Lee White at 10:03 AM



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. Note that this is the web version of the meeting minutes posted on the Chapter's website.