



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1106

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

March 4 2023

Meeting Location: South Metro Fire & Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO 80112 (Board Room). Zoom provided

Meeting called to order by President Dave Lyons at 9:00 AM

Invocation and Prayer: Reverend Garry Turks (Chapter Chaplain)

Pledge of Allegiance (All)

POW/MIA Chair Presentation: Dan Green

Moment of Silence: "For all those men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice and for those still MIA;" we also remember our VVA members who have passed.

In Memoriam, a Tribute to Gwendolyn Wilson and Thomas J. Meaney

Officer and Board Member Roll Call: Dave Lyons, Milt Omoto, Mike Huber, Sally Ann Eaves, The Rev. Garry Turks, Patti Ehline, Joe Plant, Joe Robinson, Joe Dempsey, John Vargas, Tom Werzyn

Members Present: Mike Karsh, Jane Brown, Linda Croce, Ita Dempsey, Jean Eisenberg, Diane Graham, Claudia Hunter, Jean Jaffe, Litta Plant-Schaper, Barbara Rotruck, Jai Smith, Leann Stelzer, Jim Williams, Han Yoon, Jim Blumberg, Bob Brown, Wayne Buser, Dale Creason, Tony Croce, Charles Daldry, David Dawson, Joe Dempsey, Bob Easter, Sally Ann Eaves, Patti Ehline, Craig Fagerness, Barry Fiore, Guillermo Frausto, Dan Graham, Dan Green, Leo Greunke, Warren Harrison, Jim Henderson, Mike Huber, Jack Hunter, Alan Jaffe, Roger Lanphier, Walter Leuci, Marvin Lich, Chuck Luley, David Lyons, Jesse Maldonado, Jim Marcille, Jim McGrevey, Don McNeely Sr, Harry Montgomery, Tony Nickerson, Milt Omoto, Gary Palka, Ed Phillips, Joe Plant, Bill

Purcell, Coy Ritchie, Joseph Robinson, Dean Rollins, Bob Rotruck, Carl Sanchez, Ed Seiler, John Sheadel, Lee Skiles, Charles Smith, Ron Smith, Phil Snyder, Garry Turks, John Vargas, Dan Wagle, Wendell Wallace, Tom Werzyn, Gary Weston, Lee White, John Williams, Lew Wood

Introduction and recognition of guests and new members.

Guest Presentation: Jennifer K. Heilveil, Rocky Mountain VA Medical Center, Recreation Therapist. Recreational Therapy was brought to the VA, Eastern Colorado Health Care system, three years ago to address rehabilitation goals and needs. They use recreational and healthy options to provide structured and unstructured therapy to address physical, emotional, cognitive, social and spiritual needs of all veterans. They offer an amazing menu of activities both locally and nationally. Watch for a Creative Arts Festival in Denver next year - just one of their activities.

The Member Biography: John Shaedel presented his experience as a Navy cook and diver. Yes, that's right; first he was a cook and then he became a diver over a career spanning 23 years. He especially focused on experiences as a diver during his assignment to SEA.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Dave Lyons)

1. Today is national "Hug a Veteran" Day. We did.
2. After looking at various options, we will return to Maggiano's DTC for our 2023 Christmas Party.
3. Today is the last day for our Fallen Heroes Sock Drive.
4. Representatives from The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will be presenting the **Vietnam War Commemoration Pin and Certificate** at our May 6th Membership meeting. They will also present an Honorary Partner Distinction banner to the Chapter. By April 7th, we will need the names of those who have not received the pin and plan to be at the May meeting (let Milt Omoto or Lee White know).
5. We are preparing for our Memorial Day weekend (May 27th) **Poppy Drive**. We need several leaders and additional volunteers for some locations. Please see me.
6. We are still looking for a Social Committee Chairman. Consider it like a Social "focus person" to coordinate the other volunteers who each take responsibility for different parts of the social activities (summer picnic, Christmas party.) Please let me or any Board member know if you are interested.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Milt Omoto)

1. More on the DAR visit: At the May 6th Membership Meeting, the DAR will be presenting the 50th Anniversary pin and/or a really cool certificate. If you haven't yet received this pin and are interested, please see me. They need the names well before the event.
2. We really are in need of a Social Committee Chairman. It has been suggested that we consider it to be a "Social Focus" person. Duties would be to coordinate the various committees and other people working on social activities, mainly the summer picnic and Christmas party.
3. Milt called Joe and Iva Dempsey forward and presented each with a Certificate of Appreciation for all their extra effort to order supplies for the Chapter, providing merchandise like shirts, jackets, challenge coins, pins, and other merchandise. They are here at every meeting; setting up the "store" and then taking it down and storing things at their home. It is a small money maker for us with a big impact.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Mike Huber)

1. The Treasurer's report was submitted by Mike Huber.
2. The Household Goods program brought a donation of \$725 to the treasury.
3. The King Sooper's Rewards program gave us a 4th Qtr donation of \$458.21.

Motion to Approve February Financial Report by: Joe Dempsey,
Second by: Tony Nickerson. Motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Sally Ann Eaves)

Minutes of the last meeting were published and sent out by email. There were no corrections.

Motion to Accept Meeting Minutes for February 4th by: Gary Weston.
Second by: John Vargas. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. Membership and Color Guard (Dale Creason)**
 - With the new member today, our VVA membership is 189.
 - The Color Guard were at the VA Chapel last week for the memorial service for all veterans associated with the Rocky Mountain VA Medical Center who passed last year.

- The Color Guard will be at the Castle Rock Fraternal Order of Eagles on March 25 for the **Honor Bell Welcome Home Celebration**. This celebration from 12:00 to 3:00 PM will include lunch. VVA members with their yellow shirts will have a free lunch, for others, lunch is \$15.

2. Veterans Emergency Assistance Program (Joe Plant)

- Veterans assistance from us includes help with rent, application fees, rent deposits, and sometimes help with heat and utilities costs.
- The fiscal year began on March 1. For the last fiscal year, we provided veterans with \$22,488 in help.
- In the month of February, we provided help to 8 veterans for a total of \$2,466.

3. Chaplain's Report (Reverend Garry Turks)

- Chaplain Turks gave a report of individuals needing our thoughts and prayers.
- He reiterated the importance of Buddy Calls and connecting with each other.
- "You need 1106 and 1106 needs you".

4. Government Affairs (Tony Nickerson)

- National President Jack McManus testified before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. He brought up topics that affect us all. These included the equitable treatment of all veterans, regardless of how or when they served; full funding for the POW/MIA Accounting Agency (there are over 1,581 that have not been accounted for); quality care for aging veterans as well as racial and ethnic disparities in care.
- There is also a push to make it mandatory to include a statement on death certificates to indicate if the deceased had ever served in the military.
- We need to work for better care for Gulf War veterans who were exposed to various long-term toxins.
- We need to address Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, to extend the 12 nautical mile limit that was established.
- We need to make sure all the Navy and Marines who served in Vietnam and were not credited with the Vietnam Service Medal are awarded that medal.
- May 11-13 is the National Welcome Home Veterans celebration in Washington DC.
- Those eligible for both VVA and AVVA membership are encouraged to belong to both organizations.
- The National VVA Convention will be in Orlando, FL Aug 7-12. Attendance is important as the decision on the legacy of the VVA will be discussed.

5. Speaker's Bureau (Tom Werzyn)

- The Speaker's Bureau is quiet right now with no immediate requests for speakers.

6. Grants and Fundraising (Milt Omoto)

- To emphasize the Treasurer's report, the Household Goods program is a good source of funds for us. Just go online to schedule a pick up (it takes about 6 weeks) and then they will pick up.
- The King Soopers (Kroger) Rewards program is another source of income to us that costs nothing. Just sign up at your local Kroger store (King Soopers/City Market etc) and link your account to VVA 1106. It doesn't affect your fuel points or anything. We receive a quarterly donation.
- We presented a Challenge Coin to the Texas Roadhouse in Parker (we had given them a certificate in previous years) for their support to our chapter, especially on Veterans Day.

7. Chapter Events Coordinator (Joe Robinson)

- Joe Robinson and Lee White are organizing a field trip for members to the WWII Museum in Colorado Springs. The Date is May 20th from 10:00 to 12:00 AM with no host lunch at a local restaurant to follow. Chapter 1106 will provide 50% of the cost for each member so each member will pay about \$10. Guests will pay \$20.

We will accommodate 20 to 25 people. Carpooling will be from the Safeway store in Castle Rock at 8:30 AM.

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8. Scholarship Committee (Gary Weston)

- We have six college scholarships available.
- The deadline for application submission is March 24.
- Gary Weston and Lou Grounds got all the information sent out to the school districts in our area (Arapahoe, Douglas, Kiowa) in December and followed up with calls to make sure the schools received the information.
- So far we have had only one applicant.
- Applications are on our website.
- Lou and Gary will contact school counselors again.

9. Promotional Items (Joe Dempsey)

- If you ordered a shirt and haven't picked it up. It is here. Pick it up or it goes to the people who would like a shirt.
- We would like to bundle the AVVA orders so we can reach the 10 order minimum.

10. Voices for Veterans (Warren Harrison)

- We continue our regular on-line meetings.
- The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Will participate in the **NAMI Walks Colorado** on May 13 at Centennial Center Park. The Chapter's Color Guard will be there.

11. Veteran Health, PTSD, Women Veterans (Patti Ehline)

- There is an increased emphasis on moral injury issues. Look for my email.
- There is also now a decision authority to adjudicate disabilities.
- Be sure to sign up with the VA for care, whether you have the VA as your primary care provider or not. It's important to be registered with them.
- Caution: Never, never give up your Medicare A and B. You never get it back.
- Caution: Be careful what you eat if it was grown in Vietnam or fish caught in the waters of Vietnam. Agent Orange is still in the soil.

12. Webmaster and Newsletter (Bob Rotruck)

- When I "blast" out an email that is from another member, please don't respond to me. Respond to the individual who sent the email to me to send out to you.
- Be sure to visit the website. There is a lot of information on there.
- The May/Jun newsletter is being written now.
- If you wish a password for the "super secret" list of member's names, please let me know. When you go to the website, you click on the "members only". It opens up a page where you put the password and then you re-click the page and it opens up the actual document with all the people's names.

13. John Vargas (Board Member)

- In May there will be an historic all women's Honor Flight.
- The socks we have collected will go to Valor Point and Daniel's Place.
- Jackets are available for purchase, especially good to show our colors in cold weather.

14. AVVA Chapter Liaison (Litta Plant-Schaper)

- The Young Marines have a project to interview veterans. They earn individual points for this project. Any member interested in talking with them about their experiences would be appreciated. Contact Litta if interested.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

1. Jean Jaffe reminded us that The Retired Employees of Cherry Creek Schools are sponsoring a **Colorado Veterans, Military Perspectives in the 20th and 21st Century**,

on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 9:30am to 11:30am at the Fremont Center 14603 East Fremont Ave Centennial, CO 80112. Our own Tom Werzyn will represent the Vietnam era on the panel. There is a \$15 fee which is donated to the scholarship fund for students of any Cherry Creek District high schools.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. VVA Colorado State Council Meeting, March 11, 2023, 1:00PM, Castle Pines Library
2. Colorado Veterans, Military Perspectives in the 20th and 21st Century, on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 9:30am to 11:30am at the Fremont Center 14603 East Fremont Ave Centennial, CO 80112.
3. Next Board Meeting: March 25, 2023 at 9:00AM On-Line.
4. Honor Bell Welcome Home Celebration, Castle Rock Fraternal Order of the Eagles, March 25th, 12:00-3:00PM
5. National Vietnam War Veterans Day Observed, March 29, 2023.

MEMBER SICKNESS OR IN DISTRESS: Please pray for our sick and shut-in members

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEMBERSHIP MEETING: April 1, 2023 at 9:00 AM;
Zoom capability will be provided.**

**LOCATION: South Metro Fire and Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Avenue,
Centennial, CO 80112. We'll see everyone there.**

Don't Forget: Set your clocks FORWARD 1-hour on Sunday, March 12, 2023@
2:00 AM

MEETING ADJOURNED: by Dave Lyons, President, at 10:30AM