



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1106

Membership Meeting November 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

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 and AVVA members who have passed.

In Memoriam: Ceremony to honor Mike Vallow (US Air Force) Chapter Member and David Andersen (US Air Force)

Officer and Board Member Roll Call: Dave Lyons, Milt Omoto, Mike Huber, Sally Ann Eaves, The Rev. Garry Turks, Joe Plant, Joe Robinson, Joe Dempsey, John Vargas, Tom Werzyn, Patti Ehline, Lee White (Founder/Past President), Litta Plant-Schaper (AVVA)

Members Present: Bruce Arndt, Jim Blumberg, Bob Brown, Wayne Buser, Tony Croce, Charles Daldry, David Dawson, Joe Dempsey, Leland Eagleson, Bob Easter, Sally Ann Eaves, Patti Ehline, Rance Exline, Bob Ferguson, Barry Fiore, David Gaul, Dan Graham, Dan Green, Ted Hanfelder, Warren Harrison, Mike Huber, Jack Hunter, Alan Jaffe, Mike Karsh, Mike Katich, Roger Lanphier, George Learned, Bob Lee, Walter Leuci, David Lyons, Larry Majors, Jesse Maldonado, Bob Mallin, Don Marsh, Jim McGrevey, Mark Nickell, Tony Nickerson, Milt Omoto, Gary Palka, Ed Phillips, Joe Plant, James Ponzi, Clarence Rebolledo, Randy Reed, Coy Ritchie, Joseph Robinson, Bob Rotruck, Ed Seiler, Charles Smith, Phil Snyder, Mike Tarby, Garry Turks, John Vargas, Dan Wagle, Wendell Wallace, Richard Weiner, Tom Werzyn, Lee White, John Williams, David Woods, **Associate:** Jane Brown, Linda Croce Ita Dempsey, Jean Eisenberg, Diane Graham, Claudia Hunter, Jean Jaffe, Chritine Omoto, dora Plant, Litta Plant-Schaper, Di Seiler, Leann Stelzer, Naomi Turks, Jim Williams,

We currently meet the first Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM at South Metro Fire and Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO 80112

Visit Us at: www.vva1106.org

Introduction and Recognition of Guests and New Members: New members introduced themselves and the President, Dave Lyons acknowledged the Girls Scout group who welcomed the membership and presented us with homemade cookies. This is Gary Palka's daughter's group.

Guest Presentation: Karen Perez (Puppy Dog Coordinator) and Ailbe Astor (Veteran Services Coordinator) of Freedom Service Dogs presented a very informative program of the development of puppies for service to clients; of the application and acquisition process to receive a trained service dog and the intensive training period to acclimate a dog and client. This was a very well received presentation and for those interested, you can reach Ailbe at aastor@freedom servicedogs.org or 303-922-6231 x203.

Member Biography: Randy Reed began his remarks by saying how impressed he is with Chapter 1106, especially its outreach programs. He told his story of entry into the US Army and assignment to Ft Polk for infantry training and subsequent assignment to Vietnam in the 101st Airborne as an infantry member in the 101st Airborne Admin Company.

Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Program: President Lyons presented 50th Anniversary lapel pins to those who had not previously received them.

President's Report (Dave Lyons)

- Veterans Day celebrations at schools include Horizon Community Middle School in Aurora on Monday November 6th and Ben Franklin Academy in Highlands Ranch on Friday November 10th. Also on November 10th the Cherry Creek Innovation Campus is hosting a free for Veterans breakfast at 8AM. Please attend and support these school events.

- Our Veterans Day Poppy Drive is Saturday, November 11th (Veterans Day); we have four King Soopers locations and are still in need of volunteers

- Also on Veterans Day is the Texas Roadhouse (in Parker) Veterans free meal voucher handout; we will be there from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM; we need folks to hand out vouchers as customers enter or drive by. Note that the restaurant will be open. See Lee White for information.

- Our end of year Holiday Lunch is Saturday, December 9th at Maggiano's Restaurant; we are taking sign ups and money collection today and again at the December 2nd meeting.

Vice President's Report: (Milt Omoto)

Texas Roadhouse Parker:

- Chapter Fundraiser: Texas Roadhouse on Wednesday, November 8 is 10% night. 10% of your food purchase is donated to Chapter 1106 (bring your 10% flyer);

- A free Veterans Day meal is offered to veterans. The restaurant opens at 11:00 a.m. Chapter 1106 volunteers will be there to pass out meal vouchers from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We need volunteers to distribute the vouchers from 10:30AM to 2:30PM.

- During the month of November, guests who donate \$5 get a free appetizer card for their next visit.

- Other Discussion:

- Litta has Jersey Mike's coupons

- We need volunteers for the Poppy Drive on Nov 11th.

- Support the VVA Household Goods Program

- We've received another check from the King Sooper's Community Rewards Program.

Be sure to sign up if you haven't already. You can sign up online.

- **Colorado Freedom Memorial** will have a part of the USS Arizona on display Nov 9-11.

Also they will be lighting 6218 lights each night (Nov 9-11) to commemorate the 6218

Coloradans who died in service to the country. Volunteers are needed to light the lights.

Treasurer's Report (Mike Huber)

- Last month we realized an income of \$561.93

- Expenses amounted to \$2,801.90

- With the trend toward lower income each month, I encourage members to make an end of year donation of any amount to Chapter 1106 so we can continue our work for Veterans.

- Motion to approve the Treasurer's report made by Alan Jaffe and seconded by Bob Dempsey. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report (Sally Ann Eaves)

- Thank you to Milt Omoto for preparing the Secretary's report last month.

- Motion to approve the October minutes was made by John Vargas and seconded by Patti Ehline. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership - Jim Blumberg

- VVA National membership is 90,755 with Colorado at 870.

- Chapter 1106 has 246 members; VVA:203 and AVVA 43.

Color Guard - Dan Green

- The Color Guard will officiate at Horizon Middle School on Nov 6th and at Ben Franklin Academy on Nov 10th.

Veterans Emergency Assistance Program (Joe Plant)

- During the past month, we were able to assist 9 veterans for \$2026.95

Chaplain's Report (Rev. Garry Turks)

- We have three members in a sick/shut-in status.

- Remember Buddy Checks. These are especially important for people who may not go out of their way to converse with people. Some people have serious issues happening in their live right now and are in need of someone with whom to talk. You never know when or how much you might make a difference.

- Be aware that we have five chaplains among our VVA and AVVA membership. All are willing to talk with you.

- Walt Leucci added that he has about 20 people he calls and he really enjoys the conversions. He highly recommends Buddy Calls.

Government Affairs (Tony Nickerson)

- The Veterans Center is a program established by Congress in 1979. Colorado veterans can receive counseling on various subjects at any time. The Center covers a lot of services for veterans and also for their families. Their phone number is 303-326-0645 or visit vetcenter.VA.gov.

- HISA is Occupational Therapy. It covers all kinds of things that happen to you, even something like stumbling. If you are 50% or more disabled, they can help to renovate your bathroom to make it more safe and also to help with a ramp to your home if necessary.

- Chapter 1106 needs a Veterans Service Officer (VSO)

- Pardoned convicts can be buried in national cemeteries.

- Only one individual of the married couples can claim disability.

- A veteran can have up to 5 spouses buried with him when he dies.

Speaker's Bureau (Tom Werzyn)

- All requests for the Speaker's Bureau are being met.

Chapter Events Coordinator (Joe Robinson)

- The Colorado Freedom Memorial people need volunteers to light the lights Nov 9-11.

- The Veterans Center will be able to offer couples counseling in the next few months.

Social Committee (John Vargas)

- A reminder that Chapter 1106 was selected National Chapter of the Year for this year and we thank all the people who help behind the scenes.

- The Highlands Ranch Herald has an article highlighting the move to illuminate a green light on the porch from Nov 6-12 to thank veterans for their service. You are strongly urged to light a green light during this period.

- The Holiday Luncheon on Dec 9th at Maggiano's will cost \$15 per person or \$25 per couple.

Promotional Items (Joe Dempsey)

- We will be ordering the jackets you have requested. They should be here in Feb and will cost \$65 or \$70 depending on size.

- Joe also told of his great experience on his recent Honor Flight.

Veteran Health and Women Veterans (Patti Ehline)

- Is pushing the move to designate mental health as brain health adding brain health to geriatric exams.

- Talked more on PTSD as not a disease but an overwhelming reaction to trauma. She emphasized that most people suffer PTSD at some time and how important it is to know the triggers and proper teaching for resolution.

- Patti is going to DC and will be participating in the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Vietnam Women's Memorial.

- Patti will be taking donations to the Bill Daniels Center in December.

WEBMaster/Newsletter (Mark Nickell)

- Has corresponding with Bob Rotruck to assure continuity with the newsletter.
- Will follow the 19th of the month deadline for submitting articles you want published in the newsletter.

Lee White (Founding president)

- We need volunteers for the Poppy Drive and the Texas Roadhouse fundraiser on Nov 11th. He will schedule the volunteers for each.

AVVA (Litta Plant-Schaper)

- Check the back for name tags. See Lita if you need one.

Roundtable

- Jean Jaffe (AVVA member) told of a Vietnam Veterans panel to be held by Cherry Creek School District (CCSD) on Nov 15 from 9:30 to 11:30 at the American Legion #1 (Iliff and I-25) . We have several members participating in the panel. More information at RECCS.org or just show up.

BLASTER EMAILS (Jack Hunter)

- It is important that you **DO NOT REPORT VVA BLASTS AS SPAM!** That causes them to disappear from everyone on the email list. Just let Jack know that you don't want to receive those emails.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Daylight savings time ends 0200 Sunday, November 5, 2023 (Fall Back 1-Hour)
- US Marine Corps Birthday is November 10, 2023
- Veterans Day is Saturday, November 11, 2023
- Chapter Poppy Drive and Texas Roadhouse fundraiser event are Saturday, November 11, 2023
- Freedom Memorial Light Their Way Home event, November 9 – 11, 2023
- Next Board Meeting is Saturday, November 25, 2023
- Next Membership Meeting is December 2, 2023

MEETING ADJOURNED by Dave Lyons, President at 11:29 AM.

This Chapter Membership Meeting minutes submitted by Sally Ann Eaves, Chapter Secretary

Published 11/08/2023

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