



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1106

Membership Meeting October 7, 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: Mary Tarby, Chapter Associate Member
William "Bill" Clark VVA Chapter Member
Lawrence Durham, VVA Chapter Member
Richard "Dick" Buzzone (American Legion)

Officer and Board Member Roll Call: Dave Lyons, Milt Omoto, The Rev. Garry Turks, Joe Plant, Joe Robinson, John Vargas, Tom Werzyn, Litta Plant-Schaper (AVVA)

Excused: Sally Ann Eaves, Patti Ehline, Mike Huber

Members Present

Mort Anderson, Bruce Arndt, Jim Blumberg, James Chisel, Dale Creason, Tony Croce, Rockie Cuppari, David Dawson, Ita Dempsey, Joe Dempsey, Bob Easter, Bob Ferguson, Barry Fiore, David Gaul, Diane Graham, Dan Graham, Dan Green, Leo Greunke, Warren Harrison, Claudia Hunter, Jack Hunter, Alan Jaffe, Mike Karsh, Roger Lanphier, Marvin Lich, Chuck Luley, David Lyons, Larry Majors, Bob Mallin, Spencer Mamber, Don Marsh, Jim McGrevey, Kaitlyn McGurran, Elijah, Mitchell, Harry Montgomery, Mark Nickell, Tony Nickerson, Milt Omoto, Gary Palka, Ed Phillips, Dora Plant, Joe Plant, Litta Plant-Schaper, Jim Ponzi, Clarence Rebolledo, Randy Reed, Coy Ritchie, Joe Robinson, Juan Romero, Carl Sanchez, Di Seiler, Ed Seiler, John Sheadel, Suzanne Sigona, Ron Smith, Charles Smith, Larry Smith, Phil Snyder, Leann Stelzer, Wain Stowe, Garry Turks, Naomi Turks, John Vargas, Dan Wagle, Tom Werzyn, Gary Weston, Lee White, Jim Williams, John Williams

(includes members present and on-line)

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

Introduction and Recognition of Guests and New Members

First time attendees and guests were introduced and recognized. On-line attendees were also recognized.

Guest Presentation: SFC David Dawsey and Wife (a US Army Diver), Mission 22

David (US Army) spoke about Mission 22, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and what they do for at risk Veterans. The name is derived from the number of veteran suicides that occur daily. Every day in the United States, 22 veterans succumb to suicide, losing their personal battle to invisible wounds of war. Mission 22 programs help Veterans living with post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, or military sexual trauma. Their organization offers programs are provided at no cost to all participants, veterans and family members. David serves as a regional ambassador, promoting Mission 22.

Special Presentation: Joe Plant, Chapter 1106 Veterans Emergency Assistance Program

Chapter member Joe Plant spoke about who and how he helps local veterans in need as part of the Chapter's Veterans Emergency Assistance program, how his budget is spent and who he works with at HUD-VASH to identify veterans that need help. The program's goal is to identify homeless veterans in need, help them to get off the street and stay off the street.

He was joined by VA social worker Hezus (sp?), who served 22-years in the US Army, and who interfaces with the homeless veteran and qualifies them for the program. He is part of the VA's Housing Team Navigator that identifies and gets the homeless veteran housing. Then the VA's Stabilization Team checks-up on the veteran and monitors their state. Veterans can get assistance by walking in at the VA Community Resources and Referral Center, 3836 York Street, Denver.

Member Biography: At each monthly meeting we will feature a member who will give a brief background of him or herself. This month Dave Dawson (US Navy) presented his active duty and reserve experiences, overseas assignments and embassy duties. His assignments took him literally all over the world. He was a military intelligence specialist.

Appreciation Presentation: An appreciation certificate was presented to Warren Harrison for his dedication and work as Vice President of Voices for Veterans Mental Health Council and involvement with the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Dave Lyons)

- Dave reported on the highlights of the Cherry Creek School District's Military Veterans Community Celebration and Football Game; he was pleased with the many Chapter members who attended in their yellow shirts
- Dave stated that the Board had a special meeting with decisions made to discuss the future of VVA Chapter 1106 in light of National VVA, and Voices for Colorado Veterans; a decision was made to let Voices for Colorado Veterans end
- A reminder that the Veterans Day weekend Poppy Drive is Saturday, November 11, 2023 at four King Soopers locations; sign-up sheets were located at the back table
- The Chapter is still looking for a new newsletter editor and webmaster; Dave reported that Jim Ponzi has expressed interest

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Milt Omoto)

- Milt stated that that October 13th is the US Navy's birthday; their theme is "248 Years of Power, Presence and Protection"
- Milt reported that at next month's membership meeting, we'll conduct a 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration Pin Presentation
- Next month also marks the 33-year celebration of the Dedication of the Vietnam Veteran Women's Memorial in Washington DC

TREASURER'S REPORT (Dave Lyons for Mike Huber)

- Dave provided the Treasurer's report in the absence of Mike

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Milt Omoto for Sally Ann Eaves)

- Milt reported that he will prepare and distribute the minutes for today's meeting.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP AND COLOR GUARD (Lee White and Dan Green)

- Lee reported that the Membership Committee will be co-chaired by Phil Snyder and Jim Blumberg; the Chapter currently has 208 members and 48 associate members
- Dan reported that the Color Guard will be at the CCSD Horizon Middle School on November 6th and at Ben Franklin Academy on November 10th

VETERANS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Joe Plant)

- Joe reported that in September, the Chapter's Veterans Emergency Assistance Program assisted seven veterans

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT (Rev. Garry Turks)

- Chappy again stated that he is so honored to be in the room with other Vietnam veterans who represent all branches of service
- He stressed the importance of Buddy Checks as it is important that we check on each other and that we know we will continue to check on each other; Chappy will expand his list of those he regularly calls; we need each other
- Our sick and shut-in list is still long and Chappy continues to contact each member
- Amy member wishing to see Chaplain Garry, Chaplain Joe or Chaplain Loni after the meeting are invited to do so

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS (Tony Nickerson)

- Tony reported on a House Bill to strengthen benefits for veteran children
- There are 20 Bills in the House of importance to veterans
- He reported on H.R. 1530, Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2023, that, if passed, would increase the number of judges on the Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims (CAVC), provide certain benefits to recent law school graduates hired by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA)

SPEAKERS BUREAU (Tom Werzyn)

- Tom reported that he and Dr. Mallin spoke at a CCSD school recently

- The Speakers Bureau continues to be active at CCSD

GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING (Milt Omoto)

- Milt encouraged members to donate items to the VVA Household Good Program, which is a good fundraiser for us by donating any used unwanted household items, clothing, etc.; you can schedule a pick-up on-line at PICKUPPLEASE
- If you shop at King Soopers, sign-up with their Community Rewards program, another source of income for the Chapter; see Milt for information on how to sign-up

CHAPTER EVENTS COORDINATOR (Joe Robinson)

- Joe reported on a possible Chapter trip to the Freedom Memorial

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (Gary Weston)

- Gary reported that Lou Grounds will head the Scholarship Committee
- Gary has stepped down as Chairman due to his VSO commitment with Douglas County

SOCIAL COMMITTEE (John Vargas)

- John recognized Gary Weston who was featured in the latest edition of the Highlands Ranch Herald as a Douglas County VSO
- The Chapter's end of year Holiday Lunch is December 9th at Maggiano's

PROMOTIONAL ITEMS (Joe Dempsey)

- Joe encouraged the sale of available long sleeve Chapter shirts
- He also showed the new Chapter jackets which he is taking order for

VOICES FOR VETERANS (Warren Harris)

- Warren reported that the Voices for Veterans Mental Health Council has online meetings and encouraged participation

VETERAN HEALTH and WOMEN VETERANS (Patti Ehline, Absent)

WEB MASTER/NEWSLETTER (VACANT)

FORMER PRESIDENT (Lee White)

- Lee had no further items to report

AVVA Litta Plant-Schaper

- Nothing to report

50/50 Drawing (Ron Smith)

ROUNDTABLE

- President Dave announced that the Chapter Color Guard has new rifles to replace the old M-1 version; the new rifles are lighter and mimic the M-16

- Alan Jaffe announced on behalf of his wife who arranged a veterans panel to be held on November 15th at the American Legion Post 1 from 9:30AM to 11:30AM. Members from Chapter 1106 will be on the panel
- Milt recognized Kaitlyn McGullan, AVVA Member who is volunteering to assist Chapter 1106 at meetings; she is a high school senior
- Lee announced any member interested in doing a member “bio” at a future meeting to see him; he is preparing the 2024 schedule
- Jack Hunter announced that his grandson Alex has been helping with the sound system and is teaching his girlfriend how to manage the microphone system as backup
- Dan Green encouraged members to attend Forgotten Heroes Campaign award events
- Barry Fiore stated members can get an Agent Orange medal and to see him for application; he also stated that the next Forgotten Heroes Campaign awards presentation is on October 28
- Ed Seiler announced that he was finally selected to go on an Honor Flight, October 19-21; Ed has Stage 4 cancer; he applied for the Honor Flight eight years ago
- Elijah Mitchell reported that Thomas Alva Edison High School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania lost the most former students in the Vietnam War; the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund acknowledged 54 former students of Edison High School were killed in Vietnam
- A question was asked about the status of the Texas Roadhouse in Parker’s annual Veterans Day meal coupon giveaway status; Lee said he will meet with the new owners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- VVA Colorado State Council Meeting is Saturday, October 14, 2023
- Next Board Meeting is Saturday, October 28, 2023
- Next Membership Meeting is Saturday, November 4, 2023, 9:00AM
- Veterans Day weekend Poppy Drive is Saturday, November 11, 2023

MEETING ADJOURNED by Dave Lyons, President at 10:54 AM.

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

Published 10/9/2023

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

Note: This is the full version of the minutes sent directly to all members