



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1106

Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: August 7, 2021

Scheduled Meeting Start Time: 9:00 AM

Meeting Location: South Metro Fire and Rescue Building, Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

Meeting called to order by President Lee White at 9:02 AM

Meeting Topics

1. Welcome to the meeting by President Lee White
2. Invocation Prayer by Chaplain Garry Turks and Moment of Silence
 - Prayers for the Chapter meeting members as we conduct our business
 - Prayers for those still MIA and POW
 - Prayers for those in need and for those members who are sick and shut-ins
3. Pledge of Allegiance (all): lead by Lee White
4. POW/MIA Chair Presentation by Dan Green and Moment of Silence (for all our MIA and POW)
5. Board Member Roll Call

Officers and Board Members Present Roll Call: Officers: Lee White (President), Dave Lyons (Vice President), Mike Huber (Treasurer), Milt Omoto (Secretary); Board Members Present: Patti Ehline, Tom Werzyn, Reverend Garry Turks, Ron Smith, Dan Green, John Vargas

Absences: None

6. Members in Attendance (from sign-in sheets)

Ita Dempsey, Claudia Hunter, Michelle Mallin, Litta Plant-Schaper, Suzanne Sigona, Jai Smith, Jim Williams, Bruce Arndt, Wayne Buser, Cliff Butler, Bob Crago, Dale Creason, Joe Dempsey, Bob Easter, Patti Ehline, Richard Eisenberg, Dan Graham, Dan Green, Leo Greunke, Warren Harrison, Jim Henderson, Mike Huber, Jack Hunter, Mike Karsh, Roger Lanphier, Walter Leuci, Marvin Lich, Rod Lillpop, Chuck Luley, David Lyons, Jim Marcille, Jim McGrevey, Tony Nickerson, Milt Omoto, Joe Plant, Clarence Rebolledo, Joseph Robinson, Bob Rotruck, Carl Sanchez, John Sheadel, Charles Smith, Ron Smith, Gary Steinhoff, John Vargas, Dan Wagle, Wendell Wallace, Tom Werzyn, Gary Weston, Lee White, Patti Ehline, John Williams, Gary Bentsen, David Yates.

Zoom On-Line: Jim Williams



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7. Introduction and Recognition of Guests and New Members

Rolling Thunder Colorado Chapter One attendees include President Randy Taylor, wife Pat Taylor (Chairman of the Board), David Pine, and Dan Taylor.

Joshua Harris (USMC), Bob Brown (Army) and wife, Steve Curti (USMC), Mike Tarbu (Army), Tom Carlisle (Army), Tom Coffey (Army), Rob Brooks (USMC), Michael Conner.

8. Chapter Meeting Minutes Approval

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

Motion 1. Motion to approve the VVA Chapter 1106 Minutes dated June 5, 2021, with spelling correction of Alan Jaffe, made by David Lyons and second by Tony Nickerson; the minutes were approved.

9. Special Presentation: Mr. J. D Harris, Lead Peer Mentor Coordinator, Denver Veterans Treatment Court

Joshua presented the Veteran Peer Mentor program for the Denver Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) of the 2nd Judicial District (Denver County). The Veteran Peer Mentor program pairs justice-involved veterans with a trained and experienced mentor (also a veteran) to serve as a guide and source of support throughout the VTC program. Mentors assist the justice-involved veteran by helping them navigate the VA system, finding and accessing support services such as housing, transportation, food or family needs. Currently meetings are virtual, but the mentor and mentee can meet on a one-on-one basis. Training is provided to mentors. You serve basically as their guide and resource. A one year commitment is required to be a mentor. Generally, it takes 2 years for a justice-involved veteran to graduate the program. There are four phases to the VTC program.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor for this program, contact Joshua Harris at 303.472.4678 (cell) or email at joshua.harris@judicial.state.co.us.

Special Presentation by John Vargas

- A “Sharing the Foxhole” article on Vice President Dave Lyons was circulated to members to read during the meeting
- John expressed appreciation for those who participated in the “Tribute to Michelle Mallin” on July 9th. There were about 47 in attendance from organizations such as Rolling Thunder, The Honor Bell Foundation, the Purple Heart Service Foundation, VVA Chapter 1106, and others. The motorcade was escorted by two Douglas County Sheriff cars and a large fire ladder truck. The motorcade ended in front of Michelle’s house.
- Joe Dempsey read a thank you letter from Michelle expressing sincere appreciation for the event. Michelle was in attendance at today’s Chapter member meeting.



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10. President's Report: Lee White

- Today's meeting is being telecast via Zoom for those members who cannot attend in person; thank you to Jack Hunter and Litta Plant-Schaper for setting up this capability;
- The Chapter's Board held a meeting on July 24th; the Poppy Drive fund raiser is still on hold with King Soopers; other locations will be investigated;
- The King Soopers Community Rewards program needs your support; there were 26 members participating in this program as of end of June; we are available to sign-up members this morning;
- Suzanne Sigona discussed the Wall that Heals, that will be in Brighton September 2 through 5; there is a training session for volunteers on Thursday and the opening ceremony will be on Friday; Chapter 1106 will participate in the wreath laying during the ceremony;
- Our October meeting will feature a breakfast provided by volunteers from Cherry Creek School District;
- Thanks to members who have stepped up to help at Chapter meetings; thanks to Walter Leuci for providing the coffee, cold bottled water, cups, sugar, creamer; thanks to Joe Dempsey and wife Ita for taking care of the promotional and information tables; thanks to Dave Lyons for bringing cookies and donuts;
- Several members participated in a Wind Crest flag presentation that was video recorded for a future Veterans Day video;
- Thanks to members who participated in this year's Fourth of July Parade;
- We currently have a Board position open; contact Lee if you are interested in being a member of the Board;
- Joe Dempsey acquired a six volume set of aircraft in beautiful binders that will be auctioned off at a future meeting;

11. Vice President's Report: Dave Lyons

- For those who live alone, you are encouraged to get a "fall" monitor from the VA; you should also get a medical bracelet from the VA;

12. Treasurer's Report: Mike Huber

- Scholarship check to the schools of the four winners were sent and processed;
- Mike reported on the Chapter's financial status.

Motion 2. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Bob Rotruck and Second by Dave Lyons; the report was approved.

13. Secretary's Report: Milt Omoto

- Today is National Purple Heart Day
- Meeting minutes are emailed to all members; you can also access minutes from the Chapter's website;



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- Litta and I can assist members to sign-up for the King Soopers Community Rewards program after today's meeting during the social time;
- Starting with the September membership meeting, we will resume the award of Vietnam War Veterans lapel pin presentation and continue on a quarterly basis; Chapter 1106 is a registered partner of the Vietnam War Commemoration Partner Organization; information will be emailed out to members.

14. Board Member Reports

- a) Joe Plant (Board Member). Joe reported that the Veterans Emergency Assistance committee assists veterans to get off the street by providing initial rent deposits and possibly late rent payments; the committee works with HUD-VASH; the committee assisted four veterans in July; the committee also provides handicap equipment to veterans and family members in need;
- b) John Vargas (Board Member). Nothing further to report;
- c) Patti Ehline (Board Member). Patti reported that the Necessities Drive for the Hope and Help Center was successful and thanked member participation; Thrivent Financials donated funds for the event and t-shirts (available to members for free); the list of agent orange presumptive list is expanding;
- d) Ron Smith (Board Member). Ron reported that the second trip to the Dragon Man Military Museum in Colorado Springs was a good event with Chapter participation; please let Ron know of other Chapter events we could do;
- e) Dan Green (Board Member). Nothing further to report;
- f) Tom Werzyn reported that Cherry Creek School District has scheduled the military and veteran's appreciation football game and event for September; the Chapter's Color Guard will participate in the event; the parallel Voices for Colorado Veterans, a 501(c)(3) organization is now official and next steps are being formulated;
- g) Reverend Garry Turks (Board Member and Chaplain's Office). Chaplain Garry continues to make his Buddy Check calls as well as his Chaplain Calls to all Chapter members; an appreciation card with gift card was presented to Chaplain Turks by Lee White as an appreciation for his continued support of Chapter members and to all veterans;
- h) Tom Werzyn (Board Member). Tom reported that the Cherry Creek School District annual military and veteran appreciation football event is scheduled for September 19th; the Chapter Color Guard will participate in the event; Tom has information from the National Archives and Records Administration of obtaining needed military and civilian records; the 501(c)(3) Voices for Colorado Veterans has been established; information on discounts for veterans was emailed to members.

15. Committee Reports

- a) Membership Committee (Dave Lyons). VVA National now has a total of 88,275 regular members and 9782 associate members; our chapter signed up three new members today, and six from the last meeting; Lee prepared membership packets that contain membership information and applications for regular and associate membership; keep one in your glove compartment as a ready to hand to potential new members.



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- b) Voices for Veterans (Warren Harrison). Warren reported that the Voices for Veterans meet the second and fourth Monday of each month from 8:00AM to 9:00AM virtually (online). Contact Warren if you would like to participate in this organization to discuss mental health issues for veterans. Warren is also involved with NAMI Denver, a local, all volunteer, non-profit organization of individuals, families and/or friends living with serious mental illnesses. It is a grassroots group open to all area residents desiring to work together on behalf of those who have a mental illness and to help their families support those living with mental illness
 - c) Grants and Fundraising (Milt Omoto). Please continue to support the Chapter's King Sooper's Community Rewards program; Lee will be checking out fundraising opportunities at the Texas Roadhouse restaurant in Parker.
 - d) Web Master and Newsletter (Bob Rotruck). The September/October newsletter is coming along well; Bob can continue to use inputs from members on newsletter items; send articles to Bob; the Chapter website is up to date;
 - e) Speaker's Bureau (Tom Werzyn). Tom stated that the Speaker's Bureau will continue once school begins; please contact him if you would like to be part of the Speaker's Bureau to present about the Vietnam War experience to high school students.
 - f) Agent Orange (Patti Ehline). Please be aware that today's air quality will be poor due to the wildfires and you are encouraged to wear a mask while outdoors. Patti also encouraged members to talk to each other and get to know your fellow member; you may have things in common.
 - g) Scholarship Committee (Jim Marcille). Jim thanked Mike Huber for sending out the scholarship checks to schools. Lee showed a thank you card from Bridget Murphy, one of this year's scholarship winners.
 - h) Events Coordinator (Ron Smith). Nothing further to report.
 - i) PTSD (Patti Ehline). Nothing further to report.
 - j) Veterans Emergency Assistance Program (Joe Plant). Nothing further to report.
 - k) Social Committee (John Vargas). Nothing further to report.
 - l) Women's Veteran (Patti Ehline). Nothing further to report.
 - m) Government Affairs Tony Nickerson). Tony provided copies of information on the use of urgent care versus emergency care as defined by the Mission Act; the information provided discusses urgent care benefits coverage services provided by urgent care centers and walk-in retail health-clinics; it is important that the veteran work with their primary care provider for this type of care; when in doubt about your health condition or symptoms, always seek a higher level of care such as from an emergency room; call 911 for any medical emergency; the packet also included urgent care assistance cards for various geographic regions, information handy to have when you travel.
 - n) Color Guard (Tony Nickerson). Thank you to those who participated in this year's Fourth of July Parade.
16. Roundtable: No roundtable due to the long meeting today.
17. 50/50 Drawing was won by Clarence Rebolledo
- Litta donated four gift cards for food that was also auctioned out.
18. Membership in Sickness or in Need of Support
- a) Please continue to keep Michelle Mallin in your prayers;



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- b) Please pray for Barbara Rotruck who fractured her elbow and is now in a 6-7 hour surgery at UC Health Center in Highlands Ranch;
- c) Please let Chaplain Garry Turks know of members and family members who are ill or in need of support.

19. Announcements

- Jack Hunter stated that since this was our first Zoom capability for a live meeting, that bugs will be worked out on future sessions; thanks to Litta for helping today;
- Jack needs another person to assist with the audio; Jack and Bob currently take care of the meeting audio, but may not be available at times;
- Lee announced that there are free lap blankets available to anyone who wishes on;
- The West Metro Veterans Fair is Thursday, September 16th from 11:00AM to 2:00PM at the Elks Lakewood Lodge, 1455 Newland Street in Lakewood; see the website for more information: <https://www.lakewood.org/Government/Departments/Human-Resources/Veteran-Resources#section-3>
- Any member who have not taken a picture, especially new members, can get their picture taken at each meeting by Claudia Hunter.

20. Schedule

- a) The next Chapter Board Meeting is scheduled for August 28th at 9:00AM via Zoom;
- b) Our annual Chapter Summer Picnic is Saturday, August 14th at Falcon Park in Highlands Ranch;
- c) The next Chapter Member Meeting is Saturday, September 4th, “live” at the South Metro Fire and Rescue Building; our guest speaker will be Mary Haddon, President, Rocky Mountain Honor Flight; all member meetings will continue to be held in our new meeting location (Meeting Rooms 1 & 2) through the end of the year;
- d) The Chapter’s end of year Holiday Lunch is on Saturday, December 18th.

The Next Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2021 at 9:00AM – Live! Zoom capability will be provided to those who cannot attend the meeting in person.

The membership meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections by President Lee White at 10:47 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 to the Chapter’s website.