



Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 1106

## Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: June 5, 2021

Scheduled Meeting Start Time: 9:00 AM

Meeting Location: South Metro Fire and Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Avenue, Centennial

Meeting called to order by President Lee White at 9:00 AM

### Meeting Topics

1. Welcome to our “Welcome Back” live meeting by President Lee White
2. Invocation by Chaplain Garry Turks
  - Prayers for those in need and for those sick and shut-ins
  - Please pray for those in bereavement
3. Pledge of Allegiance (all): lead by Lee White
4. POW/MIA Chair Ceremony and Moment of Silence (Milt Omoto)

“For all those men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice and for those who are still MIA,”  
and remember our VVA members who have passed

5. Board Member Roll Call

Officers and Board Members Present Roll Call. Officers: Lee White (President), Dave Lyons (Vice President), Milt Omoto (Secretary); Board Members Present: Tom Werzyn, Reverend Garry Turks, Ron Smith, Dan Green, John Vargas; AVVA Liaison Representative: Litta Plant-Schaper.

Absences: Mike Huber (Treasurer), Patti Ehline (Board Member)

5. Membership Sign-Ins:

Ita Dempsey, Claudia Hunter, Dora Plant, Litta Plant-Schaper, Barbara Rotruck, Siltham Smith, Gary Bentzen, Cliff Butler, Bob Crago, Joe Dempsey, Bob Easter, Dan Graham, Dan Green, Ted Hanfelder, Warren Harrison, Jim Henderson, Jack Hunter, Alan Jaffe, Mike Karsh, Marvin Lich, Chuck Luley, David Lyons, Larry Majors, Jesse Maldonado, Jim Marcille, Jim McGrevey, Milt Omoto, Gary Palka, Ed Phillips, Joe Plant, Clarence Rebolledo, Bob Rotruck, John Sheadel, Lee Skiles, Ron Smith, Gary Steinhoff, Garry Turks, John Vargas, Lee White, John Williams,



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*Secretary's Note: If you were an attendee but your name does not appear on the list, that is because you didn't sign-in.*

New Member Attendees: Cory Richie (Navy), Allen Jaffe (Navy), Bruce Cavanal (Army), Ron Wicoch (Army)

Guests: Carl Cordova, Sam Kahler, Mercedes Kahler, Rod Lillpop, Samantha Kahler, Shannon Swindell, Aimee Swindell, Vieng Vongsakoun

6. Chapter Meeting Minutes Approval

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

**Motion 1.** Motion to approve the VVA Chapter 1106 Minutes dated May 1, 2021, as transcribed, made by Dave Lyons and second by Joe Plant; the minutes were approved.

7. Special Presentation: Scholarship Awardees Reading of Essays (Introduction by Mike Karsh, Chairman, Scholarship Committee)

Samantha Kahler. Homeless Veterans. Sandy's scholarship submittal focused on the relationship between PTSD and veteran homelessness; an inability to adjust and low self-esteem results in unemployment and poverty and to long term homelessness; lack of adequate aid also compounds the problem;

Aimee Swindell. Veteran Homelessness and Refusal of Treatment. PTSD leads to depression and anxiety and to chemical dependance; inadequate psychological treatment, cost, and a harmful definition of bravery and masculinity contribute to a veteran's reluctance to seek aid; you cannot serve others unless you yourself are well; this applies to both men and women veterans;

Certificates were presented to each scholarship awardee by Lee White and Jim Marcille. Mike thanked all donors for helping to fund this year's scholarships.

Note: The Chapter awarded a total of four Scholarships this year.

8. Announcements (John Vargas, Board Member)

- John asked Dr. Mallin to provide an update on Michell Mallin; he stated that she is stable but tired and is off chemo treatment for a while; please continue to keep her in your prayers;
- John reported that Richard Lewis fell and was hospitalized; Rich Eisenberg underwent an operation to replace his pacemaker battery; also, Clarence Rebolledo experienced some minor strokes recently (Clarence was in attendance); and Mike Karsh is slowly losing his voice; please keep them in your prayers;
- John reported that this year's Summer Picnic is scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup>; it will have a "Western" theme;
- The Holiday Luncheon is scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup>;



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## Special Presentation

A special presentation was made to Chaplain Garry Turks. Milt conveyed that Chaplain Garry knew his daughter Christiane from the Daniels Veterans Center as a volunteer while a student at DU, assisting veterans with their VA applications; Reverend Turks serves as a Chaplain at the Center; Christiane would spend time talking to Chaplain Turks and affectionally called him “Chappy,” short for Chaplain; the Chapter recognized Chaplain Turks with a “Chappy” name tag fashioned after the military styled name tag;

President Lee White also presented “Chappy” with a plaque of appreciation for his service and dedication to the Chapter, to other veteran organizations and to all veterans;

9. MOWW Review presentation by Bob Mallin. Bob provided an overview of the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW); this organization’s founding resulted from General of the Armies John J. Pershing’s request that his officers continue serving America after their active military service ended following World War I. Since MOWW’s establishment in 1919, MOWW members (“Companions”) have lived by the Military Order's motto, “*It is nobler to serve than to be served;*”

Learn about the Military Order of the World Wars, a Veteran Service Organization dedicated to selflessly serving others; website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19eRPFsXHic&t=190s>

## 10. President’s Report: Lee White

- Lee stated that the Poppy Drive initially scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> will tentatively be rescheduled to July 10<sup>th</sup> if we can secure approval from King Soopers to setup tables outside their stores; we are working on five different locations;
- The Highlands Ranch Fourth of July Parade is officially on and the Chapter will participate in this year’s parade; the Chapter Color Guard will lead; more information is fourth coming;
- Lee showed members the Chapter’s “In Memoriam” plaque to keep those who have passed in memory; this plaque will be displayed at every Chapter meeting;
- The Wall That Heals will be in Brighton CO September 2 through 5; you can signup to volunteer on the City of Brighton’s website;
- Today is the final day of the Chapter’s Necessities Drive for the Help and Hope Center of Castle Rock; Lee and Pattie will be delivering donated items to the Center;
- Lee reminded members to signup for the King Soopers Community Rewards Program and to link their card to VVA Chapter 1106; contact Litta or Milt for assistance;
- We have a July speaker from AA and the August speaker will talk about the Veterans Treatment Court;
- The Chapter has a vacant Board position that will need to be filled; contact Lee White if interested;
- The Chapter has many promotional items for members such as shirts, wind breakers, hats, patches, etc.; you are encouraged to purchase items at each monthly meeting;

## 11. Vice President’s Report: Dave Lyons

- Dave thanked all who supported him during his wife Dee’s memorial service;



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12. Treasurer's Report: Mike Huber (absent)

In Mike's absence, Lee provided a summary of the Chapter's finances;  
The Chapter submitted the required Form 990 to the IRS for non-profit organizations;

**Motion 2.** Motion to accept the May Treasurer's report as reported made by Joe Dempsey and second by Ron Smith; the Treasurer's report was approved.

13. Secretary's Report: Milt Omoto

- If for some reason you do not receive Chapter Membership Meeting minutes, you can always obtain minutes from the Chapter's website at <https://www.vva1106.org/> ;

14. Committee Reports

- a) Membership, Dave Lyons. The Chapter currently has 162 Regular Members and 38 Associate Members;
- b) Voices for Veterans, Warren Harrison. Warren reported that when you are at the VA, you can always request to talk to a chaplain and not just with your service provider;
- c) Grants and Fundraising, Milt Omoto. Please continue to participate in the King Soopers Rewards program; if you shop at King Soopers, and have a rewards card, please be sure to register your Rewards 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 goods program with your donation of clothing and household items; you can schedule a pickup online or by phone;
- d) Web Master and Newsletter, Bob Rotruck. The deadline for submission of articles for the July/August Newsletter is June 20<sup>th</sup>; the Chapter's website is up and running;
- e) Veterans Emergency Assistance, Joe Plant. Joe reported that the Chapter assisted five veterans during the month of May, helping them get off the street by paying for rent deposits; the committee spent \$1,200 for the month;
- f) Speaker's Bureau, Tom Werzyn. Tom stated that currently there is not much activity with the Speaker's Bureau at High Schools; he also reported that the establishment of the 501(c)(3) parallel organization has been finalized with the IRS; the organization is called Voices for Colorado Veterans;
- g) Event Coordinator, Ron Smith. They continue to stay in contact with King Soopers to get approval for the next Poppy Drive; the Color Guard will prepare for the Fourth of July Parade;
- h) Social Committee, John Vargas. The Chapter's end of year Holiday Lunch is scheduled for Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant (Englewood);
- i) Cherry Creek School District, Tom Werzyn. Tom reported that this year's Military Appreciation and Football Game will be on; he also reported that at a recent event, 60 students went through a military induction ceremony to recognize their entering military service;



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15. Roundtable

- a) Associate Member Alexis Winemiller who takes care of our meeting refreshments will be moving to Florida; she will be missed;
- b) Jack Hunter manages the audio for Chapter meetings; he reminded members who do not have their picture on the Members Picture Board to see his wife Claudia and she will take your picture; Jack likes having Officers and Board members sit up on the raised area as it is easier to see them; Jack also stated that veterans can salute during the Pledge of Allegiance but, as in the military in uniform, cannot speak (so you can salute but not recite the Pledge at the same time); if you prefer to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, place your hat over your heart and don't salute;
- c) Mike Karsh reported that Jim Marcille will be the new Scholarship Committee Chairman as Mike is moving to Las Vegas;
- d) Allan Jaffe stated that his attendance at a recent NSA/NFS reunion in Branson Missouri was an excellent experience and encouraged others to attend future events; the NSA/NSF DaNang Veterans Association is for Vietnam veterans who served with the U.S. Naval Support Activity DaNang (1965-1970) and the U.S. Naval Support Facility DaNang (1970-1972). It also includes veterans who served with the Detachments that were located in Chu Lai, Hue, Phu Bai, Dong Ha, Cua Viet, Tan My, and Sa Huynh; the organization's web site is <https://nsadanang.com/> ;
- e) Dan Green stated that the Chapter's Color Guard can use new members; contact Dan if interested;
- f) Milt Omoto stated that there are a number of Chapter members who have authored and published books; he promoted Bob Rotruck's book *Black World Special Ops* INTEL, a look into another life (2018);

16. 50/50 Drawing (Tom Werzyn and Ron Smith)

Winner of the 50/50 Drawing was Dave Lyons, who donated his winnings to the Chapter.

17. Other Items

- Chaplain Turks reported that Sonny Gorsuch is in a nursing home but is unable to speak;
- Tom Werzyn reported that he has information on the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) that has records of official military records, service treatment records, etc.; records are held for all five branches; all records can be accessed at <https://archives.gov> ; the Customer Service number for NPRC is 314-801-0800; see Tom if you have questions;
- Former Chapter Secretary Glen Payne is moving to Austin TX;
- A question was asked about the status of Honor Flights for the Rocky Mountain Region; there will not be any for the 2021 year but will resume next year; you are encouraged to apply as there is a large demand for this program;
- Litta reminded members that she will prepare a name tag for you if you do not have one; she also reported that she and her husband have the capability to make custom engraved cups; contact Litta if interested;



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18. Membership in Sickness or in Need of Support
- a) Please continue to keep Michelle Mallin in your prayers;
  - b) Please let Chaplain Garry Turks know of members who are ill or in need of support.

**The Next Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting is scheduled for July 3, 2021 at 9:00AM – Live!**

**Fourth of July Parade, July 4, 2021 Highlands Ranch – the Chapter will participate**

The membership meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections by President Lee White at 10:40 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 onto the Chapter's website.*