



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1106

Membership Meeting December 2, 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.

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

Excused: Joe Dempsey, Litta Plant-Schaper (AVVA)

Also Present: Kaitlyn McGullan, AVVA Member and Student Intern accompanied by her father.

Members Present: Mort Anderson, Jim Blumberg, Carol Brautigam, Bob Brown, Mike Bursynski, Wayne Buser, Dale Creason, Tony Croce, Rockie Cuppari, Charles Daldry, David Dawson, Bob Easter, Sally Ann Eaves, Patti Ehline, Craig Fagerness, Thomas Frey, Dan Graham, Dan Green, Leo Greunke, Ted Hanfelder, Warren Harrison, Jim Henderson, Mike Huber, Jack Hunter, Alan Jaffe, Mike Karsh, Roger Lanphier, Walter Leuci, Marvin Lich, Chuck Lule, David Lyons, Larry Majors, Bob Mallin, Don Marsh, Jim Marcille, Jim Martindale, Jim McGrevey, Mike Messenger, Mark Nickell, Tony Nickerson, Milt Omoto, Chuck Perkins, Joe Plant, James Ponzi, Randy Reed, Joseph Robinson, Juan Romero, Ed Seiler, Charles Smith, Ron Smith, Phil Snyder, Mike Tarby, Garry Turks, John Vargas, Wendell Wallace Tom Werzyn, Gary Weston, Lee White, John Williams, Lew Wood, David Woods, **Associate:** Jane Brown, Claudia Hunter, Jean Jaffe, Bob Krech, Kaitlyn McGullan, Di Seiler, Jai Smith, 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 and guests introduced themselves.

Special Presentation: Milt Omoto made a special presentation of a plaque to Jim Williams (on-line) who was selected as AVVA Member of the Year 2023. The plaque reads "Thank you for your continued assistance to our Veteran and Military Community from VVA Chapter 1106, 2023." Jim facilitates and provides ON-LINE capability and attends (on-line) each of our monthly Board meetings and each monthly Membership meeting.

Guest Presentation: Gunnery Sergeant Sheehan, Young Marines, a youth organization under the Marine Corps League, presented a history of the Young Marines, a history of their Drug Demand Reduction program and led a discussion and subsequent question and answer period on the use and abuse of Fentanyl.

President's Report (Dave Lyons)

- Dave asked all the volunteers for the Poppy Drive and the Texas RoadHouse fundraiser to stand. We are so thankful for all of you who volunteered. The results were tremendous.

- Mike Huber will have the results of the Poppy drive in his report.

- Milt Omoto will have the report on the Texas RoadHouse fundraiser at a later date.

- Our end of year Holiday Lunch is Saturday, December 9th at Maggiano's Restaurant. Today is the last day to purchase tickets.

- South Metro is now securing the parking lot and the building on the weekends so we will need the code to enter. We will get that code to you.

- Our contract to meet here at South Metro has been extended for next year though it will be from seven to noon and not seven to one.

- Thank you to all who donated coats and items for the Daniels Center. We may just continue that each month. Hats off to Patti for all she does with the Daniels Center and for us.

- Dave acknowledged Kaitlyn, our Intern, who is in the back managing the Promotional table in Joe Dempsey's absence.

Vice President's Report: (Milt Omoto)

- Milt addressed the importance of pictures. Notice the picture board in the back. If your picture is not on that board then you need to have your picture taken so we can not only post it but have it so we can identify our members. Claudia Hunter takes pictures at every meeting so see her to have your picture taken. When we post your picture, we include service identification. That helps when we need a service specific person for a project.

- Milt also encouraged members to get their tickets for the Holiday lunch. The Social committee works so hard to put on a great event.

- We will find out how much money we receive from the Texas RoadHouse fundraiser after the restaurant does its accounting.

- Remember to donate your household goods to the VVA Household Goods program. We receive \$\$ from your donations. This month alone, we received \$1800. To have them pick up just go online to "Pick Up Please" (note you can also deliver your donations to the two VVA Pick UP Please locations in the Denver area.)

- If we don't see you at the Holiday Lunch, have a great holiday.

Treasurer's Report (Mike Huber)

- We've had a good month. We received a significant check from King Soopers for their Community Rewards program.

- We've received \$2500 from member End-of-Year donations.

- We earned \$7,173 at our Veterans Day Poppy Drive.

- Income over the month totalled \$11,763.98.

- Expenditures totalled \$2,644.

- Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Jim McGrevey. Tony Nickerson seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report (Sally Ann Eaves)

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

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership - Phil Snyder

- VVA National membership is 90,979. There were 254 new VVA members and 57 new AVVA members. 502 VVA and 52 AVVA members passed.

- Colorado has 877 members in three chapters and At-Large.

- Chapter 1106 has 203 VVA and 44 AVVA members totalling 247.

Veterans Emergency Assistance Program (Joe Plant)

- We continue to assist veterans with housing and other needs.

- Reported that those who get their medical care through Kaiser Permanente have a home healthcare \$70 per quarter benefit of medical supplies. See "At Home@Medline/KP."

Chaplain's Report (Rev. Garry Turks)

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

- Remember Buddy Checks. We reflect our love for each other in our Buddy Calls. It means something to know that we care. People like Walt Leuci make dozens of calls.

- We need Chapter 1106 and Chapter 1106 needs us.

Government Affairs (Tony Nickerson)

- The US House Committee on Veterans Affairs are starting to become more active.
- H.R. 3981 is the Educational Oversight Bill dealing with fraudulent reporting of VA requirements.
- H.R. 1530 The Veterans Benefits Improvement Act deals with Veterans disability benefit questionnaires and also with improving the timeliness of appeals.
- Senate Bill 112 to strengthen the benefits for dependent children born with Spina Bifida.
- A new VA clinic is being planned for Gallup New Mexico. More clinics are needed.

Speaker's Bureau (Tom Werzyn)

- We had speakers at several Cherry Creek schools for Veterans Day.
 - The Color Guard participated in ceremonies at several schools also.
 - Dave Lyons spoke of the Veterans Panel for the Cherry Creek Education retirees.
- Several Chapter members were panelists.

Grants and Fundraising (Milt Omoto)

- A reminder of the significant results from the VVA House Hold Goods and the King Soopers Community Rewards program,
- Thank you to those who helped with the Poppy Drive and the Texas RoadHouse fundraiser.

Chapter Events Coordinator (Joe Robinson)

- With the Holiday Lunch coming up and the end of the year, we have no new events to report.

Social Committee (John Vargas)

- Congratulations to all on our selection as National Chapter of the Year. We are a thriving and growing organization.
- Thank you to Walt Leuci for all the Buddy Calls
- John led a discussion of a myriad of details for the Holiday Lunch on December 9th.
- Displayed the presentation of the first Chapter newsletter published by Bob Rotruck. It is a nice presentation plaque to present to Bob in thanks for his many years of dedication to us.

Promotional Items (Dave Lyons for Joe Dempsey)

- Thank you to our intern, Kaitlyn, for managing the Promotional booth today in the absence of Joe Dempsey.
- Normal size jackets are in. Oversize may be in in Feb.

Voices for Veterans (Warren Harrison)

- Our meetings are all online.

Veteran Health and Women Veterans (Patti Ehline)

- Dave Lyons, on behalf of the Chapter membership presented Patti with a check to help defray some of her costs to represent the Chapter at the Veterans events in Washington DC on Veterans Day and also at the 30th Anniversary of the Vietnam Women Veterans Memorial.
- Patti gave a comprehensive and moving presentation on the events at the memorial.

- Patti has received a \$250 grant from Thrive Financial that can be applied to the Bill Daniels Veterans Center.

WEBMaster/Newsletter (Mark Nickell)

- The next newsletter will be an End of Year review. We need articles for inclusion by Dec 19th.

- Send articles to mnickell2004@msn.com

Color Guard (Dan Green)

- Color Guard duty is very rewarding and we are looking for new recruits.

Lee White (Founding president)

- Thank you to Kaitlyn McCullen for helping us with the Promotional Table. She is doing a great job.

Roundtable

- Various discussions and emphasis on previous reports.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Chapter Holiday Lunch**, December 9, 2023, 11:00 AM at Maggiano's
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7, 2023
- Hanukkah, Sundown, December 7 - December 14, 2023
- Winter begins December 21, 2023
- Christmas, December 25, 2023
- Kwanzaa, December 26 to January 1, 2023
- Next Board Meeting is Saturday, December 30, 2023, 9:00 AM ONLINE
- Next Membership Meeting is Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 9:00 AM
- Have a wonderful holiday season and a safe and Happy New Year!

MEETING ADJOURNED by Dave Lyons, President at 10:49 AM.

This Chapter Membership Meeting minutes submitted by Sally Ann Eaves, Chapter Secretary
Published 12/07/2023

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