



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1106

Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 3, 2020

Scheduled Meeting Start Time: 9:00PM

Meeting Location: ZOOM Video/Teleconference Host Michelle Mallin

Meeting called to order by President Lee White at 9:08AM

Meeting Topics

1. Welcome to the meeting by President Lee White
2. Invocation by Reverend Garry Turks and Moment of Silence (for our MIA and POW)
 - And prayers for those in need including Patti Ehline husband Dave
3. Pledge of Allegiance (all)
4. Board Member Roll Call

Officers and Board Members Present on Call: Officers: Lee White (President), David Lyons (Vice President), Mike Huber (Treasurer), Milt Omoto (Secretary); Board Members: Joe Plant, Tom Werzyn, Patti Ehline, Reverend Garry Turks, Dan Green, Ron Smith, Glen Payne, John Vargas; AVVA Liaison Representative: Litta Plant-Schaper (13)

Absences: none

5. Membership Roll Call Members Present on Call:

Steve Robertson, Bob Mallin, Wendell Wallace, Bob Rotruck, Barbara Rotruck, Jim Bishop, Jesse Maldonado, Charles Smith, Jim Williams, George Nolly, Mike Vallow, Jack Hunter, Claudia Hunter, Michelle Mallin, Joe Robertson, Jim Hemphill, Warren Harrison, Leanne Stelzer, Darryl Wright, Allen Jaffe, Litta Plant-Schaper, Cliff Lawson, Mike Messenger, Joshua Medina, Mark Nickell, Joe Dempsey, Carl Sanchez, Mike Karsh, Dan Wagle, Rebecca Webb, Gary Weston, Richard Eisenberg, Jim Henderson, David Yates, Rob Senatore

There were a total of 46 online connections

6. Guests and New Members

Chris Boyer (Assistant Director, Honor Bell)



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Josh Medina (VSO Arapahoe County)
Coy Ritchie (New Member!)

7. Guest Speaker: Josh Medina, Veterans Service Officer, Arapahoe County

Josh is the new VSO for Arapahoe County. He started four years ago as a VSO in Arkansas. He is a Marine veteran. Experiencing a difficult childhood growing up, he felt that military service can provide him with meaningful life skills. He has a degree in Business Management and Non-Profit Administration. He stated that there are a significant number of veterans living within the city limits of Aurora. He has recently hired two additional staff members to assist him.

You can call 303-738-8045 to schedule an appointment. The Arapahoe County VSO is located at 1690 W. Littleton Blvd., Suite 110, Littleton, CO 80120

8. Chapter Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion to approve the VVA Chapter 1106 Minutes dated September 5, 2020 as transcribed, made by Bob Rotruck and second by Wendell Wallace; approved.

9. Award Presentation

An appreciation award was presented to Milt Omoto, Chapter Secretary, for his contributions to the Chapter. The award was delivered by Board member John Vargas prior to the meeting on strict orders that the box not be opened until told to do so by President Lee White. The award is a beautiful clear acrylic plaque with words of recognition and thanks.

10. President's Report: Lee White

- At the recent Chapter Board meeting held on September 26th, a decision was made to cancel the Fall Veterans Day weekend Poppy Drive Fund Raiser due to health safety concerns
- Chapter "Buddy Calls" continue monthly to contact each member to see how they and their families are doing and if there are any needs; the Chapter strives to maintain current contact information of members; please let Lee White or Dave Lyons know of any changes to your address, phone number or email
- The Chapter has an inventory of yellow Polo shirts with Chapter logo (sizes M, L, XL) including some AVVA yellow shirts with Chapter AVVA logo in it; also, some yellow Chapter wind breakers in various sizes

11. Vice President's Report: Dave Lyons

- Also reported that "Buddy Check" calls are continuing with monthly calls to Chapter members to see how each member and family are doing; at the same time, updated contact information is requested
- October is Agent Orange awareness month



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12. Treasurer's Report: Mike Huber

- The Chapter currently has \$10,991.81 in Checking and Savings accounts total
- No Household Goods Program funds were received for September
- The Chapter is looking for new sources of income

13. Secretary's Report: Milt Omoto

- Thanked Glen Payne for distributing meeting minutes monthly and continuing to email information of importance to members

14. Board Member Reports

- a) Joe Plant. Will report during Committee Reports
- b) Tom Werzyn. The Chapter received a thank you note from Cherry Hills Schools for our support to the school district
- c) Patti Ehline. Appreciated the prayers for her husband; he had a negative COVID test result; she stressed the importance of getting flu shots for seniors and shingles vaccine (requires the initial shot followed by a booster); the VA has drive through for flu shots; Patti attends the monthly VA meeting with the Director; send questions to her that she can raise at the meeting (patti4got@comcast.net); the VA has instituted a new procedure using mobile check-in; you wait in your car until they text you to come into the building; those without a mobile phone can still show up for appointments; Richard Eisenberg expressed frustration when dealing with Community Care; Patti asked him to call her so they can discuss (720) 552-4927;
- d) Ron Smith. The Chapter Color Guard will participate in an Elks Club event; he stated that he had difficulty with Walgreens getting a flu shot, but no difficulty at the VA;
- e) Dan Green. Had the opposite experience; no difficulty getting the flu shot at Walgreens but difficulty with the VA; Bob Mallin reported no problems getting the flu shot at King Soopers
- f) John Vargas. Nothing to report at this time
- g) Glen Payne. The Scholarship Committee recently met to plan this school year's approach including brochures, schools to contact and information to disseminate; they met in a business conference room that allowed proper social distancing; Mike Karsh is the Chairman for the Committee and thanked all Committee members
- h) Rebecca Webb expressed interest in joining the Scholarship Committee and will contact Mike Karsh
- i) Reverend Garry Turks. Asked for continued prayer for Patti's husband Dave and for Sonny Gorsuch; Garry will be making a trip to Washington DC this month for two-weeks to address United States Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, including pending Bills that impact veterans such as the Blue Water Navy; he will report to Chapter members at the November meeting;

Also, please notify Garry when any Chapter member or family member is sick, shut-in or needs assistance.



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15. Committee Reports

- a) Dave Lyons, Membership. VVA National has 87,391 Members and 10,353 Associate Members; Chapter 1106 has 157 regular members and 40 Associate members for a total of 197; we are targeting over 200 by year end;
- b) Patti Ehline and Warren Harrison, Voices for Veterans. Chapter members involved include Garry, Patti, Warren and Donna Chaney; they have a new brochure out;
- c) Milt Omoto, Grants and Fundraising. As a Chapter, we should continue to support the VVA household goods program despite not receiving recent funds; they accept donations of clothing, household items and small furniture; call or schedule pickup online;
- d) Bob Rotruck, Newsletter. The next newsletter for November/December is in progress and will be issued on schedule;
- e) Mike Karsh, Scholarship. Thanked new members to the Committee;
- f) Ron Smith, Chapter Events. Nothing further to report
- g) Joe Plant, Veterans Assistance Program. The Chapter assisted six veterans in September; assist with monthly rents, a walker for one, and arranged for a new windshield for a veteran at no charge to the Chapter; a total of \$1165 was spent assisting veterans;
- h) Glen Payne, Social Committee. No social events are currently planned; there will be no December Chapter lunch;
- i) Dan Green, Color Guard. They will practice for the November scheduled event.

16. Roundtable

- a) Charles Smith read a letter about the Walk Across the Golden Gate Bridge which is cancelled for this year; the Vietnam Veterans Annual Golden Gate Bridge Walk is to honor and recognize Vietnam Veterans' sacrifice and rejoice in their return to American soil; Chapter members Joe Robinson, Garry Turks and Charles Smith have participated in past walks; due to the pandemic and California wild fires, the walk was cancelled this year; the walk may possibly resume in 2022; more information can be found at: <https://thefitchfoundation.org/vietnam-veterans-annual-golden-gate-bridge-walk/>
- b) John Vargas thanked Quilts of Valor for providing a quilt to his Marine Corps son; the Quilts of Valor Foundation is a national organization whose mission is to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor;
- c) Tom Werzyn talked about the Captain Smith blanket, an Army issued OD blanket that was carried by Captain Smith in Vietnam and that has patches and other unique items on it; the Speakers Bureau will display it at speaking and other events;
- d) Cliff Lawson encouraged Chapter members to sign up for the Colorado Veterans Portrait Project; he will take your portrait, the primary purpose for which is to provide them to your family members; a number of Chapter members have already taken advantage of this service; contact him for an appointment at 303-520-3910; email clifflawson@me.com ; his web site: www.CliffLawsonPhotography.com
- e) New member Coy Ritchie asked who to send his bio to? Send to Bob Rotruck for inclusion in the next newsletter;
- f) Jack Hunter shared a picture of the founding members at the Chapter's first meeting, December 2014;



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- g) Bob Rotruck reported that his son, John Rotruck is now the Third Marine Expeditionary Force Surgeon in Okinawa and his wife, Shannan, is now attached to Camp Foster Naval Hospital as an OR nurse; prior to this assignment, John was the Commander of the USNS Mercy hospital ship;
 - h) Joe Robertson, PGA HOPE. Joe would like to compile a list of interested Chapter members to participate in next year's program; the PGS HOPE program introduces the game of golf through a developmental 6-8 week curriculum, taught by PGA Professionals trained in adaptive golf; he will coordinate getting signups with Lee;
 - i) Mike Vallow stated that Quilts of Valor provided quilts to his four veteran friends who live in Illinois, including a WWII veteran; he stated that it is a very rewarding program;
17. Membership in Sickness or in Need of Support
 - a) Gwendolyn Wilson has terminal cancer and a bucket list of activities; we will check with her what is on that list to possibly fulfil some;
 - b) Joe Plant is scheduled for a back procedure October 20th to help alleviate back pain;
 - c) Peggy Kelly was provided a wheelchair after she fell and injured herself;
 - d) Lee called Barry Fiore who said he is doing fine;
18. Drawing (by Litta Plant-Schaper)

Drawing for picnic basket
WINNER: Jim Williams

Drawing for Chapter yellow windbreaker
WINNER: Mike Karsh
19. Announcements
 - a) The next Chapter Board Meeting is scheduled for October 31;
 - b) The next Chapter Member Meeting is November 7; our guest speaker is Brian Johnson of the WARRIORNOW organization; the meeting will also recognize Chapter members who have written and published books;
21. Other
 - The VFW sold their building and now meeting at the Lakewood Elks Club;
 - Lee stated that Ben Franklin Academy contacted him about a Veterans Appreciation ceremony to be held on November 12th that will be a drive-through event; all veterans are invited;
 - The next online VVA Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for October 10th; State Council Presidents will attend, including Stan Paprocki of the Colorado State Council.



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The Next Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2020 – online via ZOOM

The membership meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections by President Lee White at 10:28AM

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.