



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1106

Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 2, 2021

Scheduled Meeting Start Time: 9:00 AM

Meeting Location: ZOOM Video/Teleconference Host: Litta Plant-Schaper

Meeting called to order by President Lee White at 9:01 AM

Meeting Topics

1. Welcome to the meeting by President Lee White
2. Invocation by Chaplain Garry Turks and Moment of Silence (for all our MIA and POW)
 - Prayers for those in need and those sick and shut-ins
3. Pledge of Allegiance (all): led by Lee White
4. Board Member Roll Call

Officers and Board Members Present Roll 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, John Vargas; AVVA Liaison Representative: Litta Plant-Schaper (12).

Absences: Glen Payne

5. Membership Roll Call Members Present on Call:

Michelle Mallin, Mike Karsh, Bob Rotruck, Bob Mallin, Clarence Rebolledo, Wendell Wallace, Mike Vallow, Leann Stelzer, Jack Hunter, Dan Wagle (audio), Jim Williams, David Yates, Lou Grounds, Cliff Lawson, Joe Robinson, Rich Eisenberg, Jim Marcille, Charles Smith, Norm Ponzer, Don McNeely, Walt Leuci, Gary Weston, Steve Robertson, Jim Henderson, Chris Boyer, Mike and Linda Messenger, Mark Nickell, Bob Crago, Ted Hanfelder, Gary Bentzen, Bob Lee, Jesse Maldonado.

There were a total of 44 online connections at one point.

6. Guests and New Members to Introduce

None



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7. Chapter Meeting Minutes Approval

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

Motion 1. Motion to approve the VVA Chapter 1106 Minutes dated December 5, 2020 as transcribed made by Rich Eisenberg and Second by Dave Lyons; the minutes were approved.

8. Special Presentation: Carol Cordova, Veteran's Mortgages

Carol is a Navy veteran who has a desire to help fellow veterans with VA loans. In her presentation, she demystified a number of myths about VA loans:

- a) You can only apply for one VA loan during your lifetime. False. You can have as many loans throughout your life as long as the mortgage is for your primary residence;
- b) You can only have one VA loan outstanding at a time. False. If you have a VA loan on a home that was your primary residence, you moved and bought another home with a VA loan as, again, your primary residence, and the first house is still on the market being sold, you in effect have two loans during that transaction (until the first house sells);
- c) If you foreclose on a loan, you can no longer apply for a VA loan. False. Even if you foreclosed on a VA loan, you can still apply for a new loan;
- d) A surviving spouse can assume the VA loan if they get a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) and receiving Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

You cannot buy a property for a child with a VA loan. It must be your primary residence. Reverse mortgages may be good for some people to leverage the equity they have in their property. It highly depends on the individual's situation and needs.

Contact Carol directly for VA loan information (contact information will be emailed to members).

9. President's Report: Lee White

- Happy New Year!
- We are all looking forward to the day when we can meet and see each other face to face
- Thank you all for your generous donations during our end of year giving period
- Our Chapter membership continues to grow; there are a number of "at-large" members, particularly in the Loveland area; we are thinking of inviting them to join our virtual monthly meetings
- Jack Hunter continues to maintain the Chapter's membership database; we are working to maintain current contact information on all members
- We are moving forward with plans to conduct our two Poppy Drive fund raisers for the 2021 year (May 29th and November 13th); each location DMZ lead will contact the appropriate King Sooper store and get on the store's calendar for the event;
- The "Wall That Heals" will be in Brighton CO this year (September 2 through 5)
- We are working on the February awards presentation and guest speaker; John Vargas is working on these
- The Chapter's 2021 Calendar of Events is posted on our website.



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10. Vice President's Report: Dave Lyons

- Dave thanked members for continuing to do "Buddy Check" calls, our monthly calls to Chapter members to see how each member and family are doing
- He expressed appreciation for the award he received.

11. Treasurer's Report: Mike Huber

- Mike reported that the Chapter recently received additional donations at the end of the year; some of the donations are earmarked for scholarships; Mike stated that PayPal keeps a certain percentage of funds donated through that media.

Motion 2. That the December Treasurer's Report be approved. Motion by Norm Ponzer and Second by Tom Werzyn; the motion was approved.

12. Secretary's Report: Milt Omoto

- No Secretarial items to report.

13. Board Member Reports

- a) Joe Plant. Expressed appreciation for the award he received;
- b) Tom Werzyn. The special committee to establish a parallel non-profit 501(c)(3) organization continues to move forward;
- c) Patti Ehline. The next VA Director's meeting is January 7th; let Pattie know of any items you would like her to raise at the meeting;
- d) Ron Smith. Nothing to report;
- e) Dan Green. Nothing to report;
- f) John Vargas. Thanked Board members for their individual donations to the Chapter; John is arranging to have Michael Kilmer, Director of VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System, to be our February guest speaker; please send questions that you would like to ask Michael in advance of the meeting to John Vargas (email: jav0627bc@gmail.com); John is also working on a newsletter article of member's service dogs;
- g) Chaplain Garry Turks. Garry will contact each Chapter member during the year to see how each is doing and if they have any needs; also, please contact Garry or any Board member about members who are sick or shut-ins;

14. Committee Reports

- a) Dave Lyons, Membership. The Chapter has 201 members with several membership applications in progress that my put the total number at 205;
- b) Patti Ehline and Warren Harrison, Voices for Veterans. Warren Harrison is VP of the organization but was not present at today's Chapter meeting;



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- c) Milt Omoto, Grants and Fundraising. Milt stated that we are receiving VVA Household Goods donation program funds so please continue to support this program by donating your used clothing and household items; you can schedule pickups online but it may take a while for them to pick up as they are limited on the number of truck drivers they have; we received a small grant from Walmart; the Chapter is now enrolled in the King Sooper Rewards Program and will be receiving a percentage of your purchase at any King Sooper and City Market store; a flyer was sent to members informing of this and how to link your loyalty card to our Chapter;
- d) Bob Rotruck, Newsletter. Lee thanked Bob for his efforts in publishing the Chapter's newsletter; Bob asked if anyone was able to identify all 6 member pictures of when they were in the military in the Latest newsletter; no one was successful in the picture quiz;
- e) Mike Karsh, Scholarship Committee. Mike reported that schools may reopen in January which will enable the Scholarship Committee members to meet with school administrators on scholarship opportunities;
- f) Ron Smith, Chapter Events. No Chapter events are scheduled;
- g) Joe Plant, Veterans Assistance Program. Joe reported that the Chapter assisted 38 veterans so far this fiscal year that will end February 28th; the Chapter helped with rent, deposits for housing, utility bills, etc.; one focus is to help get homeless veterans off the street; the program helped four veterans in December;
- h) Dan Green, Color Guard. No current Color Guard activity.

16. Roundtable

- a) Dan Green stated that during his buddy check calls, some members express difficulty using Zoom and therefore do not participate in the monthly virtual meetings; Litta will resend out the basics of Zoom meetings that Michelle had developed;
- b) Dave Lyons stated that the Chapter has handicap equipment available including wheelchairs, power chairs, walkers and other aids; please contact any Board members if there is a need;
- c) Rick Eisenberg and his wife received the COVID vaccine from UC Medical Hospital; if you have a UC Medical Hospital primary care physician, contact them; Bob and Barbara Rotruck also received their vaccination from a UC Medial Hospital;
- d) Michelle Mallin thanked everyone for the award she received; she also appreciated the cards, emails, phone calls and prayers for her healing while she undergoes treatment;
- e) Chaplain Garry recommended to John Vargas to interview Charles Smith for a "Sharing the Foxhole" article;
- f) Cliff Lawson again encouraged Chapter members to sign up for his Colorado Veterans Portrait Project; he will take your portrait at no charge, 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 directly for an appointment at 303-520-3910; email clifflawson@me.com ; his web site: www.CliffLawsonPhotography.com ;
- g) Charles Smith asked where to send donations for the Chapter to; send checks directly to our Treasurer Mike Huber;
- h) Gary Benson stated that he sent a donation check directly to VVA National because he did not have information on where to send donations for the Chapter; Mike Huber stated to send to the Chapter's PO box address or directly to him; the Chapter's PO Box address is VVA Chapter 1106, PO Box 441291, Aurora, CO 80044;



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Gary also stated that he and his wife were infected by the COVID virus but that they are now fine;

- i) Nurse Patti stated that every veteran should get a VA health card whether you use the VA hospital services or not.

17. Membership in Sickness or in Need of Support

- a) Please continue to pray for Dave and Dee Lyons; Dee was recently diagnosed with ALS and is receiving treatment;
- b) Please continue to pray for Michelle Mallin for healing;
- c) Chaplain Garry visited Sonny Gorsuch and reported that he is in the same condition; he was at home but now is back in a rehab center;
- d) Ron Smith reported that Peggy Kelly is doing Ok and slowly getting better;
- e) Tom Werzyn talked to Jack Paulson who is recovering from COVID and stated that Jack is slowly improving in health;
- f) Please let Chaplain Garry Turks know of members who are ill or in need of support.

19. Other

Tom Werzyn provided a book review of “Call Sign Dracula: My Tour with the Black Scarves April 1969 to March 1970”; author Joe Fair provides an interesting look into the life of a US Army Infantry soldier serving with the 1st Infantry Division (The Big Red One) in Vietnam. It is a firsthand account of his one-year tour that shows how he grew and matured from a bewildered, inexperienced, eighteen year old to a soldier; available in paperback.

20. Schedule

- a) The next Chapter Board Meeting is scheduled for January 30th at 9:00AM;
- b) The next Chapter Member Meeting is February 6th ;
- c) The next Colorado State Council Meeting is March 13th .

The Next Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2020 – online via ZOOM

The membership meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections by President Lee White at 10:21 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 website version of the minutes.