



January 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 1106.

Location: South Metro Denver Fire and Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Ave., Centennial, CO 80112

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM, January 4, 2020 by President, Lee White

Board Members Present: Joe Plant, Tom Werzyn, Patti Ehline, Glen Payne, John Vargas, Dan Green, and Dave Lyons.

Board Members Excused: Milt Omoto and Ron Smith

Members Present: Bruce Arndt, Jim Bishop, Don Boswell, Cliff Butler, Donna Chaney, Bill Clark, Robert Crago, Joe Dempsey, Bob Easter, Barry Fiore, Thomas Frey, Dan Graham, Leo Greunke, Ted Hanfelder, Warren Harrison, Jim Hemphill, Jim Henderson, Mike Huber, Jack Hunter, Mike Karsh, Peggy Kelly, Roger Lanphier, Bob Lee, Richard Lewis, Marvin Lich, Jerry Liechti, Bob Mallin, Jim McGrevey, Tony Nickerson, Gary Palka, Bob Palmi, Jack Paulsen, Ed Phillips, Bill Pine, Jay Quiring, Clarence Rebolledo, Bob Rotruck, Carl Sanchez, Rob Senatore, John Sheadel, Lee Skiles, Gary Steinhoff, Garry Turks, Dan Wagle, Gary Weston, and John Williams.

Associate Member: Alice Boswell, Diane Graham, Claudia Hunter, Barbara Rotruck, Leann Stelzer, Valerie Werzyn, Jim Williams, Gwendolyn Wilson and Alexis Winemiller.

Guests and New Members Present:

Ira Dempsey, Pat Keelan, Ann Korsan, Fleet Lentz, Ken Mostek, Douglas Frasher, Alycia Carmin

Invocation and Prayer given by VVA1106 Chaplin Garry Turks.

Pledge of Allegiance by all

The **Sgt At Arms, Rob Senatore**, conducted the **POW/MIA** ritual, followed by a Moment of Silence.

Moment of Silence for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and for those who are still MIA

Minutes from the December 7, 2019

VVA Meeting was approved.

Motion: Joe Plant 2nd by Tom Werzyn

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:



Alycia Carmin – “Quilts of Valor” – Dave Lyons to introduce
Alycia told us how each custom quilt is made with specific veterans in mind. Ten Veteran Members received a Quilt of Valor today.

Member BIOS:

Richard Lewis completed describing his military experience and life since then.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Lee White

1. Committee Reviews for 2020: We are reviewing plans for this coming year and your input for our chapter is invited.

We have a Suggestion Box right over there on that table awaiting your suggestions. Or, tell one of the Board members your ideas.

2. Chapter Video – Update - Tom Werzyn:

Our Videographer has been doing member interviews and is doing more next week collecting material for a video on our Chapter that he will edit.

3. Treasurer Interviews: We have some members who have expressed interest in being our next Treasurer now that Joe Plant is retiring from that role.

4. Upcoming Elections – Chapter & State Council: In March we will have an Elections Committee taking suggestion of members who want to be involved

with the Board and other positions, and a formal election of Chapter leadership roles will be in April 2020.

5. Vietnam Veterans Day – 3-29-20: If you know of any events on Vietnam Veterans Day that we as a chapter should be involved, please let me know.

VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Dave Lyons

The Honor Bell is gathering funding for a second Honor Bell to be in Colorado Springs. Michelle Mallin is gathering individual contributions. We as a Chapter have donated \$500.00.

TREASURER’S Report – Joe Plant

The Financial Report was read and Approved.

Veterans Assistance Program-Joe Plant: In December, we assisted five (5) veterans. Four veterans needed help with rent, and a women veteran needed assistance with some bills.



We spent \$1,522 on the Veteran's Assistance and Homeless program in December. As usual, the VA verifies the veteran's identity and the financial need.

SECRETARY Report—Glen Payne

This past month, I sent you about 4 different emails to keep you informed of events pertaining to veterans.

The Chapter Meeting Minutes and Newsletter are sent to you as well to keep you current with the services of Chapter VVA1106.

The Members who have been sending news items to the Secretary in 2019 were recognized.

Webmaster Report—Bob Rotruck

Bob reminded us that part of our Website is password protected. He will email you the password if you email Bob to tell him you want to see our whole website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Membership** – Dave Lyons We now have 144 Members and 36 Associate Members for a total of 180 members in VVA CHAPTER 1106.

Brochures, Applications and Business Cards are available to you to assist in inviting prospective members. We have a goal of 200 for 2020.

2. **Voices for Veterans** – Warren Harrison

The VA Voices for Veterans meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month.

At the last meeting our speaker was from the VA Alcoholics Anonymous program—the VA has 3 AA groups meeting at the hospital.

--Warren has been volunteering at Severe Weather Shelters that happen at local churches when the temperature gets below 32 degrees.

He stays the night at the shelter where they provide dinner and breakfast plus a warm place to sleep. He meets veterans at every event and refers them to veteran services.

3. **Grants/Fund Raising**

Please remember to call the VVA Household Goods service which will come to your home to collect your donations of clothing or other small household items.



4. **Speaker's Bureau** –Tom Werzyn.

--Tom is sourcing speaking engagements for 2020.

5. **Agent Orange**—Patti Ehline.

We continue to put pressure on federal law makers to include the three disabilities on the presumptive list regarding Agent Orange.

Please contact your congressman and senators as well.

6. **Newsletter**—Bob Rotruck. Bob reminded us a Member Background Form is located on the website and at each meeting.

Please tell him about your background so he can feature you in the Newsletter.

7. **Scholarships Committee**-Mike Karsh

We are starting to present the VVA Scholarship Program to schools.

We have final version of the VVA1106 Scholarship trifold and a Poster to take to the schools to foster getting as many applications as possible.

8. **PTSD**—Patti Ehline

--Please go to VA.gov for information on Veteran Resources. We are pressuring the VA to keep us Veterans better informed on that website.

For example, veterans who file a claim with the VA can now follow that claim on a website.

--Community Care program is having issues with keeping VA authorizations organized quick enough to allow timely veteran care. We are pressuring them to solve that issue.

--All of us who were in Vietnam have some degree of Post-Traumatic Stress and the VA is now discussing PTS and not making us have to have disability to be included in the discussion.



--We are forming a Chapter sub-group of all medics, Doctors, Nurses and any member involved in medical care in the military. Please tell Patti if you are interested.

--Patti has met a Hollywood playwright who has asked Patti to proof drafts of a play concerning Vietnam experience.

The playwright was an infantryman on the perimeter around the 312 Evac hospital where Patti served. She has learned of a website

Thriftbooks.com where you can obtain inexpensive books on Vietnam.

9. **Social Committee** –John Vargas

-Summer Picnic—We have scheduled the same place in Highland Ranch as last year for a picnic on Aug 15 with a Hawaiian theme.

-Caretakers of our veterans deserve our special thanks when you meet them.

-Kudos to Dave Lyons for recently visiting a member's wife in the hospital.

-Kudos to Joe Plant for visiting with Sonny recently in the hospital just prior to his brain surgery. Garry Turks visited with Sonny after the surgery.

-Note that John McMaster will be having surgery soon.

--Give Karen a Break: Jim Bishop, in a wheelchair, is requesting someone to assist him one day a week by driving him around in Jim's van.

This is a paid position. This will give Jim's wife, Karen, a break for one day in the week. See Jim or call him about this.

Coffee and Donuts: Special thanks to Alexis Winemiller and to her employer Zillow.com for providing our coffee and donuts at each meeting.

Promotional items: Special thanks to Leann Stelzer and Clarence Rebolledo for organizing and presenting promotional items to us each meeting.

10. **Women Veteran**—Patti

--The VA now has a 3D mammogram machine for high quality medical care.

--Patti is continuing to organize items to take to the Bill Daniels Center—items like soaps and shampoo as well as clothing for veterans—men and women.

We will be having clothing drives this year for the Bill Daniels Center.



11. **Government Affairs**—Tony Nickerson

--In the federal Senate now is the Debora Simpson Act. This act calls for increased medical care for women veterans.

An Office of Women's Healthcare would be created and facilities would be retrofitted to provide best quality care for women, including reproductive health and services for sexual trauma.

Contact your Senators to press them to support this bill.

--The Battlefield Cross Act is being considered by the House currently. This Act would direct the VA Cemeteries to install a Battlefield Cross memorial at each cemetery.

Contact your Congressmen to press them to support this bill.

-- MIA news recently: 41 MIA bodies were returned by North Korea recently as a result of negotiations with the President.

--Agent Orange legislation is being considered to add four disabilities to the VA Presumptive List: Hypertension, Bladder Cancer, Parkinson's like symptoms, and hypothyroidism.

--The Bluewater Navy Act was passed recently. Bluewater Navy veterans please gather you list of symptoms and make claims to the VA.

--The VA Disability Cost of Living Adjustment for 2020 is 1.6%, which is the same as the Social Security Disability Cost of Living Adjustment.

12. **Color Guard**—Jay Quiring

The Color Guard would like to have two units ready for the busy season. Volunteers, men and women, both VVA and AVVA members, are invited to volunteer for the Color Guard.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

--Jack Hunter reminded us to get a picture—His wife, Claudia, will take your picture in the lobby after the meeting.

If you get your picture taken, Jack will send you an email with all the member pictures.

--Jack Paulson told us of trouble getting services through Tri-West for glasses. They provided a good Optometrist could not get lens authorized.



Pattie reminded us that Tri-West is an Insurance company and VA Community Care authorizes the care.

-- Bob Palmi spoke on his positive experience with Project Healing Waters which takes disabled veterans on fly fishing trips—plus teaches rod making, casting and fly-tying.

They meet once a month, and he has met many new friends there. Jim Bishop ask about handicap access to the Healing Water meeting place.

They now meet at the VFW Post on west Colfax on the ground floor where Jim can easily get his wheelchair into the meeting.

--Carl Sanchez requested our prayers for a family friend who is a contractor stuck in the Bagdad airport trying to get home during this current crisis.

--Tony Nickerson reminded us we can now utilize the on-base commissary system.

Glen Payne spoke about getting his VA Healthcare care changed at the VA Hospital so he can utilize the commissary system.

--Tom Werzyn has info on how to utilize the National Archives Administration.

50/50 DRAWING – first for the cash and then for a Coffee Pot donated to us.

The cash winner donated the cash to the Chapter, and the Coffee Pot was donated to the Bill Daniels Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

4th. Qtr. 2019 Birthday Cake - Celebration

UVC Banquet – 4-19-20 – Renaissance Hotel

VVA1106 Community medical issues:

Sonny Gorsuch recently had surgery. John McMaster will have surgery soon.

Meeting Adjourned by: Lee White at: 10:30 AM

BREAK TIME – 10:15 – 10:50 AM - ENJOY A COFFEE REFILL AND SOCIALIZE

NEXT SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING: SATURDAY, February 1, 2020.

GUEST SPEAKER: Cliff Lawson – Veteran Portraits

THANK YOU ALL!!!!

Submitted by:

Glen Payne, Secretary, VVA Chapter 1106