



Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 1106

## Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: November 7, 2020

Scheduled Meeting Start Time: 9:00PM

Meeting Location: ZOOM Video/Teleconference Host Michelle Mallin

Meeting called to order by President Lee White at 9:02AM

### Meeting Topics

1. Welcome to the meeting by President Lee White
2. Invocation by Reverend Garry Turks and Moment of Silence (for all our MIA and POW)
  - And prayers for those in need, including the sick and shut-ins
3. Pledge of Allegiance (all): lead by Lee White
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:

Michelle Mallin, Joe Dempsey, Mike Karsh, Wendell Wallace, Bob Rotruck, Bob Mallin, Walt Leuci, Rob Senatore, Clarence Rebolledo, Jim Henderson, Leann Stelzer, Jack Hunter, Coy Richie, Dan Wagle, Warren Harrison, Jim Williams, David Yates, Lou Grounds, Cliff Butler, Joe Robinson, Rich Eisenberg, Litta Plant-Schaper, Jesse Maldonado, Jim Marcille, Carl Sanchez, Charles Smith, Christopher Boyer, Joe Dempsey, Alexis Winemiller, Bob Lee, Cliff Lawson

There were a total of 48 online connections

6. Guests and New Members

Walt Leuci (new and 200<sup>th</sup> member!)  
Brian Johnson, WarriorNOW



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Tiffany Morgan, WarriorNOW  
Carol Cordova, VVA Member 1071  
Donald Malloy, All Wars Veteran Bowling League

7. Chapter Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion to approve the VVA Chapter 1106 Minutes dated October 3, 2020 as transcribed and corrected, made by Tom Werzyn and second by Glen Payne; approved.; note that the corrected version has been posted to the Chapter website

8. Guest Speaker: Brian Johnson (Executive Director) and Tiffany Morgan (Chief of Staff), WarriorNOW ([www.wariornow.org](http://www.wariornow.org))

The organization was founded as a way to eliminate the stigma associated with veterans dealing with mental health related concerns, PTSD, and/or addiction. They provide mentors to be with veterans throughout the judicial process when a veteran gets convicted. The organization provides support to any veteran of any era and irrespective of discharge status. Much like being in the service, they bring a team approach back into the lives of veterans. They leverage VA training available to non-clinical personnel for crisis management. The organization has served just under 900 veterans in just the last 4-months. They have a “Buddy room” called the Daniel’s Room, that meets every evening at 7:00 PM to provide fellowship support to all who attend. Open to families on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The organization also sponsors the All Wars Veteran Bowling League. Donald Malloy shared about the bowling league as a way for veterans to get together to make friends with other veterans, fellowship and share while bowling. They currently play at Summit Bowling Alley (580 E. 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Thornton). They are working to expand their adaptive bowling capabilities and can accommodate some now. They are working to secure a second bowling alley location at South Denver, Mississippi Avenue at Buckley Road (AMF Aurora Lanes).

Chapter 1106 has donated to this organization along with the Colorado State Council.

9. President’s Report: Lee White

- The Chapter recently achieved its goal of 200 members with the addition of Walter Leuci;
- VVA National has available PTSD challenge coins; the Board approved the purchase of some of these coins and will make them available to members;
- The “Fill the Mayflower--Holiday Food Drive for Airmen at Buckley AFB” is today and tomorrow (November 7 and 8); take canned goods to the Safeway parking lot at 1200 S. Buckley Road, Aurora; they will also accept cash donations;
- Lee stated that Chapter Board members pledged to donate \$100 each to the Chapter; John Vargas has discussed this with each Board Member prior to the meeting;
- Lee also announced the “President’s Pledge”; Lee will donate \$1,000 to the Chapter and is asking Chapter members to match that amount by December 31<sup>st</sup>; donations should be sent to Treasurer Mike Huber at 6350 N Powell Road, Parker, CO 80134;
- The Chapter had its Board Meeting on October 31<sup>st</sup> and the next Board Meeting is scheduled for November 28<sup>th</sup>



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- Check out the VVA Web Weekly for a list of Veterans Day discounts available to veterans; at the bottom of the recent Web Weekly;
  - At this point, Lee turned the meeting over to Vice President Dave Lyons to conduct the meeting.
10. Vice President's Report: Dave Lyons
- Dave stated that "Buddy Check" calls are continuing with monthly calls to Chapter members to see how each member and family are doing.
11. Treasurer's Report: Mike Huber
- The Treasurer provided a report of the Chapter's financial status.
12. Secretary's Report: Milt Omoto
- Milt stated that at the last Board meeting, it was agreed that meeting minutes that get emailed directly to members will contain Treasurer's report dollar amount details, but that the version of the minutes that get posted to the Chapter website will not contain this information.
13. Board Member Reports
- a) Joe Plant. Chapter Veterans Emergency Assistance. The Chapter assisted 13 veterans in the month of October; four were provided with gift cards to purchase food; we also provided rent assistance and utility bill payments to several veterans; a collection of winter coats by the Chapter will assist veterans in need;
  - b) Tom Werzyn. The Chapter has established three drop off locations for coat drive donations (please continue reading for details); Tom also encouraged members to scan weekly VVA Web Weekly for information of interest;
  - c) Patti Ehline.
    - Patti applied to Thrivent Financials for funding to support the Chapter's coat drive and use the funds to purchase new clothing items; she will also check with the Bill Daniel's Center to see if they will accept donated clothing items
    - Patti continues to attend the Director's VA Meeting; COVID is on the rise and the VA has instituted measures to restrict visits; call before going to the VA so you know exactly what the restrictions are; also get your flu shots;
    - Patti discussed with Rick Eisenberg survivor benefits available to spouses; Patti is further investigating this; Rich shared that he has been 100% disabled due to PTSD for the last 20-years; he was diagnosed with Stage 4 prostate cancer 3-1/2-years ago; should he re-open his claim with the VA?; Dave suggested that we contact Josh Median of the Arapahoe County Veterans Service with these questions; this topic is of interest to many;
  - d) Ron Smith. Nothing to report;
  - e) Dan Green. He will participate at the Ben Franklin Academy Veterans Day event;
  - f) John Vargas. The Chapter Board approved a Holiday Zoom Event for the Chapter; it will be virtual and held on December 19<sup>th</sup>; there will be recognition of members, raffles and singing of carols; a flyer with information is fourth coming;



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- g) Glen Payne. Nothing to report
- h) Chaplain Garry Turks. Please notify Garry when any Chapter member or family member is sick, shut-in or needs assistance; Garry will begin to contact every Chapter member to see how they and their family are doing and that we care for them;

14. Committee Reports

- a) Dave Lyons, Membership. VVA National has 87,480 Members, 1,391 women veteran members; 112 regular members and 31 Associate members passed away; Chapter 1106 has reached our target of 200 members;
- b) Patti Ehline and Warren Harrison, Voices for Veterans. ;Warren missed last week's meeting but will attend Monday's meeting with Greg Crenshaw, Veterans Experience Officer; things have slowed down due to the pandemic;
- c) Milt Omoto, Grants and Fundraising. As a Chapter, we should continue to support the VVA household goods program; the program looks like has been restored and funding should resume; we applied to various grant programs so we will see how successful we were in our applications;
- d) Bob Rotruck, Newsletter. Bob had to leave the meeting early;
- e) Mike Karsh, Scholarship. Thanked the Chapter for support; expanded the Scholarship Committee members; the Committee will use phone calls and emails to reach out to schools; they will make visits if allowed; they have produced a new brochure for this school year;
- f) Ron Smith, Chapter Events. Ben Franklin Academy Veterans Day event is on November 12<sup>th</sup>, it is a drive through parade; see their website for details:  
<https://www.bfacademy.org/veterans-day-celebrations>
- g) Joe Plant, Veterans Assistance Program. Joe gets 2-3 calls per week for veterans needing assistance; end of year is very busy with assistance requests, especially helping to get veteran of the street before winter;
- h) Glen Payne, Social Committee. The Social Committee will be meeting after the regular meeting today to discuss the Holiday Zoom Event;
- i) Dan Green, Color Guard. No current Color Guard activity.

16. Roundtable

- a) Carol Cordova, a Navy veteran and veteran of Desert Storm, introduced herself; she is a member of Chapter 1071; she was invited by Michelle; she assists veterans with VA benefit mortgages and is a good resource for this; a possible future Chapter speaker;
- b) Rich Eisenberg stressed the importance of veteran mental health; he has personal experience with the VA Hospital Mental Health Emergency Room, and stated that they are excellent; any veteran needing this service should not hesitate to go there;
- c) Tom Werzyn reported that the Chapter's working group to establish the new Voices for Colorado Veterans organization, a parallel organization to Chapter 1106, is moving forward; both Carol Cordova and Alexis Winemiller have recently joined the group; the new organization will be a 501(c)(3) non-profit; currently Chapter 1106 is a 501(c)(19) veterans' organization;



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17. Membership in Sickness or in Need of Support

- a) Continue to pray for Sonny Gorsuch who is recovering from brain surgery; Chaplain Garry stated that he is stable;
- b) Jack Paulson is recovering from COVID; the Chapter delivered an oxygen concentrator to him as he is having difficulty breathing;
- c) Peggy Kelly was provided a wheelchair after she fell and injured herself; Lee has been trying to contact her, but her phone has been disconnected;

18. Drawing (by Litta Plant-Schaper)

Drawing for \$25.00 Gift Card  
WINNER: Gary Weston

19. Other

- Lou Grounds was invited by a Major Smith to talk at Colorado Christian University, Regis University and Colorado School of Mines about the Battle of Hill 724 on November 11, 1967 in Vietnam; Lou encouraged others to speak with college ROTC groups who have an interest in the Vietnam War;
- John shared that there is no other VVA Chapter like 1106 and praised Chapter members;
- Wings over the Rockies is free to veterans on Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>;
- Michelle announced that one Saturday a month, Honor Bell and WarriorNOW partner to conduct a Trivia Night, free and open to anyone; it is conducted virtually; the next is on November 28<sup>th</sup>;

20. Book Review by Tom Werzyn

- A number of Chapter members have authored books: Bob Rotruck, Charles Smith, Robb Robichaud, Fleet Lentz, George Nolly;
- Tom met Marc Leepson (who writes the “Books in Review” in each issue of The VVA Veteran publication), and Tom has done a number of book reviews for Marc over the years;
- Tom talked about a book, A Trucker's Tale: Wit, Wisdom, and True Stories from 60 Years on the Road by Ed Miller, Apollo Publishers (April 14, 2020); Ed Miller was born into a family of truckers in North Carolina and began driving tractor-trailers at age thirteen and moving trucks around his family's farm or backing them into the dock at the warehouse yard. He has more than forty years of management and ownership experience in many aspects of the motor carrier industry, including flatbed, van, refrigerated, specialized, and transportation brokerage. From 2003 to 2010, he worked in the Office of Freight Logistics at Maryland's Department of Transportation, where he served on numerous county, state, and national transportation and research advisory committees. Today he is a part-time school bus driver, working as a substitute/trip driver transporting students or taking school teams to sports events. Ed grew up in western North Carolina and attended East Carolina University before serving in the US Navy Seabees. He is a father of three and a grandfather of two, and lives with his wife in Rising Sun, Maryland.



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20. Announcements

- a) The next Chapter Board Meeting is scheduled for November 28<sup>th</sup>;
- b) The next Chapter Member Meeting is December 5<sup>th</sup>;
- c) The next Colorado State Council Meeting is December 12<sup>th</sup>;
- d) The Chapter Holiday Virtual Party event is scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup>;
- e) The recent issue of the VVA Web Weekly (November 6, 2020) has a link to discounts for veterans on Veterans Day; the link is:

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/80347/veterans-day-2020-discounts>

The official VA Veterans Day poster for 2020 is attached to the last page. Have a great Veterans Day!

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

The membership meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections by Vice President Dave Lyons at 10:27AM

This Chapter Membership Meeting minutes is submitted by Milt Omoto, Chapter Secretary.

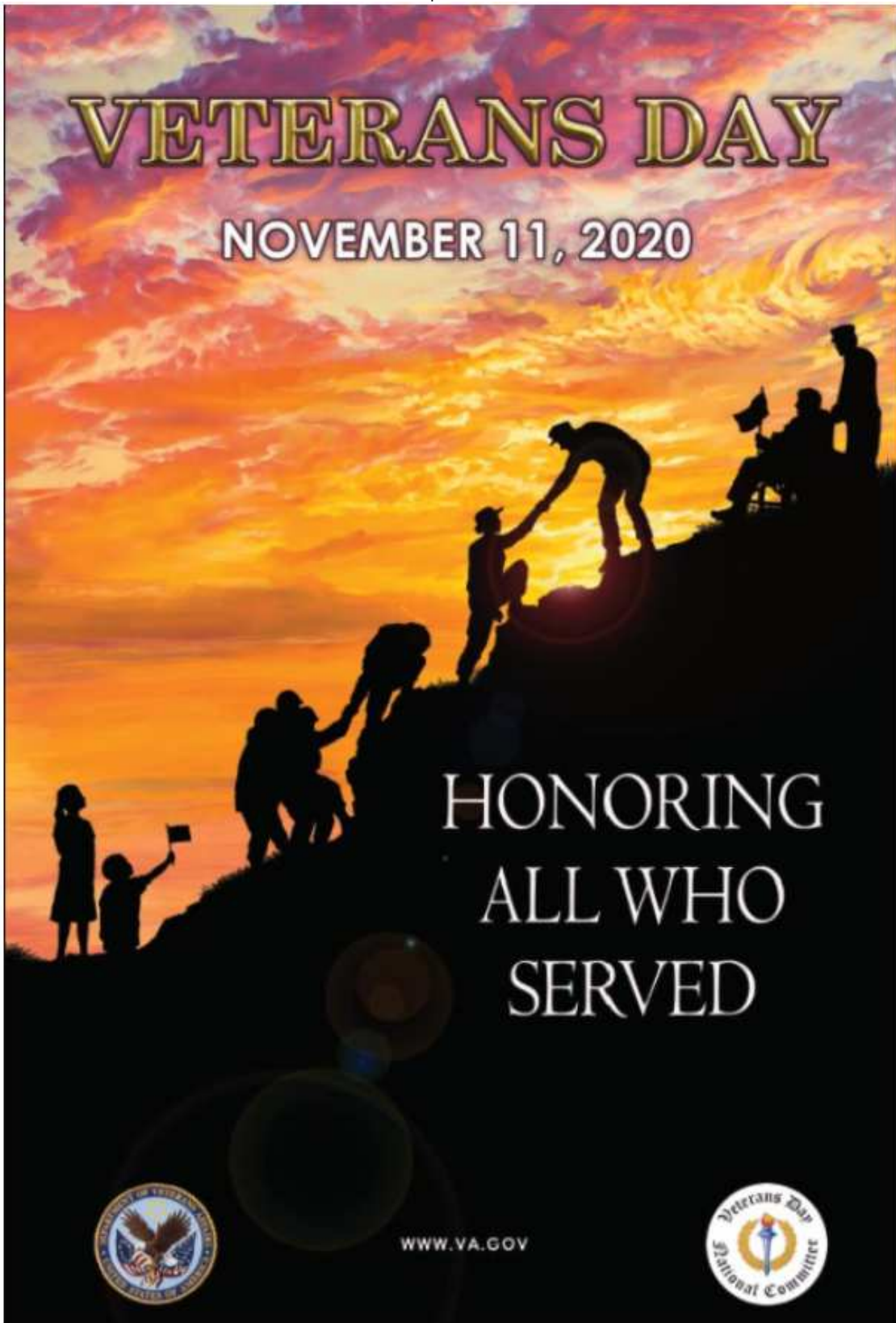
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*Circulation Notice: These minutes may contain sensitive and/or personal information; therefore, please use discretion when sharing this information with non-VVA members. Note that this is the web version of the minutes..*



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We meet the first Saturday of every month at 9:00AM: The South Metro Fire and Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO 80112  
Visit us at: [www.vva1106.org](http://www.vva1106.org)