



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1106

Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: December 5, 2020

Scheduled Meeting Start Time: 9:00PM

Meeting Location: ZOOM Video/Teleconference Host Michelle Mallin

Meeting called to order by President Lee White at 9:03AM

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 and those sick and shut-ins
3. Pledge of Allegiance (all): lead 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, 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, Bob Rotruck, Bob Mallin, Clarence Rebolledo, Wendell Wallace, Mike Vallow, Leann Stelzer, Jack Hunter, Coy Richie, Dan Wagle, Jim Williams, David Yates, Lou Grounds, Cliff Butler, Joe Robinson, Rich Eisenberg, Litta Plant-Schaper, Suzanne Sigona, Jim Marcille, Carl Sanchez, Charles Smith, Norm Ponzer, Allen Jaffe, Don McNeely, Jesse Maldonado, Gary Weston, Steve Robertson, Jim Hemphill, Chris Boyer, Alexis Winemiller.

There were a total of 43 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 November Chapter Membership meeting were emailed to each member.

Motion 1. Motion to approve the VVA Chapter 1106 Minutes dated November 7, 2020 as transcribed made by Joe Plant and Second by John Vargas; the minutes were approved.

8. Special Presentation: Member Bio Lou Grounds

Chapter member Lou provided a background of himself and his experience during his tour of Vietnam; he was with the US Army's Third Battalion, Eighth Infantry; he has in the past provided a similar (although longer version) presentation to the ROTC group at Regis University who expressed strong interest in learning about the Vietnam War; Lou described the Battle for Hill 724 near Dak To, November 11, 1967; he described the full-day battle with 118 wounded and 18 KIA in his Company, including the Company CO KIA;

Lou stated that his unit was comprised of about half draftees and half enlisted; what impressed him was how each soldier's basic infantry training kicked-in during the heat of battle and how well they operated when needed; after the battle they cleared an area for a LZ to enable helicopters to land to take the wounded and dead out, then the others; he also had high praise for the F104 pilots who accurately dropped napalm to form a protective perimeter;

Lou received an early out after serving one year and seven months due to medical issues. Thank you to Lou for sharing.

9. President's Report: Lee White

- The Chapter had its Board Meeting on November 28th and the next Board Meeting is scheduled for December 26th;
- Lee expressed gratitude and appreciation to all who participated in a very successful Chapter coat drive;
- Lee is working to update the Chapter's Standing Committee list;
- Jack Hunter suggested that we include all spouse names on the Buddy Call lists; however, the Board decided that this would be an option for those members who want their spouse names added to the list;
- Lee stated that we have not heard from the following members and do not know their current status: Donna Chaney, Ted Hanfelder, John Williams, Gwendolyn Wilson, Margret Peggy Kelly, Gary Bentzen, Robert Lee;
- The Chapter's President's Pledge fund raiser ends December 31st; thank you to all who donated so far;
- Lee has twelve (12) lap blankets if anyone wants one or knows of someone who could use one; they are especially good for those in wheelchairs to keep them warm;
- Lee still has many promotional items such as Chapter shirts, wind breakers, decals and challenge coins, including recently received PTSD challenge coins; contact him if interested.



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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.

11. Treasurer's Report: Mike Huber

- Mike reported that the Chapter's end of year donation drive is progressing;
- Mike presented the November Treasurer's report.

Motion 2. That the November Treasurer's Report be approved. Motion by Tom Werzyn and Second by Joe Plant; the motion was approved.

12. Secretary's Report: Milt Omoto

- Milt again as reported at the last Membership meeting that it was agreed by the Board that meeting minutes that get emailed directly to members will contain Treasurer's report dollar amount details, but that the version of minutes that get posted to the Chapter website will not contain this information.

13. Board Member Reports

- a) Joe Plant. Will provide an update during the Chapter Veterans Emergency Assistance discussion (Committee Reports);
- b) Tom Werzyn. The special committee to establish a parallel non-profit 501(c)(3) organization is moving forward; Tom and Lee met with John Thompson of Chapter 1071 who provided good information and things to do and what not to do;
- c) Ron Smith. Nothing to report;
- d) Dan Green. Nothing to report;
- e) John Vargas. Thanked those who contributed to the Chapter's upcoming Holiday Party virtual event; Dr. Mallin donated gift cards, and we received donations from other members; John stated that the Holiday Party will feature raffles, awards, singing and fun; wear your holiday hat to the event; John also said that he and his wife put together goody bags that contain a pair of socks, hand cleaner, etc. in a zip lock bag to hand to homeless and to those you may see on the side of the road;
- f) Glen Payne. Glen is looking forward to the Holiday Party event;
- g) Patti Ehline. The Chapter's coat drive was a success; she counted 89 pairs of new socks from her pickup point alone; there were enough bags of coats and clothing to fill a van; she has pictures of the coat drive that can be included in the newsletter and possibly with an article for publication with National; Patti was finally able to talk with someone at the Bill Daniels Veterans Center; they cannot accept any clothing at this time due to the pandemic;

The VA hospital has increased access restrictions to patients only and their immediate care giver; call the VA before you go for your appointment; Patti suggested that you see your primary doctor before getting a COVID test; use "My HealtheVet" (www.myhealth.va.gov)



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to schedule appointments online, refill prescriptions, view your health records, and send Secure Messages; Allen Jaffe stated that he was denied a COVID test because he showed no symptoms; if you have difficulty using the VA's Community Care (www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE), it's important to give them feedback; some veterans get frustrated with them; others have experienced good service;

Patti also stated that PTSD is increasing in the communities due to the pandemic; wear masks, practice social distancing and personal hygiene; Patti tries to stay in contact with the Chapter's women veterans; she said that Donna Chaney is doing fine.

14. Committee Reports

- a) Dave Lyons, Membership. The Chapter has 41 AVVA members and 163 regular members; he did not receive a MAC report from National this month.
- b) Patti Ehline and Warren Harrison, Voices for Veterans. Joe Plant attended the last meeting via phone (audio only); he said that they will schedule future meetings using Zoom; the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 7th.
- c) Milt Omoto, Grants and Fundraising. Milt has yet to hear from the organizations that grants were applied for, including Walmart and Cracker Barrel; Lee suggested that we look into the King Soopers Reward Program again; with this program, the Chapter will receive 5% of your purchase; the VVA Household Goods program is still active; you can call or schedule a pickup on-line; the Chapter recently received funds from the program, which had been reinstated for now.
- d) Bob Rotruck, Newsletter. Bob stated that the next newsletter will be published December 20th; so, any articles for inclusion should be sent to Bob well ahead of this date.
- e) Mike Karsh, Scholarship Committee. The Committee has prepared materials for schools, contact letters, etc.; they are currently waiting on the schools for the go-ahead to meet.
- f) Ron Smith, Chapter Events. No Chapter events scheduled.
- g) Joe Plant, Veterans Assistance Program. Joe reported that the Chapter assisted 37 veterans so far in this Fiscal Year (March 2020 to February 2021); assistance included initial rent to get homeless veterans off the street, one time rent payment, utility bill, etc.; the Chapter also partners with Qualified Listeners (www.qualifiedlisteners.org) who provides handicap equipment to veterans; the Chapter coat drive collected 32 bags of coats and clothing; the Social Worker brought a van to pickup the items and it filled his van; he assured Joe that all of the items will go to veterans.
- h) Glen Payne, Social Committee. Litta will host the Chapter's Holiday Party online event; the new access link will be sent out at a later date; the flyer that has the access link will also be updated.
- i) Dan Green, Color Guard. No current Color Guard activity.

Note

It was reported that Gary Watson will be our new alternate Zoom meeting host.



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16. Roundtable

- a) Suzanne Sigona reported on her recent washing of the Wall in Washington DC; the Wall is maintained by the National Park Service and gets washed monthly; Suzanne reported that the travelling Wall That Heals will be in Brighton CO, September 2 through 5, 2021; it is sponsored by the City of Brighton; Chapter 1071 will assist; for a full schedule of the 2021 stops, see their website: www.vvmf.org/The-Wall-That-Heals .
- b) Cliff Butler stated that things are fine at the retirement home Wind Crest and that they are keeping safe and being cared for; he stated that the veteran's group at Wind Crest provided an American flag to the widow of a WWII veteran who recently passed; the veteran's group at Wind Crest also produced a video of their Veterans Day event that can be shared with the Chapter at a future date.
- c) Michelle Mallin stated that the monthly "trivia night" event continues; it is sponsored by Honor Bell and WarriorNOW; the next event is December 26th; Michelle stated that UVC has a silent auction that is going on now (November 30th through December 10th); the auction is carried out completely on-line; visit their website at <https://uvcoc.org/Index.aspx> for more information; Michelle also shared her current health status; she will be receiving radiation and chemotherapy treatment soon; please keep her in your prayers.

17. Membership in Sickness or in Need of Support

- a) Please pray for Dave and Dee Lyons; Dee was recently diagnosed with ALS and is receiving treatment;
- b) Please pray for Michelle Mallin for healing;
- c) Please let Chaplain Garry Turks know of members who are ill or in need of support.

18. Drawing (by Litta Plant-Schaper)

Drawing for \$25.00 Gift Card

WINNER: Bob Mallin, who donated the card to Joe Plant for use with the Chapter's veteran emergency support; Joe stated that he recently gave 4 gift cards to social workers to provide to veterans in need.

19. Other

- Lee wished everyone Happy Holidays!
- Tom Werzyn will provide a book review at the January meeting;
- Carol Cordova is scheduled to be our January speaker;
- Hanukkah begins sundown December 10th;
- Jim Williams contacted member John Williams and reported that John and Dianne are both doing fine.



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20. Schedule

- a) The next Chapter Board Meeting is scheduled for December 26th ;
- b) The next Chapter Member Meeting is January 2, 2021;
- c) The next Colorado State Council Meeting is March 13, 2021;
- d) The Chapter Holiday Virtual Party event is scheduled for December 19th.

The Next Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting is scheduled for January 2, 2020 – online via ZOOM

The membership meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections by President Lee White at 10:21AM

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 full version of the meeting minutes sent directly to Chapter members.