



Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 1106

## **Membership Meeting August 3, 2024**

Meeting Location: South Metro Fire & Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO 80112 (Board Room). ZOOM provided.

**Meeting called to order by President Dave Lyons at 9:00 AM.**

**Invocation and Prayer:** Chaplain Joe Plant

**Pledge of Allegiance:** All

**POW/MIA Chair Presentation:** Dan Green

**Moment of Silence:** For all those men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice and for those still MIA. We also remember our VVA and AVVA members who have passed.

**Chaplain Comments:** Chaplain Lonnie Hetterle reminded members that the chaplains are here at every meeting and welcome anyone who wishes to speak with a chaplain.

**Introduction of Guests and New Members:** Several guests and new members were introduced and recognized.

**Officer and Board Member Roll Call:** Dave Lyons, Milt Omoto, Bob Brown, Sally Ann Eaves, Joe Dempsey, Joe Plant, Joe Robinson, John Vargas, Lee White (Founding/Formal President and new Board member).

Board Member Emeritus: Tom Werzyn, Honorary Member

AVVA: Litta Plant-Schaper

Excused: Rev Garry "Chappy" Turks (Chapter Chaplain), Patti Ehline

**Members Present:** Mort Anderson, Felix Armenta, Bruce Arndt, Martha Baker, Carol Brautigam, Bob Brown, Wayne Buser, Dale Creason, Tony Croce, Rockie Cuppari, Charles Daldry, Byron Daniels, David Dawson, Joe Dempsey, Sally Ann Eaves, Bob Ferguson, Barry Fiore, Charlie Foster, David Gaul, Dan Graham, Dan Green, Lou Grounds, Jim Henderson, Jack Hunter,

We currently meet the first Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM at South Metro Fire and Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO 80112

visit Us at: [www.vva1106.org](http://www.vva1106.org)

Mike Karsh, Mike Katich, Mike Kumnick, Brad Kuss, Roger Lanphier, Cliff Lawson, Ernest Ledvina,

Walter Leuci, Marvin Lich, David Lyons, Larry Majors, Jesse Maldonado, Bob Mallin, Jim Martindale, Jim McGrevey, Bruce Miller, Harry Montgomery, Gary Nelson, Milt Omoto, Gary Palka, Ed Phillips, Joe Plant, Clarence Rebolledo, Randy Reed, Coy Ritchie, Joe Robinson, Juan Romero, Carl Sanchez, John Sheadel, Charles Smith, Ron Smith, Phil Snyder, Glennon Struempf, Mike Tarby, John Vargas, Dan Wagle, Wendell Wallace, Jim Weekes, Gary Weston, Tom Werzyn, Lee White, David Yates.

**Associate:** Cindy Ackerman, Jane Brown, Linda Croce, Diane Dawson, Ita Dempsey, Lonnie Hetterle, Claudia Hunter, Bob Krech, Dora Plant, Litta Plant-Schaper, Suzanne Sigona, Jai Smith, LeAnn Stelzer, Tony thomas, Jim Williams.

**Special Presentation:** One of our scholarship winners, Cole Raleigh, presented his winning essay. In writing this essay Cole stated, "that it allowed me not only to challenge my own understanding, but also feel even more connected to my family's history. Now I'm proud to say that I know more about the Vietnam war and what my grandfather (who just recently passed) was helping fight for."

**Guest Presentation:** Guest presenters were **Steve Day**, the Principal of The Cherry Creek Innovation Campus, (CCIC) and Christy Everson of the Cherry Creek School District (CCSD). Steve gave an extremely well received presentation of the CCIC, emphasizing its mission to avail all 10th - 12th grade Cherry Creek School students with the opportunity to an innovative education in multiple career pathways and also to serve those who are historically underserved in our communities. This opportunity is open to those who want to go to college, those who want to go right into the workforce or military after high school and those who are unsure of what they want to do after high school. It is a truly innovative campus and valuable for every Cherry Creek high school age student. There are currently 1800 students at the school. Historically about 70 % of those are in college prep and 30% go into the military or into a career. **Christy Everson** briefly went over the opportunities for seniors to volunteer and the process to vet volunteers. Volunteer opportunities are found on the CCSD website ([www.cherrycreekschools.org](http://www.cherrycreekschools.org) - at the top click on "community" and then "family engagement.") She also told of the Cherry Creek Schools "Senior Citizen Tax Offset Program" - also see the website.

**We also thank the CCSD for providing our members with today's breakfast. Thank you!**

**President's Report:** (Dave Lyons

1. We appreciate those members who present their "story" to us with the Member Bio and need more for future meetings.

2. We have created templates to make the editing of our newsletter much easier. Our last newsletter used that template. We are looking for a newsletter editor and also for a webmaster. If you have any inclination in those areas, please let me know.

3. We continue to have a Chapter table at the VA hospital every first and third Friday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The purpose is to explain VVA; our Chapter; recruit new members, and explain the Household Goods program. Please see Dave if you want to volunteer.

4. Our Summer Picnic is August 10th. We will hear more later but sign up, today, in the back with what you can bring.

5. The Pueblo Aircraft Museum tour is September 14. Joe Robinson is taking the \$10 for that. Joe will report later.

**Vice President's Report:** (Milt Omoto)

1. Thank you to all of you who are present and on ZOOM.
2. If your picture is not on the back board, please see Claudia Hunter after the meeting to have your picture taken. We need it to know who you are. If you really don't want to take a picture, you can email one to Jack Hunter.
3. Our summer picnic is August 10th. Sign up is in the back.
4. Don't forget to donate to the VVA Household Goods program.
5. Be sure to sign up for the King Soopers Community Rewards program. We received \$460.75 from that program for the 2nd Qtr. That was from 47 households participating.
6. Representative Jason Crow is holding a Vietnam War Pin celebration at his office. We also do this ceremony and for those who haven't already received their pins, we will be holding another ceremony in Nov. If you would prefer to do it at Rep Crow's office, see me.
7. It has been brought to the Board's attention that some members find our meetings to be too long. I would like to take a poll now. How many think 1 hour is sufficient? (no responses), How many think 1 and ½ hour is ideal? (Most hands went up). How many would prefer a 2 hour meeting? (About 8 hands went up).
8. Milt asked for information on any members going on the Sep. or Oct. Honor Flight.
9. If you need a new or another nametag. There is a sign up sheet in the back. Litta will follow up with the nametags.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Bob Brown)

1. July income was \$981.21
2. July expenditures were \$3,187.05

**MOTION** to accept the Treasurer's report was made by David Dawson and seconded by Dale Creason. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report:** (Sally Ann Eaves)

Thank you to Milt Omoto for preparing the June Membership Meeting minutes.

**MOTION** to approve the June 2024 minutes was made by David Gaul and seconded by Clarence Rebolledo. Motion carried

**BOARD MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Membership:** (Lee White and Phil Snyder)

Phil:

1. Membership of chapter 1106 is: 210 VVA and 43 AVVA members.
2. Colorado has 952 VVA and 117 AVVA members.
3. The National VVA membership is 11,110 members.

Lee:

1. Lee is working on getting the national roster sent to him.
2. Lee has membership packets for you to use when you contact prospective members.
3. There is a sign up sheet in the back for name tags.
4. If we don't have a photo of you, please see Claudia Hunter.
5. The Veterans' social lunch is August 26, RSVP to Lee
6. Be sure to respond to the "originator" of emails - NOT to Jack the "Blaster".

**Social Committee:** (Milt Omoto for Sally Ann Eaves)

Chapter 1106 Annual Picnic (thank you to Milt Omoto for preparations and input)

1. The picnic will be Saturday, August 10 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
2. The location is Falcon Park, Highlands Ranch
3. This year's theme is "The 50s"
4. We have a sign-up sheet in the back to indicate what you will bring - as in past years.
5. The Chapter will provide hamburgers, brats, hot dogs and all the fixings.
6. We will need another grill master. Please see Milt if you want to volunteer.

**State Representative:** (John Vargas)

1. Thank you to CCSD for being here and for our breakfast at this meeting.
2. We need to keep Nurse Patti in our thoughts. Joe Plant has cards on the side table for you to send to Patti (and Dave) if you wish.
3. John shared "tidbits" - humorous stories about some members.

**Honor Guard:** (Dan Green)

1. The Honor Guard is pleased to welcome a couple of new members.
2. They are scheduled for a CCSD Appreciation event in October.

**Veterans Emergency Assistance Program:** (Joe Plant)

This past month we helped 4 veterans, 2 with rent and one with new shoes for a new job and the last we helped to recover a veteran's service dog that had become lost. That was an interesting mission as the dog had been picked up by the Denver Animal Shelter and Joe found out you can't call the animal shelter without going through the City of Denver. He succeeded in arranging the release of the dog at a discounted fee.

**Chaplain:** Dave explained that Chaplain Garry Turks is receiving medical treatment each Saturday and that we hope to have him back with us soon. We are appreciative of Chaplains Joe Plant and Lonnie Hetterle who took over for today's meeting.

**National Cemetery Presentation:** (Tony Thomas, Director Ft Logan Cemetery)

1. Commemorative Plaque of Urn: The Federal government will provide a Veteran Commemorative plaque or urn for a deceased veteran. However, if the plaque or urn is accepted, that veteran and that veteran's spouse give up all benefits to be buried in a national cemetery in the future.
2. Ft Logan Cemetery will begin its expansion in 2 to 3 weeks with completion anticipated to be in 2 years. This will extend burials into the year 2067.

**Chapter Events Coordinator:** (Joe Robinson)

1. The Pueblo Aircraft Museum trip is scheduled for September 14.
  - Cost is \$10 which covers the tour and a burrito and a bottle of water on the way.
  - Pick up will be at 7:00AM at the Safeway parking lot in Plum Creek, Castle Rock (800 S. Prairie St.)
  - Joe will be there at 6:00AM and will call roll at 7:30.
  - The tour is from 10:00 to 12:00
  - We will then have lunch at the Village Inn.

**Scholarships:** Lou Grounds reports that there are two more students who will present their essays to the Chapter at a future meeting..

**Promotional Items:** (Joe Dempsey)

1. Buy, buy, buy.
2. LeeAnn Stelzer will take over the table in September, in Joe's absence.

**Roundtable Discussion:** (all)

**Newsletter and Website Need:** (Milt Omoto)

1. Milt reminded the members that we really need a newsletter editor and a webmaster. There is a new template for the newsletter which makes it much easier to prepare.
2. The importance of the website can't be overlooked. A few years ago we received a \$10,000 grant from National and that award was largely based upon the contents of our website. It also helped in our being honored as "Chapter of the Year" last year.
3. If anyone would like to volunteer for either of those positions, please see any Board member.

**Jack Hunter:**

1. Jack knows a Coast Guard pilot who flew one of the airplanes at the museum and who plans to join us at the Pueblo Aircraft Museum tour.
2. Thank you to those who brought chairs.
3. Jack asks for someone to help him manage the mics at our meetings.

**50/50 Drawing:** The winnings were donated back to the Chapter.

**Quilts of Valor:** A quilt previously awarded, was donated back to the Chapter and auctioned off at this meeting. Coy Ritchie was the highest bidder at \$150.00 and told the group that based upon his purchase at another quilt show, this was a more beautiful quilt at much less \$\$.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (Dave Lyons)

1. Chapter Summer Picnic is Saturday, August 10, 2024 at Falcon Park, Highlands Ranch
2. Agent Orange Awareness Day is August 10th
3. Next Board Meeting is Saturday, August 31, 2024 9:00AM, on-line via Zoom
4. Next Membership Meeting is Saturday, September 7, 2024 at 9:00 AM
5. Chapter trip to the Pueblo Aircraft Museum, Saturday, September 14, 2024
6. Please continue to stay in touch with each other

**MEMBER SICKNESS OR IN DISTRESS:** Please pray for our sick and shut-in members

**Thank You** to Jim Williams and Jack Hunter for making this meeting available on ZOOM.

**MEMBER SICKNESS OR DISTRESS:** Please pray for our sick and shut-in members.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** at 9:00 AM; ZOOM available. Location: South Metro Fire and Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO 80112. We'll see everyone there!

**Meeting Adjourned:** by Dave Lyons at 10:38 AM.

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These Chapter Membership Meeting minutes submitted by Sally Ann Eaves, Chapter Secretary.

Published 08/14/2024

*Circulation Notice: These minutes may contain sensitive and/or personal information; therefore, please use discretion when sharing this information with non-VVA members*