



Membership Meeting Minutes for Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 1106 on December 1, 2018.

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

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM by President Lee White

Board Members Present: Lee White, Milt Omoto, Dave Lyons, Tom Werzyn, John Vargas,
Bob Easter, Joe Plant, Glen Payne

Excused: Patti Ehline

Members Present: Gary Bentzen, Donna Chaney, Bill Clark, Anthony Croce, Linda Croce,
Lawrence Durham, Barry Fiore, Thomas Frey, Dan Graham, Dan Green, Leo Greunke, Ted
Hanfelder, Jim Hemphill, Mike Huber, Jack Hunter, Mike Karsh,
Peggy Kelly, Joe Langran, Roger Lanphier, Bob Larson, Marvin Lich, Jerry Liechti, Bob Mallin,
Jim Marcille, Jim McGrevey, Donald McNeely, Tony Nickerson, Bob Palmi, Bill Pine, Steve
Robertson, Bob Rotruck, Rob Senatore, John Sheadel, Hazel Simeon, Carrol Skiles, Ron
Smith, Gary Steinhoff, Garry Turks, Dan Wagle, Wendell Wallace, and John Williams.

Associate Member: Kari Liechti, Michelle Mallin, Litta Plant-Schaper, Barbara Rotruck,
Suzanne Sigona, Siltham Smith, Jim Williams

Guests and New Members Present: Jim Bishop, Cliff Butler, Larry Collins, David Dunbar, Mel
Good, Claudia Hunter, Richard Lewis, Gary Palka, John Powell, Sniper Jay Quiring, Chan
Timmons, Georgia Gerard, James Wallace, Deborah Wallace, Don Williams, Matt Williams.

Invocation and Prayer given by Garry Turks.

Pledge of Allegiance by all

**The Sgt At Arms, John Vargas, 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 November 3, 2018 VVA Meeting were approved.

Motion: Tom Werzyn; 2nd by Dave Lyons

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Georgia Gerard, a Social Worker with the Rocky Mountain MIRECC and Veterans
Administration spoke about Suicide Prevention with emphasis on the S.A.V.E. steps for
intervention.

S.A.V.E. – Signs of thinking of Suicide, Asking Questions, Validate Veterans Experience,
and Encourage Treatment and Expedite getting help.

(note: a copy of this presentation has been emailed to members.)

Presentation of 50th. Vietnam Commemoration Pins – Suzanne Sigona
Veterans who were given pins includes: Bill Clark, David Dunbar, Mel Good, Mike Huber, Gary Palka, John Powell, Sniper Jay Quiring, Chan Timmons, James Wallace, and Deborah Wallace.

Lee White's President Report:

-The Quilt campaign—regarding a quilt that was donated to this VVA Chapter.

A jar of dry beans was shown to the members to begin a sale of guesses to the number of dry beans in the jar. Cost \$5.00 a guess or five (5) guesses for \$20.00. Winner of the quilt and quilt rack will be announced at our February 2, 2019 Membership Meeting.

-Poppy Drive Nov 10: Acclaim was given to the eighteen or so members who assisted with the Poppy Drive in November. They met many possible new members. Donations of \$5,629 were given to our VVA Chapter 1106.

-Aurora Veterans Salute Dinner was held on Nov 7th and we had a table of 8 with 8 veterans attending.

-Veterans Day school events: Acclaim was given to the many VVA members who attended the many Veterans Day school events.

-VVA lifetime membership is now \$50.00. On Oct. 20th, VVA National agreed to the Lifetime membership being \$50.00. Three-year members will be changed to Lifetime. One-year memberships will be phased out and asked to become Life Members.

TREASURER'S REPORT – by Joe Plant As a VVA organization, we have a total of \$18,877.03 in a bank. We have been assisting veterans with funds for rent and purchase of medical items-recently spending some \$2,700 to assist veterans. Recently purchased a computer tablet for a deaf veteran so they could communicate with others.

Secretary's Report—by Glen Payne We are continuing to create communications to members with email and mail.

Scholarship Committee report: VVA Chapter 1106 has agreed to fund four (4) scholarships next May for children of Veterans. This Committee is working to generate scholarship applications by May 8, 2019. Mike Karsh, Jim Marcille, John Vargas and Glen Payne are members of this committee. They will be visiting some 35 High Schools this spring to present our scholarship program.

-If any of our veteran members have family members who are attending college or technical schools; or who will be beginning college or technical schools, these family members are eligible for these scholarships.

-Recently, we have had three members of this VVA Chapter 1106 who have made donation to fund additional scholarships. So, we now have six (s) Scholarships to offer next May? If anyone else would like to donate funds to Scholarships, we will have more Scholarships to offer veteran's children.

Grants/Fundraising-VVA Household Goods Pick-up: Milt Omoto reminded us to utilize this program by calling them to pick-up household goods and clothing we want to donate. Milt introduced Litta Plant-Schaper who spoke on a VVA fundraiser on May 18th, 2019 at the Grand Prix Motor Sports location in Denver. More to come on the event.

Board Member Dave Lyons on membership — We currently have 121 members and 27 Associate members in our Chapter for a total of 148 participants.

Social Committee: John Vargas

--On Saturday, Dec. 15 we will have our annual Holiday Luncheon including our families. 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Golden Corral at East Arapahoe Road and S Parker Road. Member's lunch will be paid by the Chapter.

Newsletter--Bob Rotruck: Newsletter and Minutes are posted on our website for you to read. Please read this publication which is very interesting and newsy.

Regarding the Speakers Bureau, Bob Easter noted that we may need many speakers available to speak at the Cherry Creek Schools in the near future. We will have Speaker's meeting/ training December 2nd at Tom Werzyn's house. Anyone interested please attend.

Government Affairs—Tony Nickerson

Currently, 115 legislative bills concerning veterans are in processing.

--Several bills are in discussion now on how to streamline Veteran Community Care process

--HR 1725 recently passed allowing private medical evidence to support VA Claims

--HR 4958 provided a Cost of Living increase of 2.8% for VA disability this next year.

Color Guard-Tony Nickerson

Our Color Guard appeared in a short space of time at an Honor Bell event; an Elks Lodge, Elementary School and at the Golden Corral. Through great effort, the members of the Color Guard represented our Chapter very well.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Jack Hunter: We have many new Coast Guard Viet Nam members here today. Jack found them recently and invited him to attend.

Barry Fiore: Spoke on Forgotten Heroes organization who obtains medals for military veterans who have not received them. They will research your eligibility for military medals.

Meeting adjourned by Lee White at 10:44 AM.

Next Meeting is Saturday, January 5, 2018 at 9 AM

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