



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1106

Membership Meeting April 6, 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: Reverend Mike Huber

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.

In Memoriam: The members present participated in the memorial to honor fallen brother, Ed Seiler, July 1947 - March, 2024; U. S. Air Force.

Officer and Board Member Roll Call: Dave Lyons, Milt Omoto, Mike Huber, Sally Ann Eaves, Joe Dempsey, Joe Plant, Joe Robinson, John Vargas, Patti Ehline,

AVVA: Litta Plant-Schaper

Excused: Rev Garry "Chappy" Turks (Chapter Chaplain), Tom Werzyn

Members Present: Martha Baker, Jim Blumberg, Carol Brautigam, Bob Brown, Dale Creason, Rockie Cuppari, Charles Daldry, David Dawson, Joe Dempsey, Bob Easter, Sally Ann Eaves, Patti Ehline, Rance Exline, Bob Ferguson, Barry Fiore, David Gaul, Dan Graham, Dan Green, Lou Grounds, Pat Hammon, Ted Hanfelder, Warren Harrison, Jim Henderson, Floyd Hopton, Mike Huber, Jack Hunter, Mike Karsh, Mike Katich, Roger Lanphier, Cliff Lawson, Walter Leuci, Marvin Lich, Chuck Luley, David Lyons, Larry Majors, Jesse Maldonado, Bob Mallin, Don Marsh, Bruce Miller, Milt Omoto, Chuck Perkins, Ed Phillips, Joe Plant, Jim Ponzi, Norman Pozner, Clarence Rebolledo, Coy Ritchie, Joseph Robinson, Juan Romero, John Sheadel, Lee Skiles, Charles Smith, Ron Smith, Phil Snyder, Glennon Struempf, Mike Tarby, John Vargas, Dan Wagle, Jim Weeks, Gary Weston, John Williams, Lew Wood, David Woods.

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

Associate: Jane Brown, Diane Dawson, Ita Dempsey, Diane Graham, Lonnie Hetterle, Claudia Hunter, Dora Plant, Litta Plant-Schaper, Di Seiler, Susanne Sigona, Jai Smith, Leann Stelzer, Tony Thomas, Jim Williams.

Introduction and Recognition of Guests and New Members: Guests and three new members were introduced.

Guest Presentation: Guest Cliff Lawson continued his presentation of an interview with US Army Major (ret) Robert T. White who, as a lieutenant, on his second Vietnam tour, was flying an OV1C aircraft when it was shot down and he was taken prisoner. He spent years as a POW and when released was the "Last POW to be returned to the United States". As this portion of the interview was played, there wasn't a sound among the VVA members attending as he talked of his life as a POW and the ceremony around his release much later than the other POWs.

Member Biography: Coy Richie gave a very interesting account of his enlisting in the Navy in 1955 through becoming a Warrant Officer then earning a college degree, then a commission as an officer. He retired from the Navy as a Lt Commander in 1978. His experiences as a Fire Control technician (later as instructor and even later as director of the Fire Control School), as a Warrant Gunner, Ordnance Repair Officer, Targeting Officer, Gunnery Officer, Electronic Systems Officer and Exchange Officer in Greece gave us a good lesson in the various duties of our Navy members. After the Navy he earned a PhD in Systems Management and started his own business. Busy guy.

President's Report (Dave Lyons)

1. Our first experience with a table at the VA hospital was very successful resulting in new members to our organization as well as local interest. This was so successful that we would like a few more volunteers for this project so we can keep it going on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. Volunteers can be used occasionally or each time.

2. The May meeting will feature the Central Colorado Corvette Club again in the parking lot.

3. Our May Memorial Day Poppy Drive will be May 25th at King Sooper's locations: Arapahoe and Smoky Hill, Cottonwood in Parker, and Castle Rock. We need a Lead for the Castle Rock location.

4. A new VVA Chapter has been formed in Alamosa. This new chapter is #1153. The president is Atino Read and they have 19 members. The Chapter 1106 Board moved to send the standard \$500 "start up" donation to the new chapter with a welcome letter.

5. The Chapter Board has approved the purchase of a bench with our logo for the new VA PTSD building. There is a container in the back for donations for this bench as we do not want to use Chapter money but do encourage individual donations. It will be our legacy.

Vice President's Report (Milt Omoto)

1. Thank you to all of you who are here and on ZOOM.
2. The importance of the Poppy Drive cannot be overemphasized. Not only is it the major fundraiser for our organization but it gives us a great chance to interact with the local community and explain our mission, our emphasis on veterans as well as making an impact through our support of students.
3. If your picture is not on the back board, please see Claudia Hunter 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 give us one.
4. Monday is the Solar Eclipse. Be sure to protect your eyes through the proper glasses or use the pinhole method of viewing the eclipse.

Treasurer's Report (Mike Huber)

1. March income was \$2501.30.
2. March expenditures were \$3818.35.
3. **MOTION** to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Gary Westont and seconded by Joe Robinson. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report (Sally Ann Eaves)

- **MOTION** to approve the March 2024 minutes was made by Joe Dempsey and seconded by Gary Weston. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORT:

Membership (Phil Snyder)

1. As of March 2024, VVA National membership is 91,126. There were 191 new VVA members and 91 new AVVA members. 143 VVA and 11 AVVA members passed.
2. Colorado has 918 members and AVVA has 101 members in three chapters and at-large.
3. Chapter 1106 has 203 VVA and 42 AVVA members totalling 245.

Social Committee (John Vargas)

1. Thank you to all attendees. Also thank you to the Color Guard for all they do for our chapter.
2. John introduced Tony Thomas, Director of the Fort Logan National Cemetery Complex, and Chapter 1106 new AVVA member.
3. Thank you to the family of Ed Seiler for being here.

Honor Guard (Ron Smith)

1. The Honor Guard will be present in Highlands Ranch on Wednesday for an Honor Flight luncheon.
2. A local news station held a telethon last week resulting in donations of over \$100,000 to our local Honor Flights.

Veterans Emergency Assistance Program (Joe Plant)

1. This past month we helped 7 veterans (4 with rent and 3 with rental insurance.)
2. We were the last resort for these veterans in need of our help.
3. Our expenses in March were \$1848. The amount of help we can give has been cut by the Chapter Board because of diminishing income.

Chaplain's Report (Dave Lyons for Chaplain Turks)

1. Chappy has retired from his mortuary business and has been given a retirement gift of a cruise. So that is where he is.
2. Chappy wanted us to be reminded of the importance of our Buddy Calls. They are an essential part of our mission to help each other.

Fort Logan National Cemetery Report (Tony Thomas)

1. This will be a continuing report by Tony.
2. Thank you to those who attended the Vietnam War Commemorative Service at the Rocky Mountain VA on the 29th.
2. There will be a huge ceremony at Ft Logan on Memorial Day at 11:00 AM. All are encouraged to attend.
3. We, at Ft Logan, are about to see the start of a \$94 million expansion project that will assure veterans' burial space and commemorative areas to 2070. We are developing 70 acres and it will be beautiful.

Grants and Fundraising (Milt Omoto)

1. A reminder to support the VVA Household Goods Program through "Pick Up Please".
2. If you haven't already registered for the King Soopers Community Rewards program, be sure to do so. We can help you navigate the registration.

Chapter Events Coordinator (Joe Robinson)

1. The membership decided to not visit the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs at this time.
2. The closest viable date for CPR training is September. Joe will find out more details.
3. Members are encouraged to take advantage of the free golf lessons for veterans through the PGA Hope program. (<https://www.pgareach.org/services/military/>)

Scholarships (Lou Grounds)

- We have five \$2000 scholarships available but so far no applicants. Deadline is April 24, 2024.

Promotional Items (Joe Dempsey)

- Joe and Ita have just returned from an extended vacation and have not yet taken inventory; however they do have items for sale at the back table.

Voices for Veterans (Warren Harrison)

- Voices for Veterans will be represented at a two day nurse's conference April 25th.

Veteran Health and Women Veterans (Patti Ehline)

1. IMPORTANT! KEEP WALKING! Keep walking for your mental and physical health. This is especially important for keeping your balance and to improve blood pressure.
2. A "Life Alert" type device is available from the VA at no charge to you. You simply must be referred by your VA doctor. Its free so disregard the Life Alert ads you see in the

magazines. They offer a free device but charge for the monthly service. The VA device is totally free; device and service.

3. Patti is continuing to work the health issues of children of women Vietnam Veterans.

4. You can do YOGA online. You need to MOVE! Also it is important for your health to be in a community and associate with other people. It benefits the chemical balance of your brain and body.

5. Patti is going to have another drive for the Bill Daniels Veterans Center in Denver. More information to follow.

NEWSLETTER (Mark Nickell)

1. We are going to expand and experiment with our newsletter in content and format.

2. We will be starting a "Guess the Vet" picture in each issue which will be a picture of one of you in Vietnam for us to guess just who you are. Send in pictures for that if you are interested.

3. We would also like to include some "Letters to Home"; letters written home about your experiences while serving in Vietnam. You can scan those letters to Mark.

4. We always welcome articles and photos.

5. Newsletter deadline is the 19th of every month.

ELECTIONS (Bob Easter for Lee White)

Thirty eight ballots were submitted and the election results were unanimous.

President - Dave Lyons

Vice-President - Milt Omoto

Secretary - Sally Ann Eaves

Treasurer - Bob Brown

Board Members: Joe Dempsey, Patti Ehline, Joe Plant, Joseph Robinson, Rev. Garry Turks, John Vargas, Tom Werzyn

CO VVA State Council Delegate - John Vargas

Roundtable Discussion:

Jack Hunter reminded us of the importance of CT Cardiac Scoring

Charles Dawdry was working with Jack Hunter to monitor the ZOOM portion of the meeting to improve ZOOM capability.

Barry Fiore reminded us of the Forgotten Heroes program and the presentation of the shadow boxes with medals to each participant. Forgotten Heroes ceremonies are held at the American Legion Post #1 at 11:00 AM. Future ceremonies are on Apr27, May 18, and June 22.

Dave Lyons added comments about Quilts of Valor that, with the upcoming presentation to our chapter members this coming June, we have been gifted with about 100 quilts.

Sally Ann Eaves: The CCSD Retired Association is presenting a Women Veterans Panel on April 30, 2024 at 6:30PM at the American Legion, Post 1. Both Patti Ehline and Sally Ann Eaves are panelists. All VVA and AVVA members are encouraged to attend. Veterans attend free and others are asked to donate \$15 toward the association scholarship fund.

50/50 Drawing proceeds will be used for the commemorative bench at the VA PTSD facility.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (Dave Lyons)

1. Next Board Meeting is Saturday, April 27, 2024, 9:00 AM via ZOOM
2. Next Membership Meeting is Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 9:00 AM. ZOOM provided.
3. Please continue to stay in touch with each other.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED by Dave Lyons, President, at 10:55 AM.

This Chapter Membership Meeting minutes submitted by Sally Ann Eaves, Chapter Secretary
Published 04/11/2024

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