



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1106

Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 1, 2021

Scheduled Meeting Start Time: 9:00 AM

Meeting Location: ZOOM Video/Teleconference Host: Gary Weston

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

Meeting Topics

1. Welcome to the meeting by President Lee White
2. Invocation by Chaplain Garry Turks and Moment of Silence (for all our MIA and POW)
 - Moment of Silence for those still MIA and POW
 - Prayers for those in need and for those sick and shut-ins
 - Please pray for those in bereavement

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), Dave Lyons (Vice President), Milt Omoto (Secretary); Board Members Present: Tom Werzyn, Reverend Garry Turks, Patti Ehline, Dan Green, John Vargas; AVVA Liaison Representative: Litta Plant-Schaper.

Absences: Mike Huber (Treasurer), Ron Smith (Board Member)

5. Membership Roll Call Members Present on Call:

Bob Rotruck, Coy Richie, Mark Nickell, Wendell Wallace, Jack Hunter, Dan Wagle (audio), Litta Plant-Schaper, Leann Seltzer, Bob Mallin, Alan Jaffe, Jim Williams, Mike Karsh, Gary Weston, Walter Leuci, Steve Robertson, Clarence Rebolledo, Joe Dempsey, Warren Harrison; Jim Marcille, Joe Robinson, John Sheadel, David Woods, Suzanne Sigona, Carl Sanchez, Rich Eisenberg, David Yates, Bob Crago, Dan Graham, Chris Boyer, Carroll Skiles, Jim McGrevey, Ted Hanfelder, J. David, Darryl Wright, Don McNeely.

There were a total of 42 online connections at one point.

Secretary's Note: If you were an attendee but your name does not appear on the list, that is because you didn't pre-register with Lee and we did not recognize you on-line.



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6. Chapter Meeting Minutes Approval

Minutes of the April 2021 Chapter Membership meeting were emailed to each member.

Motion 1. Motion to approve the VVA Chapter 1106 Minutes dated April 3, 2021, as transcribed, made by Wendell Wallace and second by David Lyons; the minutes were approved.

7. President's Report: Lee White

- Lee stated that Glen Payne has resigned from the Board due to his relocation to Austin TX
- We will be looking for someone who can send out information to all members via email
- The Board will continue to conduct meetings via Zoom rather than after live monthly membership meetings as in the past; this will enable the Board to cleanup the meeting facility after each live member meeting; our last Board meeting was held on April 24th
- We received our first quarterly check from King Soopers for our participation in their Community Rewards Program; currently, 20 Chapter members are actively participating in this program; we would like to significantly increase member participation over the next month
- The Chapter's Necessities Drive is now on and until June 5th; John sent the flyer to his neighbors who are donating items; he also recommends buying needed items from the Dollar Store; Patti reported that she has begun collecting items as well; the three collection points are Highlands Ranch (John Vargas), Castle Rock (Patti Ehline) and Aurora/Centennial (Tom Werzyn)
- Our May Poppy Drive is still on hold pending approval from King Soopers
- Our June 5th membership meeting will be held live at the South Metro Fire and Rescue Building, starting at 9:00AM; Lee continues to stay in contact with the administrator there to determine all required safety protocols that we must follow; he will also secure dates for our July and August meetings; the Chapter will be supplying masks and hand sanitizers
- We will work with the South Metro Fire and Rescue Building personnel to gain Internet access to enable Zoom capability for those who wish not to attend in person; Jack Hunter will set up and enable you to view and participate virtually using Zoom if Internet is available; he will provide audio and video capabilities;
- We will check on the status of the Highlands Ranch Fourth of July Parade

8. Vice President's Report: Dave Lyons

- Dave thanked all who make monthly Buddy Check calls

9. Treasurer's Report: Mike Huber (absent)

10. Secretary's Report: Milt Omoto

- If for some reason you do not receive Chapter Membership Meeting minutes, you can always obtain minutes from the Chapter's website at <https://www.vva1106.org/>



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- Milt reported that the VVA National Convention for 2021 will be conducted live, November 2 through 6 in Greensborough, North Carolina; the Chapter's Board is concerned about sending delegates to this convention due to health safety concerns as well as the high cost to attend (it cost approximately \$2,500 per delegate); we are authorized to send up to 4 delegates; the CO State Council can send up to 3 delegates

11. Board Member Reports

- a) Tom Werzyn. The application for 501(c)(3) status is still in a wait mode with the IRS
- b) Patti Ehline: Patti reported that she participated in the recent National Women's Veteran Committee of the VVA; that committee, made up of many nurses, are against having a live Convention and they will not be attending; she reported that the VA health system is 50,000 personnel short; meaning that veterans will have a more difficult time getting necessary appointments and service; she stressed to always call the VA to confirm your appointment even if you have confirmation; also you must have continuing care authorization from your primary provider to continue getting care; it takes 3 to 4 weeks for approval; there is now a Veterans Benefits Center at the VA hospital; check-in at the kiosk and wait your turn; they are open 8:30AM to 4:00PM Monday through Friday
- c) Dan Green: Nothing to report
- d) John Vargas: May is Asian American and Pacific Islander recognition month; John secured a permit (at no cost) for the Chapter's Summer Picnic, August 14th at Falcon Park in Highlands Ranch (same location as our 2019 picnic; John has also secured reservations at Maggiano's Restaurant for the Chapter's end of year Holiday Lunch, December 18th; John asked members who signed up for the King Soopers Community Rewards program to send their names to Milt Omoto at omoto.milt@gmail.com so we can recognize you in our Chapter Newsletter
- e) Chaplain Garry Turks: Garry will be contacting each Chapter member to see how they are doing and if they have any spiritual needs; please also let him know if you or someone you know is in need of prayer or visitation; please keep members who are in the house of bereavement in your prayers

12. Committee Reports

- a) Membership, Dave Lyons. VVA National has a total of 87,812 regular members and 9,898 Associate Members; we lost 108 members and 4 AVVA members; there are 503 with dual membership (Regular and Associate)
- b) Voices for Veterans, Patti Ehline. Patti reported that at the last meeting, a discussion by Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) was made by representatives of that organization; she recommended that we invite them to speak at one of our Chapter membership meeting; she said that they are composing their annual letter regarding mental health to send to leadership; she will share a flyer that has information on mental health that may will be of interest to all
- c) Grants and Fundraising, Milt Omoto. Please continue to participate in the King Soopers Rewards program; if you shop at King Soopers, and have a rewards card, please be sure to register your Rewards card by linking it to our Chapter; you will know you are properly registered when you see "Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1106" at the bottom of your receipt; please continue to support the VVA household goods program with your donation of clothing and household items; you can schedule a pickup online or by phone;



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- d) Scholarship Committee, Mike Karsh. The committee received two scholarship applications and are awaiting more before the due date
- e) Veterans Emergency Assistance, Joe Plant. Joe reported that the Chapter assisted four veterans last month, three to get off the street and one with their utility bill; they spent \$1,200 for the month; Jos said that he has access to chairs that can go upstairs available; he will further investigate; Lou Grounds reported that he has 14 wheel chairs, walkers and stair climbers available should there be a need
- f) Color Guard, Dan Green. No current Color Guard activity; however, he will contact Jay Quiring about possible practice if the HR Fourth of July Parade is a go.

13. Roundtable

- a) Suzanne Sigona reported on the Wall That Heals; she said you can sign up on the City of Brighton's web site to volunteer; it is too early to assign tasks for volunteers but you will most likely get your assignment in July; lessons learned from previous events indicate that we should be marketing this event all over Colorado and get the word out; she has flyers that can be made available; if you have questions, contact Kristen Chernosky at kchernosky@brightonco.gov.
<https://brightonco.gov/FormCenter/Public-Information-22/The-Wall-That-Heals-Volunteer-Interest-F-113>
- b) Rich Eisenberg thanked John Vargas for regularly and continually staying in contact with him to see how he is doing; Rich is very appreciative of John's caring; Rich emphasized that members should take advantage of the VA's Care Giver program; he stated that this program has significantly benefited his wife and he; Rich is available to answer any questions you may have about applying for the Care Giver program
- c) Allen Jaffe reported on the NSA/NSF (Da Nang) reunion he attended in Branson MO; he said it was a great experience
- d) J David reported that the Moving Wall, "C Wall", a traveling half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, will be in Walsenburg, CO June 18 through 20 this year; American Legion Post 16 is the sponsor; this is the first time it's been in Walsenburg and the only time it will be in Colorado this year (note that this is different from The Wall That Heals)
- e) John Vargas reported that there will be no Honors Flights this year, but you can still sign-up for future trips
- f) Bob Rotruck asked if anyone gusted the names of all six Chapter member who's military pictures were featured in the recent Newsletter.

14. Membership in Sickness or in Need of Support

- a) Please continue to keep Michelle Mallin in your prayers;
- b) Please let Chaplain Garry Turks know of members who are ill or in need of support.

15. Give Away (Litta Plant-Schaper)

A grill set was won by Steve Robinson; the gift will be shipped to you



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16. Days in History (skip)

17. Book Review: Tom Werzyn (skip)

Due to the long meeting, the book review was postponed to the next meeting

18. Schedule

- a) The next Chapter Board Meeting is scheduled for May 22nd at 9:00AM via Zoom;
- b) The next Chapter Member Meeting is Saturday, June 5th, “live” at the South Metro Fire and Rescue Building;
- c) The next Colorado State Council Meeting is June 12th

The Next Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2021 at 9:00AM – Live!

The membership meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections by President Lee White at 10:13 AM

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 meeting minutes posted to the Chapter’s website.