



Colorado State Council

Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: December 10, 2016 Start Time: 1:00 PM
Meeting Location: Philip S. Miller Library, 100 S. Wilcox St. Castle Rock, CO 80104

Meeting called to order by President Lee White at 12:57 PM

Invocation: David Lyons

Pledge of Allegiance: Lee White

Moment of Silence for POW's / MIA's: Lee White

Roll Call of Officers (Present): Lee White (President), Manuel Pedraza (Vice President), David Ramey (Treasurer), Milt Omoto (Secretary)

Board Members Excused: Joe Plant (Chaplain)

Chapter Delegates, Representatives and Members: Stan Paprocki (President 1071), Al Roettger (1071), Steve Newton (1071), Dan Dietz (1071), Jose Gonzales (1071), Thomas Dowell (1075)

Guests: Dick Southern, Region 9 Director and Dr. Wayne Reynolds, National Treasurer

Meeting minutes from the September 10, 2016 Colorado State Council meeting: Motion to approve as submitted by David Ramey and second by Manuel Pedraza. Approved without modifications.

Reading of the State Council Mission Statement: Manuel Pedraza

Introduction of New Members / Visitors / Guests

Treasurer's Report: David Ramey

For the month ending November 30, 2016:

Income:	\$ 2,3216 (HGDP)
Expenses:	\$ 1,731 (HGDP disbursements to three Chapters)
Checking Account:	\$16,296.95 balance
Savings Account:	\$ 7,166.42 balance (Credit Union)

Treasurer's Notes:

Chapter HGDP reports for last six months of FY (September 2016 through February 28, 2017) due March 11, 2017; Chapter Presidents must sign and submit forms.

Reading of Communications: none

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Member Sickness and Distress: Thomas Dowell requests prayers for his prostate cancer which has returned; Dan Dietz will contact John Ed Young as they have not heard from him in a while.

Chapter Activity Reports

a) Chapter 1071 (Stan Paprocki, President)

- Membership: 154
- Chapter web site continues to receive 2,000 to 3,000 visits per month
- Honors Burial will continue; there was delay due to a change in management at Olinger Mortuary; there are 42 remains ready for internment at Fort Logan; official ceremony will possibly take place in June 2017
- Veterans Day Week Activities: Chapter members visited six High Schools to participate in activities (presentations, breakfasts, classroom talks)
- Coat Drive November 19th: Chapter collected coats for Summit County veterans in coordination with a VA Service Officer (a stack 8-foot high of coats was collected!)
- Book Collection and Donation: Members are donating books related to the Vietnam War for placement into school libraries
- Poppy Drive: Chapter conducted poppy fund raisers during the Veterans Day weekend at two Northwest King Sooper locations and collected \$3,000 in 3-hours
- Chapter has formalized the Request for Financial Assistance form in coordination with Joe Plant; they work with HUD to coordinate and validate veterans in need
- VFW Banquet participation: Post 1 Founders Annual event, 1071 was invited to attend the event held at the Brown Palace Hotel last Sunday, recognizing Vietnam Veterans
- The Chapter will conduct a food drive in January
- Al Roettger reports that the Chapter added two more High Schools in JeffCo to their school outreach program.

b) Chapter 1075 (Manuel Pedraza, President)

- Colorado Springs Stand Down event in participation with other veteran organizations: Clothing, shoes were handed out to veterans; Chapter members made 150 hygiene kits to hand out at the event; participants required a VA ID to enter; over 80 waited outside because of lack of appropriate ID; 192 veterans were served at the Pledge Dinner; other support included dental, haircuts, etc.)
- Homeless Ministry: The Chapter provided meals to 35 homeless veterans
- Veterans Day: The Chapter entered a float in the Colorado Springs Veterans Day Parade
- Agent Orange Town Hall: Chapter 1075 is working with American Legions Post 2 in Pueblo and the VFW Post in Monument to conduct an Agent Orange Town Hall in April 2017, possibly in Pueblo; they are looking for Agent Orange Subject Matter Experts to participate; they plan a panel with VSO's and other support personnel
- Chapter Membership: 45 with 3 new members from the last meeting
- The Chapter is 3-years old.

c) Chapter 1106 (Lee White, President)

- Membership: 56 members and 18 Associate Members for a total of 74
- Contacting of At-Large Members (David Lyons): David reported on his efforts to contact VVA at-large members

Side Discussion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds: It may be the policy of VVA National to prohibit calling At-Large members; it is advisable to send a letter to them first, then contact by phone; all Colorado VVA members were At-Large in the past when the State Council was disbanded; the policy is to protect members who want to remain anonymous;

Comment: When we discover that a member has passed (and is verified), we should take the initiative to contact National (because the family will most likely not do so); send the information to the National Chaplain who will in turn send a letter to the family.

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- Chapter Poppy Drive: The Chapter held a Veterans Day weekend poppy drive at four King Sooper locations and collected a total of \$2,800
- Veterans Day Week Activities: Chapter members participated in the Veterans Salute at Wings over the Rockies; The 22nd Annual Aurora Veterans Salute was held on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2016. See pictures at: https://www.auroragov.org/things_to_do/events/veterans_salute#sthash.qblxhFql.dpuf ; Colorado VVA Chapters should coordinate attendance at future such events
- Other Veterans Day Week Activities include participation at High Schools (Ben Franklin, Kiowa, Englewood)
- The Chapter Holiday Lunch will be held on Saturday, December 17, 2016
- Honor Bell Foundation: Lee participated in a bell toll at Fort Logan; they are in need of more bell toll volunteers; volunteers must be veterans
- The Chapter has obtained four Walmart cards for use in emergency assistance
- Donated to Wreaths Across America program
- The Chapter is awarding four \$1,000 scholarships to qualified high school students in 2017.

Old Business

- a) Developing New Colorado Chapters. Lee stressed the need for all Colorado Chapters to work together to develop new VVA Chapters. Lee had a discussion with the VFW State Commander regarding the approach of VFW chapters to see if there is interest in starting a VVA Chapter as many members tend to be involved with more than one veteran organization. It is acceptable to approach the larger Posts in the area to determine interest.
 - Action item is to get invited to a meeting and gain interest and support for a VVA Chapter in the area;
 - Target the Longmont area;
 - Chapter 1075 is targeting Pueblo; they also have a relationship with the Monument VFW;
 - Other potential areas include Loveland and Fort Collins;
2017 Target: Start two new VVA Chapters in Colorado!
- b) Lee attended the Conference of State Council Presidents at Silver Spring, MD on October 20, 2016
- c) Milt Omoto stressed the need for everyone to send Bob Rotruck information, articles and pictures to keep the State Council website refreshed and current.

New Business

- a) Agent Orange Town Hall (2017). Chapters 1071 and 1106 should partner in planning for an Agent Orange Town Hall next year Spring. Dr. Reynolds suggests combining Agent Orange with Hep.C; in fact, any presumptive disability should be included because it affects your children (who are also eligible for disability benefits). Spouses need to be aware of the benefits they are entitled to as a result of presumptive disability with their veteran spouse. Note that today's veterans are no better off in claiming disability and obtaining VA assistance and benefits than Vietnam veterans. It is a continuing battle with the Federal Government.

*Interesting Statistics offered by Dr. Reynolds:
93% of VVA members are 65-years or older
The average age of VVA members is 70*

- Material is available at the VVA National website (Resources)
- Dr. Reynolds shared that a special panel was created to review presumptive disorders; the panel was side-tracked and did not review; therefor VA Secretary McDonald did not have to make a decision; VVA will work with the new Administration;
- Al Roettenger asked if we are talking to the right people, that perhaps there is a needed ground swell by the public on these issues; Dr. Reynolds stated that we need to continue to work with the VA, Congress and the Senate because they are the decision makers and source of funds;

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- Manuel Pedraza asked to be kept informed of Agent Orange Town Hall planning activities by other Chapters.
- b) The next Conference of State Council Presidents is scheduled for January 12, 2017; Manuel Pedraza will attend and report back to the Colorado State Council;
- c) Stan Paprocki requested a copy of the State Council By-Laws; David Ramey will send a copy.

Report by Dick Southern, Region 9 Director

- a) Chapter Rosters (Tracy Houston): Web versions of Chapter rosters will be available in January 2017; all Chapters must send in names of those who should have access to Tracy; State roster will be accessed by Lee White; National is moving to a paperless environment;
- b) The VVA National Convention is scheduled for August 8 through 12, 2017 in New Orleans; event hotel is the New Orleans Marriott; this event will be well attended; each Chapter is encouraged to start fundraising now to help pay for convention attendees; the date of delegate cut-off is February 28, 2017; Chapter and State Delegates pay their own way; registration is \$125; application will be available in January; there is a formula for the number of delegates each Chapter and the State can send base on membership numbers;
- c) Region 8 and 9 Pre-Convention Conference. Both Regions will combine for this event because Region 8 has fewer members; Dick Southern is researching potential hotels near DIA in Aurora, working with the Aurora Visitor and Convention Bureau; the event is scheduled for June 23 through 25, 2017 (conference on the 24th with travel days on 23rd and 25th); it was suggested to invite Congressman Mike Coffman to attend as a guest speaker; there will be a \$65 registration fee;
- d) Strategic Plan for Preserving Our Legacy. There are two panels (A and B) formed that will look into the future of VVA; they will follow a process to establish dialogue and study with a 2021 target for completion; voting will then be at the National Convention.

<p><i>Panel A - "Going Out of Business" headed by Dr. Wayne Reynolds</i> <i>Panel B - "Creation of New Group" headed by John Rowan</i></p>
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Good of the Order

- a) Please provide Lee White with feedback on how the quarterly State Council meetings are conducted, suggestions for improvement, and what you would like to see changed;
- b) David Ramey asked about the multiple emails received on the same subject; response: goal is to get communications out and it is better to "delete" rather than miss a communication;
- c) Jose Gonzales reported that the City Council of Brighton has approved a veteran wall starting with 120 names to be engraved; dedication will be on May 29, 2017 (Memorial Day); you are encouraged to attend; Jose's name is on the wall along with many of this High School classmates;
- d) David Ramey reported that HGDP funds will be adjusted in April 2017.

Follow-up Action Item

Dick Southern to verify that the VVA policy prohibits calling At-Large members and report at the next State Council meeting.

Next Colorado State Council Meeting: March 11, 2017 @ 1300, Castle Rock Library

The meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections at 2:32 PM by President Lee White.

This Colorado State Council Meeting minutes submitted by: Milt Omoto, Council Secretary

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