

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1071 - Denver
Location: Elk's Lodge #1777
1455 Newland Street
Lakewood, CO
Date: Saturday Aug.19, 2017
Scheduled Time: 10:00 AM MDT

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order by: Stan Paprocki: President at 10:00 am

Prayer & Moment of Silence for POW/MIA'S - John Altfeltis: Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance – John Altfeltis

Posting of POW/MIA Colors on POW Honor Chair - Jose Gonzales

Roll Call: Present: Stan Paprocki, Terry Ritenour, Leonard Smith, Jose Gonzales, Ray Holtz, and Marty Chavez,

Terry Ritenour-Excused

VVA Members Present: (53)

Ray Holtz	John Currie	Robert Primeaux	Chuck Chavez
Jose Gonzales	Phil Waters	Lynn Herbert	Rick Winfrey
Steve Newton	Tom Stepleton	Sam Bunge	George Zervos
Marty Chavez	John Durant	Bill Bleau	DeWayne Bomar
Bob Coleman	Jim Hernandez	Tom Simpson	Philip Post
Eddie Shreeve	Bob Lopez	Jeff Fossum	Wally Strubles
Nelson Hendrickson	David Steiner	Jim Topkoff	Glenn Rountree
Bob Wyatt	Lou Roman	Dan Dietz	Frank Tobani
Larry Sourbeer	Ron Gorman	Owen Oliver	Leonard Smith
Bruce Gottschalk	Cliff Fejfar	Frank Riddle	Terry Ritenour
Rusty Morse	Vern Moore	Trinidad Rael	Stan Paprocki
John Altfeltis	Bill Ferguson	Don Emmot	
Jim Higgins	Joe Romero	Robert Doriss	
Louis Rivas	Jim Miles	Steve Connley	

AVVA Members Present: (2)

Janet Beiner, Scott Hefty,

Guests: (18)

Linda Olson	Ted Hildebrand	Wayne Williams
Linda Fishel	Ivan Parr	Joe Sleevi
Glenn Fishel	Don Bates	Marie Winfrey
Morgana Meader	Susan Bates	Sandy Quinnall
Dennis Meader	Barbara Williams	Greg Davis

President: Stan Paprocki

Welcome VVA Chapter #1071 members and guests!

Stan Spoke about the VVA National Convention held last week in New Orleans. Quite a site to see some 900 Vietnam veterans in one gathering. There were lots of committee meetings. John Rowan was reelected as President of National VVA.

Congressman Mike Coffman received the Legislator award of the year by the VVA. Mike had also visited the Colorado committee meeting at the convention the day before he was presented the award.

Chapter 1071 was presented the Website of the Year Award by Pres Rowan to Stan. There are 672 VVA chapters across the United States and 1071 was awarded it. Such an honor at accept this on behalf of 1071. Stan presented the award to our webmaster Ray Holtz and thanked him for all his dedication and hard work in maintaining such a wonderful website. Ray accepted and read out loud the inscription on the Award. Ray also gave credit to deceased member Tony Lopez who started the website. Ray also thanked his wife and daughters for all their help. Ray also thanked all members for their contribution that is put into the website.

Stan mentioned that the Forever GI Bill was passed. The meetings were well organized and went very smoothly. Looking forward to next convention.

The next National Convention will be held in Spokane Wa. In 2019

Remembered the passing of our past president Richard Cox, 8-09-2016

Vice President: Terry Ritenour

Terry also presented Sec. Marty Chavez with a signed autographed picture of the group The Gold Diggers of whom three of the original gals were at the convention. Terry told the story about Marty missing out on the VFW meeting in which Ann Margaret was a guest speaker. Marty is very appreciative of the signed picture which was taken in 67-68 but personally signed for Marty at the convention.

Terry spoke about the National convention that he also attended. Was a great convention, very informative. Our leadership is in good hands as we move forward with the elected national officers. Keep in mind that all Veterans proposals (Bills) go through VVA National officers before they hit congress for consideration and passage. Input from National is pretty common as VVA is well represented and works for you, the veteran. Veterans helping Veterans.

More discussion regarding what will happen to the VVA organization when only a few Nam vets are left will be discussed at the Leadership Conference in 2018 in Palm Springs Ca.

Secretary Report: Marty Chavez

Welcomed guests and new members.

Marty mentioned the Go Fund Me set up for Bill and Linda Olsen Ferguson by a friend. Bill & Linda need our help due to Bill's illness and Linda's two broken arms (due to falling down stairs)

Financial Report: Leonard Smith

**Treasurer's Report
July 31st, 2017**

As of July1st 2017 General Acct. Balance

\$31,805.02

(General Fund and Emergency Fund)

State Household Goods Allocation	658.00
Donations & Merchandise Sales	465.00
Expenditures	(1,091.54)
Balance General Acct. July 31 st 2017 (General Fund and Emergency Fund)	<u>\$31,836.48.</u>
Balance Emergency Fund July 31 st 2017	\$5,000.00
Balance Scholarship Account July 31 st 2017	\$6,446.72

WebMaster, Ray Holtz

WEBSITE

1. July website visits were 3,779.
2. Posted two press Releases:
 1. Forever GI Bill now the Law of the Land.
 2. VVA Lawsuit Challenges DOD's Leaking of Personal Information Belonging to Active Duty and Veterans.
3. Information on State Parks being free for the military and Vets for August.
4. Evening with Ken Burns presentation Aug 23rd at U of Denver about The Vietnam War 10 part, 18 hour documentary film that will be shown on PBS. Will be aired starting Sept 17th, Sept 21st, Sept 24th, and Sept 28th. It took 10 years for Ken to make this documentary.
5. Update on West Metro Veterans Fair including having Liver Health Connection participating this year providing 20 minute Hepatitis C testing as well as the VA eastern Colorado Health Care System providing flu shots – both of these services are free of charge. Sept. 26th, 1 to 4pm with a cookout provided by Lakewood Police.
6. The last 4 week period for the King Soopers Neighborhood Rewards we had total of \$4,992.54 just \$7.46 short of our goal of \$5,000.00. The next period will end on September 2nd.

MEMBERSHIP

1. We added 2 new members: Donald Emmot and Larry Poague.
2. AVVA report for July has no change.
3. We have 156 members, and 17 AVVA members giving us a total of 173 members.

Ray Invited new member Don Emmot to speak regarding about his upcoming reunion for 40 veterans who joined and went to boot camp together.

Ray also pointed out Rick Winfrey to members. Rick will be accepting the food donated for veterans in the mountains. Ray also mentioned the coat/clothes drive coming up in October.

Outreach Liaison: Robert Primeaux, Robert touched up on the national convention and the committees he attended.

Guest Speakers: Phil Waters 1071 member: Power point presentation on his tour of duty as a Navy pilot during the Vietnam war, 1967

Honors Burial: Jim Topkoff

Jim, Glenn & Terry met with the GM from Crown Hill regarding Veteran cremains. We are moving ahead with the next burial. We have approximately 350 names to verify through VA. We are planning on contacting other mortuaries. Ray and his family printed out several Final Roll Call brochures to hand out at various events in the future.

Marketing: Jim Topkoff

Drawings Door Prizes: Jim Topkoff

White Fence Farm gift card: Ray Holtz

Honors Flight DVD: Jim Hernandez

National Convention logo back pack: Vern Moore

Up Coming Events:

Sept. 20th GMHS to honor veterans at their football game.

Sept. 26th West Metro Veterans Fair, 1 to 4pm. More info on website.

Coat Drive in October meeting for veterans living in the mountains.

Old Business: Jose Gonzales thanked all members including the DAR for showing up and supporting him during the Brighton Council meeting last month regarding the Vietnam Memorial to be erected next Memorial Day in Brighton. It is good to go and Brighton will absorb the cost.

New Business:

Retiring of POW/MIA Colors: Jose Gonzales

Benediction: Chaplain John Altfeltis

Meeting adjourned at 11:55am MDT

Next Chapter Meeting will be on Sept. 16th , 2017

Marty Chavez - Secretary

VVA Chapter 1071 – Denver