



## **February 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

### **Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 1106.**

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

**Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM, February 1, 2020 by President, Lee White**

**Board Members Present:** Joe Plant, Tom Werzyn, Patti Ehline, Glen Payne, John Vargas, Dan Green, Ron Smith, Milt Omoto and Dave Lyons.

**Members Present:** Bruce Arndt, Gary Bentzen, Don Boswell, Cliff Butler, Donna Chaney, Tony Croce, Joe Dempsey, Bob Easter, Douglas Frasher, Thomas Frey, Sonny Gorsuch, Dan Graham, Leo Greunke, Nolan Hargrave, Warren Harrison, Jim Hemphill, Jim Henderson, Jack Hunter, Mike Karsh, Peggy Kelly, Roger Lanphier, Marvin Lich, Jerry Liechti, Larry Majors, Bob Mallin, Jim Marcille, Tony Nickerson, Gary Palka, Ed Phillips, John Powell, Jay Quiring, Clarence Rebolledo, Bob Rotruck, Carl Sanchez, Rob Senatore, Charles Smith, Garry Turks, Dan Wagle, Wendell Wallace, Gary Weston, and John Williams, and Darryl Wright.

**Associate Member:** Alice Boswell, Ita Dempsey, Claudia Hunter, Jason Longmore, Kyrsten Nelson, Litta Plant-Schaper, Barbara Rotruck, Suzanne Sigona, Jai Smith, Leann Stelzer, Jim Williams, Gwendolyn Wilson and Alexis Winemiller.

### **Guests and New Members Present:**

Jon Frey, Cliff Lawson, Jesse Maldonado, Eileen Meehan, Eva Murphy, Heidi Olivera, Joseph Robinson, Detlef Schaper, Jerome Springs, Shirley Patenaude, Ted Patenaude, Alan Smith and Ann Wright.

### **Invocation and Prayer given by VVA1106 Chaplin Garry Turks.**

Moment of Silence for Michael Heise.

### **Pledge of Allegiance by all**

The **Sgt At Arms, Rob Senatore**, 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 January 4, 2019**

VVA Meeting was approved.

Motion: Dave Lyons 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jay Quiring

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

Cliff Lawson of Cliff Lawson Photography spoke about making Veteran photography portraits. Cliff was an Air Force pilot in Vietnam. He has taken a special interest in photographing portraits of veterans. He will take photograph portraits of VVA1106 members for free. Cliff will travel to your home for the portrait if you cannot travel. [CliffLawson@mac.com](mailto:CliffLawson@mac.com)

### **Presentation of a gift for the Honor Bell**

Shirley Patenaude and family in honor of her father, John R. Smith, presented a check to the Honor Bell Foundation. The check was presented to Heidi Olivera, an Honor Bell Board Member. Assisting Shirley were Ted Patenaude and Alan Smith (brother).

### **Member BIOS:**

Jim Henderson completed describing his military experience as an Army Scout Dog handler on infantry patrols. Tony Nickerson and Gary Weston described their experience with Scout Dogs.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Lee White

1. Speakers for upcoming meetings. We have speakers for April and May. One of them will be Mr. Michael Kilmer, the Director of VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System
2. Chapter Video – Update - Tom Werzyn:  
Videographer is working on final addition of the Video for our Chapter.  
We cannot get everyone in the video, but it will be great.
3. Chapter Events: Barry Fiore has tickets for four (4) Rockies Baseball team this summer. The tickets are for great locations to see the games. Please call Barry for tickets.
4. Upcoming Elections: Bob Rotruck has agreed to be the Nomination Member for our Chapter, and all Office positions will be up for vote at the April meeting. So, see Bob if you would like to be considered for a Officer/Board position.
5. Vietnam Veterans Day – 3-29-20: If you know of any events on Vietnam Veterans Day that we as a chapter should be involved, please let me know.
6. Special Donation Drive – Vietnam “Sister” Support: Suzanne Sigona is traveling to Vietnam at the end of February—her 10<sup>th</sup> trip to Vietnam to visit Catholic Nun who runs an orphanage. Over the years, Suzanne has utilized donations to assist the Orphanage in creating a hot water system, building bunk beds, etc. Your donations today will be utilized for such projects at the orphanage.

### **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Dave Lyons

In North Denver, a Bowling for Wounded Warriors league has been created. Dave knows the people involved. Our Chapter Board has donated to that cause. If you would like to donate, a donation jar is over on the table by the wall.

### **TREASURER'S Report** – Joe Plant

The Financial Report was read and Approved.

**Veterans Assistance Program**-Joe Plant: In January, we assisted six (6) veterans. Four veterans needed help with rent, one with an energy bill and a woman veteran needed assistance with security funds to hold an apartment. The woman veteran needed \$1,100 to secure the apartment, and we provide \$500.00. As usual, the VA verifies the veteran's identity and the financial need.

**SECRETARY Report**—Glen Payne

**Webmaster Report**—Bob Rotruck

Email Bob if you want password access to our website.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Membership** – Dave Lyons We now have 144 Members and 36 Associate Members for a total of 180 members in VVA CHAPTER 1106.  
Packets with Brochures, Applications and Business Cards are available to you to assist in inviting prospective members. See Lee for one of these packets to have on-hand materials to encourage veterans to come visit our Chapter.
2. **Voices for Veterans** – Warren Harrison  
The VA Voices for Veterans meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month.  
Michael Kilmer, the new Director of VA met with us. He says currently 40% of veterans use the VA for primary medical services, and he wants to get that to 70% by providing new and better primary medical services.
3. **Grants/Fund Raising**  
Please remember to call the VVA Household Goods service which will come to your home to collect your donations of clothing or other small household items.  
-The updated calendar of Chapter 1106 events has been posted on the website by Bob Rotruck.
4. **Speaker's Bureau** –Tom Werzyn.  
--Tom is sourcing speaking engagements for 2020. We are talking with Cherry Creek Schools about such speaking here later in the Spring.  
--Cherry Creek School District will have an open house for veterans to show the new Innovations Campus on Feb. 12 and Feb. 25 for breakfast. Please RSVP so you can be approved for security reasons at the school.
5. **Agent Orange**—Patti Ehline.  
Rumors and efforts to have veterans from other location like Korea eligible for Agent Orange services are consistently changing. Four medical condition are still being considered for addition to the Agent Orange Presumptive list. So, continue contacting your federal Congressmen and Senators about the need for these changes.
6. **Scholarships Committee**-Mike Karsh  
We are starting to present the VVA Scholarship Program to schools.  
We have final version of the VVA1106 Scholarship trifold and a Poster to take to the schools to foster getting as many applications as possible. We have emailed our materials to all the schools. Next week we will begin personal visits to all the schools to promote applications.

7. **PTS**—Patti Ehline
  - All of us who were in Vietnam have some degree of Post-Traumatic Stress and the VA is now discussing PTS and not making us have to have disability to be included in the discussion.
  - We are forming a Chapter sub-group of all medics, Doctors, Nurses and any member involved in medical care in the military. Please tell Patti if you are interested.
  - Please utilize the website [MyHealthvet.va.gov](http://MyHealthvet.va.gov). On that site, you can see all your lab and test results, order prescriptions, and communicate directly with your VA care team.
  - Patti often goes to the Bill Daniel Center for Veterans to deliver clothing and toiletries. Please see her if you have items to donate—like Cliff Butler just donated clothing.
  - Pattie also goes to the VA Veteran Living Center.
  
8. **Vet Treatment Court**—Bruce Arndt

This Justice court is especially for veterans with the usual crimes being substance abuse, DUI and domestic violence. Veterans get some leniency if they seek help from veteran programs. A Veteran Mentor is assigned to each veteran in trouble.
  
9. **JROTC** –Tom Werzyn

JROTC is a High School version of ROTC. National VVA has recently created a ribbon and medal for JROTC and we have one local High School where we are presenting such a medal. We are looking for someone to continue this program.
  
10. **Social Committee** –Glen Payne
  - We arrange the summer picnic and Holiday luncheon. Please tell us any ideas you might have for other Chapter social events.

**Coffee and Donuts:** Special thanks to Alexis Winemiller and to her employer Zillow.com for providing our coffee and donuts at each meeting.

**Promotional items:** Special thanks to Leann Stelzer and Clarence Rebolledo for organizing and presenting promotional items of windbreaker, shirts and umbrellas for us.
  
11. **Women Veteran**—Patti
  - Greg Crenshaw has been named the new VA Veteran Services Officer. We can contact him if we have compliments or complaints about VA Services.
  
12. **Government Affairs**—Tony Nickerson
  - The POW Flag law has been approved. That flag is now flying over all federal facilities.
  - Beware of Medicare/Medicaid scams. Do not give out you Medicare numbers easily.
  - Check out veteran VA benefits like long-term care.
  
13. **Color Guard**—Jay Quiring

Meeting with new members after we adjourn today.

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

--Jack Hunter reminded us to get a picture—His wife, Claudia, will take your picture in the lobby after the meeting. If you get your picture taken, Jack will send you an email with all the member pictures.

--Litta reminded us of the June 13<sup>th</sup> Motorcycle show. 4-5 Food trucks will be available.  
--Charles Smith informed us of a March 31, 2021 Walk across the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco in honor of Vietnam Veterans.  
--Joseph Robinson is a Veteran PGA Golf program. He told us of free golf lessons at the Wilshire Golf Course. That course also has carts to assist wheelchair bound veterans.

**50/50 DRAWING –**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

--UVC Banquet – 4-19-20 – Renaissance Hotel  
--Next Saturday is the bi-monthly Fort Logan service for burial of veterans who have no family.  
--Our summer picnic will be August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**VVA1106 Community medical issues:**

Sonny Gorsuch recently had surgery and is back today after missing him the last three months at our meetings. John McMaster will have surgery soon. Tony Nickerson is back. Jim Bishop has had surgery recently.

**Meeting Adjourned by: Lee White at: 10:39 AM**

**BREAK TIME – 10:15 – 10:50 AM - ENJOY A COFFEE REFILL AND SOCIALIZE**

**NEXT SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING: SATURDAY, March 21, 2020.**

**THANK YOU ALL!!!!**

**Submitted by:**

**Glen Payne, Secretary, VVA Chapter 1106**