



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1106

Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 4, 2021

Scheduled Meeting Start Time: 9:00 AM

Meeting Location: South Metro Fire and Rescue Building, Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

Meeting called to order by President Lee White at 9:03 AM

Meeting Topics

1. Welcome to the meeting by President Lee White
2. Invocation Prayer by Chaplain Garry Turks and Moment of Silence
 - Prayers for our Chapter members as we conduct our meeting
 - Prayers for all those still MIA and POW
 - Prayers for those in need and for those members who are sick and shut-ins
3. Pledge of Allegiance (all): lead by Lee White
4. POW/MIA Chair Presentation by Dan Green and Moment of Silence (for all our MIA and POW)

Reading the names of the thirteen U.S. service members killed in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021 and bell toll. Moment of Silence.

5. Board Member Roll Call

Officers and Board Members Present Roll Call: Officers: Lee White (President), Milt Omoto (Secretary); Board Members Present: Reverend Garry Turks, Joe Plant, Ron Smith, John Vargas and new Board member Joe Dempsey.

Absences: Dave Lyons, Tom Werzyn, Patti Ehline

On-line via Zoom: Mike Huber (Treasurer), David Yates, Mike Karsh, Mike Messinger, Jim Williams

6. Members in Attendance (from sign-in sheets)

Chris Boyer, Claudia Hunter, Litta Plant-Schaper, Detlef Schaper, Suzanne Sigona, Leann Stelzer, Vieng Vongsakoun, Bob Brown, Wayne Buser, Cliff Butler, Donna Chaney, Bob Crago,



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Carl Sanchez, Robert Brooks, Dale Creason, Joe Dempsey, Richard Eisenberg (and Peanuts), Barry Fiore, Dan Graham, Dan Green, Warren Harrison, Jim Henderson, Jack Hunter, Roger Lanphier, Cliff Lawson, Walter Leuci, Chuck Luley, Jesse Maldonado, Bob Mallin, Tony Nickerson, Milt Omoto, Tom Puckett, Coy Ritchie, Steve Robertson, Bob Rotruck, John Sheadel, Ron Smith, Gary Steinhoff, Michael Tarby, Garry Turks, John Vargas, Dan Wagle, Gary Weston, John Williams.

Note: If your name does not appear on this list, that is because you did not sign-in

7. Chapter Meeting Minutes Approval

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

Motion 1. Motion to approve the VVA Chapter 1106 Minutes dated August 7, 2021, made by Bob Rotruck and second by Richard Eisenberg; the minutes were approved.

8. Special Presentation: Mary Haddon, President, Rocky Mountain Honor Flight

Our September guest speaker was Mary Haddon who spoke about the Rocky Mountain Honor Flight program; this program flies a veteran to Washington DC at no cost to the veteran; priority is by age, WWII, Korea and Vietnam veterans; priority is also given to those with severe illness such as terminally ill;

Due to the COVID pandemic, the last trip was made on October 2019; they plan to resume trips on April 2022 (Flight #38); so far, the program has made 37 trips to Washington DC; this includes caretakers; the group visits a number of memorials during their time in DC; there are 125 hubs across the Nation for this program.

For more information and to sign-up for a future trip, see: <https://rockymountainhonorflight.org/>

9. Special Presentation: Vietnam War Commemoration Lapel Pin Ceremony (Suzanne Sigona and Milt Omoto)

- Purpose: To thank and honor our Vietnam War veterans for their service and sacrifice on behalf of a grateful nation.
- Any veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time between November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975 regardless of location of service is eligible to receive a pin.
- Ten members received the pin today.

10. President's Report: Lee White

- Please welcome our new Board member Joseph Dempsey
- The Wall That Heals is currently in Brighton and will be disassembled on Sunday September 5th at 2:00PM;



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- We have Poppy Drives scheduled for October and November; Ron Smith will provide the details;
 - The King Soopers Community Rewards program needs your support; there are 26 members participating currently; we are available to sign-up members this morning;
 - The promotional items table is being managed today by Leann Stelzer.
11. Vice President's Report: Dave Lyons (absent)
- Dave is volunteering at the Wall That Heals this morning.
12. Treasurer's Report: Mike Huber (on Zoom)
- The Treasurer's Report was presented by Joe Plant;
 - The scholarship fund currently has \$250.
- Motion 2.** Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Bob Rotruck and second by Tony Nickerson; the report was approved.
13. Recognition of guests, new members and members who have not attended in a while:
- Donna Chaney
 - Bob Brown
 - Tom Puckett
 - Ed Seiler (AF)
 - Barry Fiore
 - Cliff Lawson
 - Craig Sundquist
 - Robert Brooks (USMC)
 - Tom Coffey (Army)
14. Secretary's Report: Milt Omoto
- Milt reported that the National Lao-Hmong Memorial Committee and Hmong Community of Colorado is hosting a ceremony on October 2, 2021 from 10:00AM to 2:00PM at the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport in Broomfield; the event is to unveil the design of the National Lao-Hmong Memorial that will be built in Westminster; the centerpiece of the memorial will be a restored North American T-28 aircraft; visit <http://lao-hmongmemorial.org> for more information;
 - September 17th is National POW/MIA Recognition Day; posters were available in the back of the room;
 - September 23rd is Gold Mothers and Family Day



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15. Board Member and Committee Reports

- a) Membership (reported by Lee White): The Chapter has 171 regular members and 41 AVVA members;
- b) Veterans Emergency Assistance Program (Joe Plant): The Chapter assisted seven veterans in the month of August; we work with HUD VASH to get homeless vets off the street; this program has a high success rate of keeping homeless vets off the streets;
- c) Speaker's Bureau (Tom Werzyn): Absent (volunteering at the Wall That Heals)
- d) Grants and Fundraising (Milt Omoto): Information on how to participate in the King Soopers Community Rewards program is available; also, please contact Litta or Milt for assistance with linking your card to our Chapter; we receive quarterly payments based on total spending by members from King Soopers; Also, participating in Chapter Poppy Drives is a great way for Chapter members to interact with the community; we are also working with Texas Roadhouse in Parker for future fundraising opportunities;
- e) Events Coordinator (Ron Smith): Chapter Poppy Drives have been scheduled for October 9th and November 13th; we set-up tables in front of King Soopers stores and provide information to veterans and their family, interact with them, and seek donations;
 - October 9th (Saturday): There will be four Poppy Drive locations; Smoky Hill, Buckley and Quincy, Parker and Highlands Ranch;
 - November 13th (Saturday): There will be five Poppy Drive locations (the ones above plus the store at Smoky Hill and Himalaya);The Poppy Drives run from 9:00AM to 1:00PM; additional information if forthcoming; sign-up sheets will be available at the October meeting; please donate your time; we need 25 to 30 volunteers;
- f) Scholarship Committee (Jim Marcelle): Absent
- g) Social Committee (John Vargas): John thanked those who attended the Danny Dietz tile dedication ceremony in Highlands Ranch; John also thanked those who attended the Chapter picnic and brought items to share; our December holiday lunch is scheduled for December 18th;
- h) Voices for Veterans (Warren Harrison): Warren reported that the VA mental health program that provides opportunities for veterans and their family members to call in and ask questions, seek information and make comments is highly effective; recently there were over 1600 people on a recent call;
- i) Women Veterans (Patti Ehline): Absent
- j) Veterans Health, PTSD, Agent Orange (Patti Ehline): Absent
- k) Veterans Treatment Court: No current activity
- l) Webmaster and Newsletter (Bob Rotruck): Bob reported that Barbara is healing from her surgery and is in therapy; the November/December newsletter is in progress; please send articles to Bob; he also stated that his brother-in-law lives at Wind Crest and plays the trumpet at various veteran events;
- m) Color Guard (Tony Nickerson): Tony encouraged Associate members and women to consider joining the Chapter color guard; the color guard will be at the Cheery Creek School District's annual military and veteran appreciation event and football game on September 18th; complementary dinner is served at 4:00PM and game time is 6:00PM;
- n) Government Affairs (Tony Nickerson): Tony reported on a number of current legislations including those that impact homeless veterans, suicide prevention training and programs;



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- o) Tony encouraged members to get involved by contacting their State Senators and Representatives on important Bills being considered.

16. Roundtable

- a) Warren Harrison reported on NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and the national movement to raise awareness about mental health;
- b) Chaplain Garry Turks reported that his calls to Chapter members continue with the goal of contacting each member;
- c) Chris Boyer of the Honor Bell Foundation announced their fundraising is on October 9th from 2:00PM to 7:00PM at Behind The Scenes Tap House 10488 W. Centennial Rd. Littleton, a TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN;
- d) Jack Hunter stated that if your picture is missing on the board to see Claudia and she will take your picture;
- e) Litta stated that you can get custom engraved coffee/water cups; see her; also see her for a name tag;
- f) Roger Lanphier reported that the country of Malaysia did not go communist as a result of the Vietnam War.

17. 50/50 Drawing. \$75 was won by Joe Plant who donated the funds back to the Chapter.
Other drawings and auction items:

- A metal coffee cup was won by Bob Rotruck
- A Texas Roadhouse gift basket with two free dinner tickets was won by Tom Coffey
- A VVA briefcase was auctioned to the highest bidder Joe Dempsey
- A six volume Aircraft of the World set was won by the highest bidder Chuck Luley
- Two Three-D pictures donated by Walt Leuci were won by Joe Plant and Chappy Turks.

Lee also announced that lap blankets are available to members at no cost.

18. Announcements

- If you need a name tag, please see Litta;
- The West Metro Veterans Fair is 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Thursday, September 16 at the Lakewood Elks Lodge #1777, 1455 Newland St. in Lakewood;
- The next Vietnam War Commemoration Pin event will be at our December 4, 2021 meeting; we will conduct these presentations quarterly;
- The Chapter end of year holiday lunch is December 18, 2021
- Our October meeting guest speaker is open.

19. Membership in Sickness or in Need of Support

- a) Please continue to keep Michelle Mallin in your prayers;
- b) Please pray for Cookie White for healing and restoration of her health;
- c) Please continue to pray for healing for Barbara Rotruck who fractured her elbow;



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- d) Please let Chaplain Garry Turks know of members and family members who are ill or in need of support
20. Schedule
- a) The next VVA Colorado State Council meeting is September 11, 2021;
 - b) The next Chapter Board Meeting is scheduled for September 23rd at 9:00AM via Zoom;
 - c) The next Chapter Membership Meeting is Saturday, October 2nd “live” at the South Metro Fire and Rescue Building; all membership meetings will continue to be held in our new meeting location (Meeting Rooms 1 & 2) through the end of the year;
 - d) The Chapter’s end of year Holiday Lunch is on Saturday, December 18th.

The Next Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2021 at 9:00AM – Live! Zoom capability will be provided to those who cannot attend the meeting in person.

The membership meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections by President Lee White at 10:39 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 website.