



Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 1106

## Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 5, 2022

Scheduled Meeting Start Time: 9:00 AM

Meeting Location: Fremont Building, 14603 E Fremont Ave., Centennial, CO 80112

Meeting called to order by President Lee White at 9:01 AM

### Meeting Topics

1. Welcome to the meeting by President Lee White
2. Invocation Prayer by Chaplain Garry Turks and Moment of Silence
  - Guidance and wisdom as we conduct our meeting today
  - Prayer for our members and family members who are sick and are shut-in
  - Prayers for those in need

3. Pledge of Allegiance (all)

4. POW/MIA Chair Presentation by Dan Green and Moment of Silence

Moment of Silence for those still POW/MIA and for Chapter members who have passed

5. Board Member Roll Call

Officers and Board Members Present Roll Call: Officers: Lee White (President), David Lyons (Vice President) Mike Huber (Treasurer), Milt Omoto (Secretary); Board Members Present: Reverend Garry Turks (Chaplain), Joe Plant, Joe Dempsey, Ron Smith, John Vargas, Tom Werzyn

Excused: Patti Ehline

6. Members in Attendance (from sign-in sheets and on-line)

Mike Vallow, Alice Boswell, Chris Boyer, Jane Brown, Linda Croce, Ita Dempsey, Claudia Hunter, Jean Jaffe, Litta Plant-Schaper, Barbara Rotruck, Detlef Schaper, Suzanne Sigona, Jai Smith, Leann Stelzer, Bruce Arndt, Don Boswell, Bob Brown, Wayne Buser, Dale Creason, Tony Croce, Steve Curti, Joe Dempsey, Bob Easter, Barry Fiore, Guillermo Frausto, Dan Graham, Dan Green, Leo Greunke, Ted Hanfelder, Warren Harrison, Mike Huber, Jack Hunter, Alan Jaffe, Roger Lanphier, Bob Lee, Walter Leuci, Chuck Luley, David Lyons, Jesse Maldonado, Bob Mallin, Jim Marcille, Jim McGrevey, Don McNeely Sr., Harry Montgomery,



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Tony Nickerson, Milt Omoto, Gary Palka, Ed Phillips, Joe Plant, Clarence Rebolledo, Bob Rotruck, Murry Sallenbach, Carl Sanchez, John Sheadel, Charles Smith, Ron Smith, Gary Steinhoff, Michael Tarby, Garry Turks, John Vargas, Dan Wagle, Tom Werzyn, Gary Weston, Lee White, Jim Williams, John Williams, David Yates

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

The above list includes on-line attendees

7. Recognition of new members and guests (including members who have not attended in a while)

Alex Holmes, Andrew Holmes, Brad Cummings, Sarah Garber, Marisa DeForest, Han Yoon

8. Chapter Meeting Minutes Approval

Minutes for the January 8, 2022, Chapter Membership meeting were emailed to each member. Minutes are also posted on the Chapter website.

**Motion 1.** Motion to approve the VVA Chapter 1106 Minutes dated January 8, 2022, made by Bob Rotruck and second by Dave Lyons; the minutes were approved.

9. Special Presentation Today: Brad Cummings, Sarah Garber, Marisa DeForest, Rocky Mountain Veterans Advocacy Project

Brad Cummings is a founder, Executive Director, and Chairman of the Board for the Rocky Mountain Veterans Advocacy Project (RMVAP). Prior to founding the RMVAP, Brad served as a Clinical Fellow with the Veterans Advocacy Project at the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, and continues as an adjunct professor for the Military and Veterans Law Practicum. While attending law school, he earned his J.D. and an LLM in International Business Transactions. Brad is also a military veteran, having spent 13 years in the United States Air Force.

Sarah Garber and Marisa are third year students at the DU Sturm College of Law and Advance Student Attorneys for the RMVAP.

The Rocky Mountain Veterans Advocacy Project provides low cost and pro bono legal representation to veterans. They partner with the DU Sturm College of Law and CU School of Law. They also work closely with the Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center and the Volunteers Of America Bill Daniels Veteran Services Center. Brad stressed the need to use Veteran Service Officers (VSO) to assist with initial VA filings and appeals. VSOs will help you write and submit your benefits claims to the VA. The use of an attorney may be required when the veteran requires a higher level of appeal or upgrade of disability status. The Board of Veterans Appeal (BOA) is the highest level of appeals. Of the 85,000 appeals reviewed by the Board of Veterans Appeal, 75.4% are granted, which indicates the poor job of reviews by the lower VA process. At the BOA level, the review generally becomes legal, so the service of an attorney is recommended. RMVAP attorney's have a 87% success rate with veteran appeals.



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## Rocky Mountain Veterans Advocacy Project

### Contact Information

Phone: (720) 253-0963  
Email: [clientservices@rmvap.org](mailto:clientservices@rmvap.org)  
Address: 15200 E. Girard Ave, #4200, Aurora, CO 80014  
Web Site: [www.RMVAP.ORG](http://www.RMVAP.ORG)

#### 10. President's Report: Lee White

- Welcome to everyone and to those attending online today;
- Chapter elections will be held during our April meeting; anyone wishing to run for an Officer or Board position should contact Bob Rotruck, Elections Chairman; Lee reported that he will not be running for Chapter President, but will continue to be active with the Chapter. Lee appreciates all members' support of the Chapter over the years. Bob Rotruck is compiling the list of nominees and will provide it to members prior to the March meeting;
- Fourth quarter results of the King Soopers Community Rewards program was 35 households participating and \$378.07 received;
- Buddy Check Calls: Thank you to Jack and Claudia Hunter for redoing and finalizing the current Buddy Check call list. This is an important activity to maintain contact with all Chapter members. We currently have a need for an Associate member to contact AVVA members, 8 to 10 member calls monthly;
- A flag retirement ceremony is planned for June, possibly Flag Day June 14<sup>th</sup>; Lee is coordinating with the American Legion Post in Castle Rock;
- Lee is reconnecting with the JROTC program, DAR, American Legion, TREA, the Forgotten Heroes Campaign;
- Chapter members who are volunteering time and effort with various CCSD schools are very appreciated.

#### 11. Vice President's Report: Dave Lyons

- David volunteers his time at CCSD schools;
- David reported that he is arranging the June guest speaker.

#### 12. Treasurer's Report: Mike Huber

- The Treasurer's Report was presented by Mike Huber;

**Motion 2.** Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Bob Rotruck and second by Tom Werzyn; the Treasurer's Report was approved.



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13. Secretary's Report: Milt Omoto

- Meeting minutes are emailed to all Chapter members; they are also posted on the Chapter's website;
- The Chapter's annual calendar of events has been updated for the 2022 year and is posted on the Chapter website; let Milt know of any additions, changes, etc.
- The next presentation of the Vietnam War Commemoration Pin ceremony will be at our March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting;
- Colorado has a VVA State Council which meets quarterly to exchange information among the three Colorado Chapters; elections will be held this year; anyone interested in becoming part of the State Council should contact Lee, David, Joe or Milt.

14. Board Member and Committee Reports

- a) Membership (David Lyons): David reported that the Chapter has 172 regular and 44 AVVA members; he also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the King Soopers store that he works with for Poppy Drives;
- b) Veterans Emergency Assistance Program (Joe Plant): The Chapter assisted two veterans in the month of January, working with HUD-VASH to get them off the street; Joe stated so far for the Fiscal Year March 2021 to February 2022, the Chapter assisted 31 veterans and spent \$12,840 in assistance; Joe also reported that power chairs were handed out; anyone needing or know of someone needing handicap medical equipment can contact Joe;
- c) Chaplain's Report (Rev. Garry Turks): Chaplain Turks encouraged members to become involved with monthly Buddy Check calls; this is an important activity to continually stay in touch with each member; Garry continues with his Chaplain visits to the sick and shut-in members; he visits regularly with Rich Eisenberg Sonny Gorsuch; he reported that Sonny is not doing well; Garry continues with his Chaplain calls to members; please let Chaplain Turks know of those who are sick, shut-in or in need of Chaplain services and/or visits; Garry teaches a Chaplain class at the DU School of Divinity; he recently took some young Chaplains on visits with shut-ins; they were moved and very impressed;
- d) Speakers Bureau (Tom Werzyn): Tom reported that he recently presented to a fifth grade class; the Speakers Bureau is working with high schools on speaking engagements for the academic year; they will wait until schools decide to engage them; Tom reported that he has scheduled our March meeting speaker Robin Anderson; she works with the VA regarding prepping a home for sale, or for re-finance;
- e) Grants and Fundraising (Milt Omoto): Milt encouraged members not yet participating in the King Soopers Community Rewards program to sign up, and also encourage friends and neighbors to do so; he reminded members to donate unneeded household goods and used clothing to the VA Household Goods program; you can schedule a pickup online; the Chapter receives monthly income from this program; an excellent recommendation was made by Bob Rotruck to have a handout of the King Soopers Rewards program at our Poppy Drives;
- f) Events Coordinator (Ron Smith): Ron reported no current activity; if you have any ideas for a Chapter event this year, contact Ron; Ron also presented an appreciation certificate to the King Soopers he works with for Poppy Drives;
- g) Scholarship Committee (Gary Weston): Gary Weston, chair of the Scholarship Committee, reported that the committee is preparing scholarship essay criteria and the brochure for this academic year;



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- they will approach schools to promote the program; the number of scholarships to be awarded is yet to be determined; see Gary to get involved with the Scholarship Committee;
- h) Social Committee (John Vargas): Plans are underway for our annual Summer picnic; please let John know of a theme for this year's picnic; John also reminded members that your King Soopers gas points are not affected when you participate in the King Soopers Community Rewards program; today is the last day of the Rich Eisenberg sock drive; thank you to all who donated; John also encouraged members to get involved with Buddy Calls and make monthly calls to members;
  - i) Promotional Items (Joe Dempsey). The order for polo shirts (M and L) and Chapter ball caps will be available at the next meeting; so far, he has two advance orders for AVVA polo shirts; he stated that we need more pre-orders before he can place an order;
  - j) Voices for Veterans (Warren Harrison): Warren reported that meetings continue online; some veterans meet in person; the new VA PTSD building is under construction and planned completion is this Summer; this will offer a place to meet in the future;
  - k) Women Veterans, Veterans Health, PTSD, Agent Orange (Patti Ehline): Patti was absent.
  - l) AVVA Chapter Liaison (Litta Plant-Schaper): Litta stated that she is the AVVA liaison to the Chapter Board; if any AVVA member has a topic they would like the Board to know about or consider, let her know; she also stated that those needing a name badge should put their name on the request sheet; please see the back table to pick-up your name tag if you ordered one;
  - m) Webmaster and Newsletter (Bob Rotruck): Bob reported that the number of "hits" on the Chapter website has increased; thank you to all those who visit the site;
  - n) Government Affairs and Color Guard (Tony Nickerson): Tony reported that there has been a number of bills impacting veterans introduced into the Colorado House; some of them include honoring Gold Star Families, recognition of Latino veterans, recognition of African American veterans, POW/MIA Recognition Day for Colorado; veterans who served in the Vietnam War recognition; the bill to amend the constitution to extend property tax deduction for veterans with 50% or more disability did not pass; Tony also reported on the VA's "Aid in Attendance" program that provides monetary support to spousal care givers; there is also a bill to recognize Colorado veterans who served during WWII.

15. Roundtable

- a) Claudia Hunter thanked the Chapter for the roses she was presented at the last meeting; she enjoys attending Chapter meetings;
- b) Tom Werzyn reported that he has information on how to obtain records from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); the information is attached to the end of these minutes;
- c) Warren Harrison reported that the VA has a March blood drive at the VA hospital;
- d) Jack Hunter reported on Sammy L. Davis, Medal of Honor awardee, Vietnam War;
- e) Jack Hunter stated that if you want your picture on the Chapter's photo board to see Claudia and she will take your picture;
- f) Chaplain Garry reported that Dan Green's wife is ill; please pray for her and the family;
- g) John Vargas reported that the Chapter brochure has been updated and will be sent to the printer;
- h) Mike Vallow reported from Texas that they are doing well; he continues with his monthly Buddy Check calls;
- i) Barry reported that any veteran who is missing a medal can contact him, and he and the Forgotten Heros Campaign will acquire and present them to the veteran and family in a formal ceremony;



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16. 50/50 Drawings (Ron Smith)

- The 50/50 Drawing was won by Leo Greunke who donated the funds back to the Chapter (thank you Leo!); Leann Stelzer donated a Chapter yellow wind breaker that was raffled and won by a member;

17. Announcements

- National Vietnam War Veterans Day is March 29<sup>th</sup> (observed); we will let you know of any scheduled events;

18. Membership in Sickness or in Need of Support

- a) Please keep Dan Green's wife in your prayers;
- b) Please continue to keep Rich Eisenberg, and Sonny Gorsuch in your prayers;
- c) Please let Chaplain Garry Turks know of members and family members who are ill or in need of support

19. Schedule

- a) The next regularly scheduled Chapter Board Meeting is February 26, 2022, via Zoom
- b) The next Colorado VVA State Council meeting is March 12, 2022, in Castle Rock
- c) The next Chapter Membership Meeting is Saturday, March 5, 2022; the location will be the CCSD Fremont Building.

**The Next Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting is scheduled for March 5 at 9:00AM – Live at the Fremont Building, 14603 E Fremont Ave., Centennial, CO! 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 10:35 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.*



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## **NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA) NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER**

### **RECORDS HELD HERE AND AVAILABLE FOR SEARCH**

- Official Military Personnel Folders - OMPF's
- Service Treatment Records - STR's
- Out-patient & Treatment Records for Dependents & Retirees
- Draft Registration Cards
- Deceased Personnel Files
- Organizational Records -
  - Morning Reports, Unit Rosters, etc.
- Clinical (Hospital) Records
- Pay Vouchers
- Auxiliary Records
- Electronic Records
- Archival Records

### **MILITARY AND CIVILIAN RECORDS ARE PRESENTLY BEING HELD IN SEPARATE FACILITIES**

### **NARA PROGRAMS**

- Archival Preservation
- Records Management
- Information Security Oversight
- National Declassification
- Government Information Services

### **THINGS YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH WITH A SEARCH**

- Replacement Medals
- Correction/Copies of Records – i.e. DD-214, etc.
- Emergency Requests – i.e. funerals, etc.
- Historical Searches

### **1973 FIRE AT ST. LOUIS FACILITY**

- 80% loss of Army records – 1912 thru 1960
- 75% loss of Airforce records – 1947 thru 1964 -  
(Hubbard to Z)

### **RECORD ARE BEING HELD FOR ALL FIVE SERVICE BRANCHES HERE AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES**



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**VA CLAIM RECORDS ARE ALSO BEING HELD IN ARCHIVES**

**TYPICAL TURN-AROUND TIME FOR A STANDARD, RESEARCHABLE E-Mail REQUEST IS ABOUT 10 WORKING DAYS**

**ALL OF THIS CAN BE ACCESSED THRU: [archives.gov](http://archives.gov)**

**There are boxes, drop-downs and prompts to take you directly to most all of your needs and search requirements**

**Customer Service for NPRC:**

**Phone: 314-801-0800**

**For Burials – Fax request to:**

**Fax: 314-801-0764**

**Urgent/Emergency Requests for Records:**

**Phone: 314-801-0800**

**Fax: 314-801 0764**

#### **Archival Records are Subject to Public Access**

- There is a copy fee for these records
- This is where you can research and/or just search through the files/archives of available military records:

For Example: JFK, Steve McQueen, Lee Marvin, Barry Sadler, etc.

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#### **Questions ???**

If there is an interest, there is a 54-slide PP presentation available; e-mail me (Tom Werzyn), and I will forward to you: [werzyn@comcast.net](mailto:werzyn@comcast.net)