



**Vietnam Veterans of America
Colorado State Council**

Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 11, 2021 Scheduled Start Time: 1:00 PM
Meeting Location: Philip S. Miller Library, 100 S. Wilcox St. Castle Rock, CO 80104

Meeting Location: Library Conference Room

Meeting called to order by President Stan Paprocki at 1:10 PM

Pledge of Allegiance: Stan Paprocki (lead)

Invocation: Dave Lyons

Moment of Silence (for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and for those still POW/MIA): Stan Paprocki

Roll Call of Officers and Chapter Delegates Present: Stan Paprocki (President), David Lyons (First Vice President), Thomas Dowell (Second Vice President), David Ramey (Treasurer), Milt Omoto (Secretary), Leonard Smith (Voting Delegate 1071), Larry Peterson (Voting Delegate 1075), Joe Plant (Chaplain and Voting Delegate 1106)

Absences: None

New Members/Guests: Dick Southern (Region 9 Director)

Declaration of Principles: David Lyons (read)

Questions on Prior Meeting Minutes. June meeting minutes were revised as follows:

- Chapter Activity Report name correction: Leonard Smith provided the Chapter 1971 activity report, not Larry Peterson as originally recorded;
- Under Member Sickness and Distress, Chapter 1071: Michael Cravy was changed to Michael Craig;
- The June State Council meeting minutes were accepted as revised.

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Region 9 Report: Dick Southern

- The Region 8/9 Pre-Convention Conference is September 14-16, 2021 at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks NV; an estimated 60 to 65 attendees will participate; John Rowan will not be attending due to health precautions from his recently installed heart pacemaker; the Conference is on Wednesday with Tuesday and Thursday as travel days; all registrants are invited to attend the Nevada State Council meeting on Tuesday at 7:00PM;
- The National Convention is still on as of this date; should the event be cancelled, registration refunds will be processed; attendees will need to cancel their hotel and travel reservations on their own;
- Amendments and resolutions for consideration at the Convention have been published; Leslie DeLong processed the documents despite the recent passing of her husband;
- Dick reported on a COVID Recovery Grant Program that will provide a small amount from the HGDP true-up fund to State Councils and Chapters that do not have HGDP; the Colorado State Council and three Colorado Chapters do not qualify since all are part of the HGDP program; the true-up amount is \$164,000 and each recipient organization gets \$1,500; twelve State Councils get HGDP funds;
- A question by Dave Ramey was asked about the air quality in the Reno area and Dick reported that it is good since the California fires are some distance away;
- Milt commented that the membership article in the July/August issue of the VVA Veteran was informative and well written.

Treasurer's Report and HGDP Report: David Ramey

- The August Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer David Ramey; HGDP funds were distributed to each of the three Chapters;
- The HGDP report for the period ending August 31, 2021 was submitted to National by Dave Ramey; Chapter disbursements of HGDP funds include: Service Representative Programs, Scholarships awarded by Chapters, support for Incarcerated Veterans Programs and support for Homeless Veteran Programs;
- The Treasurer's report was accepted by proclamation.

Expenses Against the Council: David Ramey

- Annual payment for the Council's PO Box was paid;
- A check was sent to the Veterans Community Living Center in Rifle as part of the Council's quarterly support to Colorado Centers;
- Today's Council lunch was paid for nine people.

Reading of Communications: Milt Omoto

- The letter to the Veterans Community Living Center in Rifle for the Council's donation was read; the letter is signed by Council President Stan Paprocki;
- Larry Peterson reported on the letter that was sent to donors of Honor Bell 2 and provides three options for their donation: keep the donation for Bell 2, move the donation to the general fund, or request a refund; funds for Bell 2 will be in a savings account; the organization is having financial issues and need funds to continue operating; Bell 2 will cost

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\$300,000 and production cannot begin until this total amount is received; the organization is actively pursuing fund raising opportunities including a "Tribute to the Fallen" on October 9, 2021 at the Behind the Scenes Tap House; see their Facebook page for scheduled events.

Member Sickness and Distress

Chapter 1071: Michael Craig has cancer; John Altfeltis is still battling cancer; there were three deaths of Chapter members recently;

Chapter 1075: Manny Pedraza is undergoing a radiation treatment regime;

Chapter 1106: Barbara Rotruck is recovering from a broken elbow; Cookie Lee is recovering after being in the hospital.

Chapter Activity Reports

Chapter 1071 (Stan Paprocki)

- Chapter members volunteered at the Wall That Heals in Brighton;
- The Chapter has a new supplier of shirts which is a darker grey color;
- The Lakewood Metro Veterans Fair runs from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16 at the Lakewood Elks Lodge #1777, 1455 Newland St.; Chapter 1071 is represented at the Fair;
- The Chapter's annual trip to Solder Stone is September 25th; they rent jeeps to access the site;
- The Chapter is planning for school visits and participating in school events for the academic year;
- The Chapter is planning to participate in Veterans Day events;

Chapter 1075 (Tom Dowell)

- The Chapter used funds from the Dreiling distribution for donations to The Honor Bell Foundation, Rocky Mountain Honor Flight, Run for the Fallen, Tennessee State Council and Louisiana State Council as a result of recent storm damages, and Chapter 996 Santa Fe to support the Angle Fire Vietnam Veterans memorial;
- The Chapter provides free life-time membership over a 6-month promotional period as a way to garner new members; the Chapter pays the \$50 membership fee;
- The Chapter prepared and donated hygiene kits to the Salvation Army;
- Chapter members will be going on a trip to the Pueblo Air Museum;
- The Chapter will participate in a Veterans Day parade; the Chapter has a float that they enter;
- The Chapter is planning their annual Christmas event, but is having difficulty securing reservations from restaurants due to the pandemic;
- The Chapter will be sending three delegates to the National Convention: Tom Dowell, Paul Kennedy and John Lacero;

Chapter 1106 (David Lyons)

- The Chapter gained eight new members in August; there are currently 171 VVA and 41 AVVA members;
- Chapter members recently went to the Dragon Man Military Museum in Colorado Springs;

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- The Cherry Creek School District's military and veteran's appreciation and Fall football game is scheduled for September 18th; they provide a free pre-game dinner and handouts;
- The Speaker's Bureau is planning visits to high schools for the academic year;
- Chapter members volunteered at The Wall that Heals in Brighton in September;
- Poppy Drives are scheduled for October 9 and November 13 at various King Soopers stores;
- The Chapter assisted seven homeless veterans in August; the Chapter works with HUD-VAHS to identify and get homeless veterans off the street; the success rate for the program in keeping the veteran from returning to homelessness is 80%; the Chapter gets three to ten requests a month for assistance; NOTE: if you would like to donate \$25 gift cards to this cause, contact Joe Plant;
- The Chapter's September guest speaker was Mary Haddon, President, Rocky Mountain Honor Flight;
- The Chapter also conducted a Vietnam War Commemoration Lapel Pin Ceremony to thank and honor our Vietnam War veterans for their service and sacrifice on behalf of a grateful nation;
- The thirteen military personnel killed in Afghanistan during the evacuation were honored by reading of their name, branch, rank and ringing of a bell at the September meeting;
- The Chapter is working with Zillow who have assisted in the past and desires to continue supporting the Chapter.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

- The CO State Council will be represented by two delegates, Stan Paprocki (paid for by the CSCP of National) and John Lacero (paid for by Chapter 1075)
- Stan Paprocki and David Ramey will be attending the Region 8/9 Pre-Convention Conference in Sparks NV;

Motions

- Motion 1. That the State Council approve sending \$2,000 to the Louisiana State Council to support the five Chapters affected by Hurricane Ida; the motion was made by Dave Ramey and second by Joe Plant; the motion was approved by the Council.

Good of the Order

- Milt circulated a flyer for the unveiling of the design for the National Lao-Hmong Memorial that will be on October 2nd at the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport in Broomfield; there will be North American T-28 aircraft there that will eventually be the centerpiece of the memorial; the memorial is planned to be built in Westminster;
- A recognition ceremony was made by Dick Southern to Stan Paprocki for the 30th Anniversary of the Colorado State Council; this dates to the original State Council that was formed thirty years ago.

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Closing Remarks

A closing prayer was provided by Joe Plant.

The Next Colorado State Council Meeting: December 11, 2021 @ 1300-hour, Castle Rock Library

The meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections at 2:50 PM by President Stan Paprocki.

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

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