

Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 1071 - Denver  
Location: Elk's Lodge #1777  
1455 Newland Street  
Lakewood, CO  
Date: Saturday Oct.21<sup>st</sup>, 2017  
Scheduled Time: 10:00 AM MDT

## CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting called to order by:** Terry Ritenour: Vice President at 10:00 am

**Prayer & Moment of Silence for POW/MIA'S** – Terry Ritenour

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Jose Gonzales

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

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

Excused: Stan Paprocki, John Altfeltis

**VVA Members Present: (45)** Bill Bleau, Donald Bates, Bob Burnham, Bobby Campoy, Bob Coleman, Chuck Chavez, Marty Chavez, Michael Craig, Robert Doriss, Cliff Fejfar, Jeffrey Fossum, Jose Gonzales, Ron Gorman, Bruce Gottschalk, Bob Hartman, Nelson Hendrickson, Jim Higgins, Ray Holtz, Kevin Hurst, Bob Lopez, Jim Miles, Vern Moore, Russell Morse, Steve Newton, Owen Oliver, Philip Post, Fred Pottle, Robert Primeaux, Trinidad Rael, Terry Ritenour, Al Roettger, Lew Roman, Andy Romero, Joe Romero, Tom Simpson, Leonard Smith, Lindsay Smith, Daniel Sorenson, Larry Sourbeer, David Steiner, Tom Stepleton, Wally Struble, Jim Topkoff, Rick Winfrey, George Zervos

**AVVA Members Present: (3)** Scott Hefty, Archbishop Alexander, Janet Beiner

**Guests: (12)** Stan Ogata, Susan Bates, Teresa Randolph, Steve Randolph, Otto Smolik  
Michael Cory, Bill Robbins, Marie Winfrey, Sandra Quinhal, Holly Hall, Donald Saiz, Patty Lancaster

**President Report:** Stan Paprocki, Excused, Attending National meeting.

**Vice President Report:** Terry Ritenour

1. Welcomed everyone to members meeting
2. Coat & Clothes drive today, Thanked all for the donations, Introduced Rick Winfrey and requested members to help Rick load clothing items onto his truck after the meeting.
3. 1071 President Paprocki is attending a meeting at National VVA representing our chapter.
4. Jazzed Festival at Wings over the Rockies was attended by several 1071 members.
5. Poppies donation, Nov.11<sup>th</sup> will be held at 4 different King Soopers locations from 9am to 12 noon. Sign up sheets for location near you are available. Your support with the poppies donation is greatly appreciated, so please sign up.
6. Mead Middle School has invited 1071 members to attend a breakfast on Nov.10<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP at 970-535-4446 if you want to attend
7. National VVA is watching and working with the Senate to strongly oppose any medical drugs coming in from foreign countries for VA use.

Our next members meeting will be held at a different location due to the yearly craft sales held here at the Elks Lodge. Ray will email all notifying you of next meeting location.

**Secretary Report:** Marty Chavez,

Welcomed guests and had them introduce themselves. Ray introduced new AVVA member Archbishop Alexander who was an Army Officer who fought in Bosnia under NATO and the UN.

Marty also spoke about the Salute to Veterans Assembly at Prairie View High School. Encouraged all members to attend school events for veterans so as to keep our legacy alive..

Other members ( Ron Gorman & Jose Gonzales ) who attended spoke about their own experience attending this events.

**Financial Report:** Leonard Smith

**Treasurer's Report  
September 30th, 2017**

As of September 1st 2017 General Acct. Balance (General Fund and Emergency Fund)	\$28,958.37
State Household Goods Allocation	658.00
Donations & Merchandise Sales	3,016.46
Expenditures	(2,717.33)
Balance General Acct. September 30 <sup>th</sup> 2017 (General Fund and Emergency Fund)	<u>\$29,915.50.</u>
Balance Emergency Fund September 30 <sup>th</sup> 2017	\$5,000.00
Balance Scholarship Account September 30 <sup>th</sup> 2017	\$6,747.05

**Hurricane Relief Donations:** AL and Leonard informed the members about the BOD's decision to donate \$1000.00 each to VVA State Councils in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. We have received very appreciative thanks from them all as people are not paying too much attention to their needs after these tragedies caused by hurricanes.

**WebMaster: Ray Holtz**

**Website**

1. September website visits were 4,522.
2. October is Depression Awareness Month. There is a VA link to a brief, confidential and anonymous screen.
3. One new Press Release is posted:
  1. RAND Study Finds ACA Repeal Will Strain VA; Any ACA repeal must invest in VA infrastructure. This is from our VVA President John Rowan.
4. Posted photos of the pregame Recognition Ceremony at the Green Mtn H.S. home football game on Friday September 22, 2017.
5. Posted photos of the West Metro Veterans Fair 2017.
6. Posted Ben Franklin Academy vets day guest of honor Link to program Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 8:30 AM.
7. Posted Mead Middle School Vets Breakfast Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 7-8 AM

8. Posted photos of the Salute to Service Oct 16 at Prairie View High School.
9. Posted photos of Mike Thompson's funeral at Fort Logan on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>.
10. Posted a short very touching video of WWII Last Fighter Pilot Capt. Jerry Yellin on War and Survival.
11. The last 4 week period for the King Soopers Neighborhood Rewards ending Sept 30th we had total of \$4,866.02. The next period will end on October 28th.

### **Membership: Ray Holtz**

1. We added 2 new members: Ted Hildebrand and Frederick Pottle.
2. AVVA report for August has no change.
3. We have 159 members, and 17 AVVA members giving us a total of 176 members.

### **Outreach Liaison: Robert Primeaux**

#### **Guest Speaker: Marty Chavez / Al Roettger**

Al explained what he would like to do with the speakers program in order to keep things fresh and interesting with a Q&A interview with chapter veterans. We will still try to have outside guest speakers.

Marty was interviewed by Al. Marty's story started with his birth in New Mexico and ended with his military service with the Marines. His tour of Vietnam as an artilleryman and truck driver.

Overall the interview went well and we think Al is onto something worth while pursuing.

**Holly Hall** from the Volunteers of America, Colorado Branch spoke about the Bill Daniels Veteran Services Center which is dedicated to serving veterans (and their families) in need. Holly passed out brochures which listed the services provided. They are located at 1247 Santa Fe Drive, Denver. For more information call 720-501-3367 or go to [www.voacolorado.org/vsc](http://www.voacolorado.org/vsc).

#### **Honors Burial: Jim Topkoff**

Jim gave an update and a little history on the Honors Burial program that our chapter has spearheaded and run for a couple of years. At this time we are looking for somebody who has the heart for these unclaimed veterans to help Jim out, not necessarily to take over the reins but to help Jim who is still working. This makes it very hard for him to commit full time to this program.

Our treasurer, Leonard Smith is in charge of submitting the names to VA for burial approval but first the cremains at the mortuaries have to be vetted and this is where a lot of time is consumed.

Jim stated that our chapter is a great organization composed of all 1071 members. We Just don't sit around a bar telling war stories. We are here for a reason, as you can see by the amount of people attending 1071 meetings, the most important reason is that we help people.

Please see Jim Topkoff if you are interested in helping in any way.

#### **Marketing: Jim Topkoff**

#### **Drawings Door Prizes:**

White Fence Farm Gift Card: Rick Winfrey

Lanyard; ???

1071 Patch: Andy Romero

**Up Coming Events:** Veterans Day Poppies donation at 4 King Soopers stores, Sat.Nov.11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Old Business:**

**Jim Miles** reminded members about book collection.

**Al Roettger** reported on the GMHS tailgate party and veterans honoring event at their football game on Sept.20<sup>th</sup>. About ten 1071 members attended. Al talked about the Prairie View HS event and passed out flyers for upcoming events at Mead Middle School and Ben Franklin Academy. These events are in November and veterans are invited to attend.

Al also stated that due to medical issues he might have to seek a replacement or helper to help with the school events for veterans.

**New Business:**

**Cliff Fejfar and Scott Hefty** attended the Lakewood City open house for homeless veterans. The new building is called 40 West Residence and is located at west Colfax and Gray street in Lakewood. The three story building consists of 54 units. 25 of these units are set aside for homeless veterans. These units are just beautiful. Most important of all is that there will be a veterans representative on site fulltime to assist veterans with job seeking and needed transportation in order to get them back on their feet.

The Lakewood Elks Lodge stepped in and provided each veteran assigned a unit with a Welcome Home package worth about \$200 ea. which consisted of household items needed to help these veterans get on their feet.

If you want more information or want to help, please contact Cliff or Scott.

A big Thank You to Cliff and Scott for being a part of this special program and also Thanks to the City of Lakewood and the Elks Lodge for working with veterans.

**Retiring of POW/MIA Colors:** Jose Gonzales

**Benediction:** Terry Ritenour

**Meeting adjourned at 11:50am MDT**

**Next Chapter Meeting will be on Nov.18th, 2017**

**Marty Chavez - Secretary**

**VVA Chapter 1071 – Denver**