



## Colorado State Council

### Colorado State Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 9, 2017 Start Time: 1:00 PM  
Meeting Location: Philip S. Miller Library, 100 S. Wilcox St. Castle Rock, CO 80104

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Meeting called to order by President Lee White at 1252 hour.

**Invocation:** Joe Plant, Chaplain (Chapter 1106)

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Lee White

**Moment of Silence (for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and for those still POW / MIA):** Lee White

**Roll Call of Officers Present:** Lee White (President), Manuel Pedraza (First Vice President), David Ramey (Treasurer), Joe Plant (Chaplain), Milt Omoto (Secretary)

**Chapter Delegates, Representatives and Members:** Stan Paprocki (President, 1071), David Lyons (Delegate, 1106)

**Guests:** Dick Southern, Region 9 Director

**Meeting minutes** from the June 10, 2017 Colorado State Council meeting. Minutes approved without modification.

**Member Sickness and Distress:** Dan Dietz (1071) has at home hospice care; Al Roettger (1071) is out of the hospital and home; Jose Ramos, *Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day* founder, passes (memorial in California); A motion was passed for the Colorado State Council to assist David Ramey with emergency car repairs.

Joe Plant reminded us that we need to assist all veterans, members and non-member veterans of all eras.

**Treasurer's Report:** David Ramey

As of August 31, 2017:

Income:	\$ 2,629 (HGDP for August plus adjustments)
Expenses:	\$ 4,714 (HGDP disbursements to each of three Chapters, Convention travel; there was also a \$76 expense for PO Box renewal fee)
Account Balance:	\$ 19,123.27

David also reported that the State Council's savings account's CD Certificate expired on July 31, 2017. The Navy Federal Credit Union has a 3% Certificate for 5-months and he took advantage of this offer. \$6,195.10 was placed into the new CD and \$1,000 went into a 1.4% yield Certificate for 18-months. The prior Certificate yielded a lower APR.

Savings Account: \$ 7,195 balance (NFCU)

A decision will be made in the first week of January 2018 to reinvest the 3% funds into another high-yield Certificate. Expenses against the Council are detailed in the Treasurer's Report.

## **Colorado State Council**

David reported that the HGDP Semi-Annual report for the Colorado State Council is complete, with Chapter HGDP reports received from 1071, 175 and 1106. He will scan the report and submit to National.

Please continue to promote VVA household goods program and pickups in your community.

**Reading of Communications:** none

### **Old Business (Lee White)**

1. Establishment of New Colorado Chapters. The first Task Force meeting to form new Colorado VVA Chapters was held on August 28, 2017. Attending were Lee White, Tom Werzyn and Thomas Dowell. The group decided on the following order of geographic area priority:
  - Pueblo
  - Longmont
  - Fort Collins/LovelandA press release was prepared for inclusion in the American Legion newsletter. Chapter 1071 is encouraged to have a member be part of the Task Force. The State Council will provide financial support for this effort. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 7, 2017 at 4:00PM at the IHOP in Castle Rock.
2. The next United Veterans Council (UVC) meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2017. Lee, Stan, and Joe will attend. They will seek interest with anyone interested in supporting a new VVA Chapter in Colorado.
3. National Convention report (Lee White, Dick Southern, Stan Paprocki, others).
  - Lee recommends that VVA National consider a ½-day off from Convention business for members and guests to spend time sight-seeing and touring the Convention location (New Orleans had many interesting areas to see); Stan suggested that VVA consider planned activities for spouses in attendance; a spouses only luncheon is suggested;
  - There was also a lack of entertainment at the Convention (example, Jazz Band at one of the events would have been appropriate for being in New Orleans)
  - There were 890 attendees at dinner and +1000 total Convention attendees (largest Convention attendance)
  - The 2019 National Convention is scheduled for July 22 to 30 at the Grand Hotel and Double Tree Hotel in Spokane, WA. The 2021 Convention location is yet to be decided. A venue requirement is a 12,000 sq. ft. ballroom; the Hotel Elegante Conference and Event Center in Colorado Springs was suggested for 2021;
  - The 2018 Leadership Conference will be held in Palm Springs, CA.
  - Overall, the 2017 National Convention went well; voting was conducted very fast; caucuses went well;
  - Chapter 1071 received the 2017 VVA Website of the Year Award at the Convention; the California State Council's newsletter won as well;
  - A general trend facing VVA National, State Councils, and Chapters is the rising cost of hotels; this is a future discussion item for all involved with convention planning.
4. The Colorado State Council will consider a State Council Conference for June, 2018.
5. Conference of State Council Presidents meeting is October 19, Silver Spring, MD. Stan will attend.
6. VVA Support of Hurricane Harvey victims. Dick reported that Texas VVA Chapter 292 is coordinating support of VVA Chapters in Texas on behalf of the Texas State Council. Because they are still flooded, there is a limitation in what they can do; monetary funds are requested rather than supplies; VVA National sent \$5,000 to the Texas State Council; individual Chapters and State Councils can send funds; the California State Council will also send funds; David recommended that the CO State Council send \$1,000; a motion was made by David and second by Joe; the motion was passed; individual chapters will also be sending \$500 on their own; VVA Chapter 292, PO Box 1071, Beaumont, TX 77704-1071.
7. State Council Board Membership Update (Lee White). The current active board members are:
  - President                                      Lee White

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- First Vice President Manuel Pedraza
- Second Vice President vacant
- Treasurer David Ramey
- Secretary Milt Omoto

### Voting Delegates:

- 1071 vacant
- 1075 Thomas Dowell
- Chaplain and 1106 Joe Plant

### Non-Voting Delegates:

- 1071 vacant
- 1075 (Manuel will check with Larry Peterson)
- 1106 David Lyons

Lee emphasized that all Board members need to be active;

8. A motion was made by Manuel to nominate Stan Paprocki for the second vice president position; second by Milt; the motion passed; Lee will submit an updated form to National;

## Chapter Activity Reports

### a) Chapter 1071 (Stan Paprocki, President)

- Chapter 1071 sent three delegates to the National Convention; it was the first for all;
- The Chapter will sponsor a food drive in August for Gilpin County
- The Chapter is conducting a coat drive in September; collection will be during their next scheduled meetings on September 16 and October 21, 2017
- The West Metro Veterans Fair is scheduled for September 26, 2017, from 1PM to 4PM at the Elks Lakewood Lodge, 1455 Newland Street, Lakewood
- A Veterans Day Poppy Drive will be held on November 11<sup>th</sup> at four King Soopers locations;
- Chapter membership is at 180 (regular and Associates)
- Three members of the Chapter participate in a Veterans Court; they talk to veterans and provide information to free the Judge from this task;
- Stan encouraged attendance at the next UVC meeting (August 12, 2017)
- The Chapter has conducted three Honors Burial to date; they are working with a second mortuary that has over 800 unclaimed cremains; Colorado Chapters are encouraged to support this effort; it is a slow process because they can only submit 10 names at a time to VA records in St Louis;
- Member of the Chapter (40 in all) attended a Brighton City Council meeting to express support of a Vietnam Veterans Memorial; the effort has been spearheaded by Jose Gonzales; the Council approved a motion to fund the Memorial, which is scheduled for 2018; there are over 200 Vietnam Veterans in Brighton;

### b) Chapter 1075 (Manuel Pedraza, President)

- The Chapter helped a veteran single mother, homeless, with four children who were living in their car; the Chapter, together with DVA Chapter 50 of Colorado Springs each donated to pay for a week's hotel cost; Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence in Colorado Springs will provide more permanent support;
- The Chapter will participate in this year's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Stand down in Colorado Springs; the event is sponsored by the El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition with support by the Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence; the stand down starts on October 17<sup>th</sup>; Chapter 1075 will provide and serve a dinner on October 28<sup>th</sup>; they expect 20 to 30 homeless to attend; the Chapter prepares and distributes personal hygiene kits, over 200; there are free dental exams and cleaning, haircuts, and other services provided to homeless veterans; the Chapter has supported this event annually;
- Manuel attended a Soldier's Court and met with the Judge; the Chapter will participate in a Veterans Day parade;

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- On another note, David Ramey reported that the new National Cemetery in El Paso County is scheduled for Spring 2018 groundbreaking; American Legion Post 209 is leading an effort to establish an Honors Guard for burial ceremonies; volunteers are encouraged;

### c) Chapter 1106 (Lee White, President)

- The Chapter activities include: participated in the Region 8, 9 Conference June 24, 2017; participated in the Highlands Ranch Fourth of July Parade; attended the POW/MIA Chair Dedication ceremony at the VFW Post on July 29<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by Rolling Thunder;
- Twenty-one members attended a visit to the Soldier Stone Vietnam War Memorial;
- The Chapter's second annual picnic is scheduled for Saturday, September 23 at Heather Garden;
- The Veterans Day Poppy Drive is scheduled for Saturday, November 11, 2017;
- Chapter representatives will be at the Veterans Job Fair at Hudson Gardens, October 7, 2017;
- Next year, the Chapter is considering providing four \$1,500 scholarships and possibly up to six total;
- All members are encouraged to visit the Colorado State Council website: [www.vvacostatecouncil.org](http://www.vvacostatecouncil.org) ; Bob Rotruck is the webmaster;
- The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Aurora Veterans Salute is scheduled for Wednesday, November 1, 2017, 9:00 AM with a seated lunch at 11:30AM; Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, 7711 E Academy Blvd. #1, Denver, CO 80230; a table for eight cost \$20/person; this is a good recruiting opportunity;
- A Medal of Honor convention is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> in Pueblo.

## New Business

### a) Dick Southern, Region 9 Director Report

- Wayne Reynolds, National Treasurer, is available to speak and support the State Council with any needs;
- Dick appreciated Colorado's support of the Region 8, 9 Conference;
- Dick recognized the efforts of Chapter 1071 with the Honors Burial program;
- Dick will be travelling to the Philippines for a combined Philippines/Guam VVA meeting, November 4 through 25; each Chapter has around 125 members; this is the ninth trip there for Dick; he stated that there may be over 16,000 US veterans residing in the Philippines.
- Dick will attend the CO State Council meeting December 9<sup>th</sup>.

### b) Lee on other items:

- Monday, September 11, 2017, contact your Congressman to express your support of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017 (H.R. 299, S.422)
- Starting Sunday, September 17, 2017, Ken Burns documentary on the Vietnam War, airs on PBS;
- Chapter 1106 is planning a trip to the National Museum of WWII Aviation, Saturday, October 14, 2017, Colorado Springs; all are invited.

## Next Colorado State Council Meeting: December 9, 2017 @ 1300, Castle Rock Library

The meeting was adjourned by declaration with no objections at 1450 hour by President Lee White.

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