



Chapter 1071 Members Meeting

Location: Elks Lodge, 1455 Nelson St. Lakewood Co

Date: October 18th, 2025, Time: 10am

- Agenda
- Call Meeting to Order / SILENCE CELL PHONES PLEASE. Pres. Stan Paprocki;
- Invocation ~ Otto Smolik
- Pledge of Allegiance ~ Stan / All
- POW/MIA: Treasurer Bill Bridges / Otto Smolik

Roll Call: President Stan Paprocki, VP Trini Rael, Secretary Marty Chavez, Treasurer Bill Bridges,

- VVA Members present: (51) Ed Richards (93yo), Steve Newton, Wally Struble, Vern Moore, Jim Topkoff, Bill Bridges, Stan Paprocki, Lynn Herbert, Joe Romero, Otto Smolik, Mike Richards, Will Webb, Frank Riddle, Lou Jones, Nelson Hendrickson, Trini Rael, Marty Chavez, Dick Bare, Leonard Smith, Jerry Folsom, Bob Lopez, Ron Parr
Jim Higgins, Jerry Zimmer, Doug Scherer, Mike Markham, Roddy Godown, Bill Robbins, Doug Nunes, Don Bates, Alan Jones, Dan Sembroski, Larry Hood, Richard Hogue, Stan Panfil, Donald Baldwin, Rich Crawford, Darrell Chapman, John Thompson, Mike McDonald, Jerry Vargo, David Henning, David Nila, Tom Sandquist, Bobby Campoy, Larry Carroll, Owen Oliver, Robert Dorris, Joe Trujillo, Rod Keiscome, Lance Rommerdahl.
- AVVA Members Present: (3) Mary Ann Rhode. Jacqueline Bissett, Carol Cordova.
- Guests: (12) Claudia Henning, Ron Williams, Kathy Williams, Marilyn Hale, Jim Maestas, , Randy Linis, Steve Morgan, Rich Williams, Gary Messick, Ted Knott, Troy Lutman, Susan Bates,

Opening comments: Stan

- ❖ Welcome New Members: Stan; Ed Richardson, Served from 59 to 63, CIA and some military intelligence, ground pounder, Army and Marines, Awarded: Silver Star, Bronze Star, Four Purple Hearts

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- ❖ **Welcome Guests: Stan; Alan Vigil. Army National Guard Army Reserve for 12 years. deployed in 1990 to Desert Storm. recently retired after 34 years of federal service at the Federal Center and anxious to join the group.**

Gary Messick, 1st Army Division, Germany, 71 to 74.

Steve Morgan, guest of Michael McDonald.

Jeff's daughter, Sarah Fossum. This is her first meeting and very proud of her. She's a public defender now,

- ❖ **Members' birthdays or Anniversaries: Stan;**

- **Guest / Member Speaker; (Jim Higgins) Troy Lutman, (Eight years in the Marine Corps, including a tour during Desert Storm). Veteran's Treatment Court, Peer Mentor Coordinator, Veteran's Court Peer Mentor Program, 1st Judicial District, Colorado Courts. Troy will explain and share the need for Mentors to assist fellow veterans when they have pending Judicial Court cases.**
- **You can watch speakers' videos on VVA 1071 YouTube posted by Bill Bridges.**

President: Stan Paprocki;

- **Vice President: Trini Rael; State Council Report. Good morning everyone, Our last State Council meeting was last Saturday, October 11th. Our next one is March 8, 2026 at Castle Pines . We discussed situations and our State Council Secretary Doug Nunes will explain what was discussed.**

(Doug Nunes); We had a national convention in August to dissolve the Vietnam Veterans of America, the idea failed, and a lot of work and effort was wasted in that conference. We had a brief discussion about that, just the fact that we accomplished nothing by going to that conference. At the region state council meeting, the region director, Dick Southern, reiterated the importance of the household good program. It's going to continue whether we modify the Vietnam veterans or not because we have a contract in perpetuity, which as long as some organization stays together, We will continue to have a positive relationship with household goods. We did notice a big drop in household goods this month, and over the last couple of months, of about 30%. That's where we get most of our funding. About \$600 a quarter from them and we get another \$600 a quarter from King Soopers. Each region does household goods differently. Please keep donating items to the Vietnam veterans of America stores and keep using your King Soopers card when you shop. It all benefits your chapter (1071).

We have some chapters who really have a very positive contact with their members. I'd like to see us start that and start checking in on our full membership and see if everybody's okay, and if they're not, see if we can help them.

We did vote to meet only twice a year instead of three times a year because we really didn't have a lot of business.

We have motions usually to spend money. We were also talking about creating foundations for each chapter, aside from the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 501C-19, creating foundations for each chapter is the 501C-3.

So that's a discussion item and it's being researched and we'll present that at our next meeting.

Thank You.

- **Secretary Report: Marty Chavez;** I just wanted to remind everybody that if you know of a veteran or yourself that has not received a Quilt of Valor, you can still do that. You can nominate somebody or you can nominate yourself. just go to quiltsofvalor.org and you can sign up.
- **Treasurer / Financial report: Bill Bridges presented the monthly Treasurers Report.**
 The month ending September of this year, our income for the month was \$1,440.
 Our expenses for the month were \$20,921.
 And I'm going to kind of break those out for you to give you a sense for why we spent so much money in one month. The largest expense of \$15,000 was for the three scholarships that we awarded to those successful folks, Ben Zabikoff, Jason Byers, and Addison Tobin, who are enrolled in their respective universities. universities. I think Ben and Jason are in the University of Colorado and Addison Tobin, thanks to Dick, driving and taking a whole bunch of stuff up with him to University of Oregon. So she's enrolled up there. The other large expenses that we had for the month was the final two participants in the convention expenses, myself and Owen Oliver, and we also had a Dragon Man bus deposit that we paid for. We also donated \$300 to the City of Lakewood for the West Metro Veterans Forum that was held here at the Elks. We also donated \$500 to the Rocky Mountain Honor Flight. Lastly, we had expenses for keeping our website up and running and secure of \$563. Also \$785 went to our Vets in Need program to keep that rolling along that Dave and Doug basically managed for us. Even though our net loss was \$19,481, our checking account balance was still \$29,598.
 Our savings account balance was \$13,022, and we did not have to cash any of our CDs to pay for the scholarship fund. So we still have a balance of \$26,522 in our savings.
 We also renewed our CDs for another six months, and we increased the interest income from 3.75 to 4.25. Those will be up for renewal again in January, so we'll wait and see what the interest rates look like at that time. but they all renew almost the same time coming in January.

Department Reports;

- **Membership Report: Ray Holtz / Stan Paprocki**

Membership Report: Ray Holtz

1. In August we had 1 new VVA member Loyd Gerardot.
2. In August we had no new AVVA members.
3. We have 256 VVA members, and 52 AVVA members giving us a total of 308 members.

Webmaster Report: Ray Holtz

1. September website visits were 1,157.
2. Posted obituary of Catherine Gonzales along with photos at Ft Logan.
3. Posted 2026 Tony Lopez Scholarship application.
4. Posted Wreaths across America Sponsorship for our Chapter, with instructions.
5. Posted VVA Press Release about how VVA Responds to Washington Post's Skewed Portrayal of Veterans.

- **Fund Raising: Steve Newton; February 8th, 9am to 12 noon.** Still have the sheets out here if you haven't signed up and have the inclination to do so. Seven stores are located around the metro area. You're more than welcome to come and spend all three hours or wherever you would like to participate.

(Bill Bridges) Just to add on to what Steve mentioned about our puppy drive coming up, We're also eligible now to receive donations by any users that have Zelle associated with their bank accounts. Also there is an account set up for Venmo as well. Hopefully we'll capture folks that used to come up and say, hey, I don't have any cash on me and I'll catch you later kind of thing. We can direct them to the items that we're going to have on the table.

They have the QR codes there so they can scan those and make the donation.

- **Honors Burial: Bill Bridges * Update on Honors Burial. Update on Honors Burial to Membership;**
I don't have any new cremains that have been located; However, I did get a referral this morning on one located on the north side of Denver that I'm going to be investigating and follow up on. So hopefully that will lead us somewhere.
- **Education & Speakers Program: Jim Higgins, Doug Nunes;**
At this time of year, we routinely get invitations from various high schools for veterans to show up for different events, different practice, and things of that sort.
I have heard of a couple having some celebration on Veterans Day, but there weren't any details.
So if I get a notice, or if Marty gets a notice, we'll notice everybody.
And if we get it before the first of the month, we'll include them in the newsletter.
With respect to that, Bill has some information about a couple of other high schools, which again we'll post the information on the newsletter, but Bill, you want to give the details?
I contacted Green Mountain High School Athletic Director. First, I'll ask him about the veterans honoring a football game. Well the new coach knew nothing about it.
They're going to look at it, they're having it next year to bring in the veterans and honor us on the football game.
They are going to have a Veterans Day breakfast on November 6th at 8 a.m.
And everybody's welcome to come there.
Also I contacted D'Evland High School.
They're having a Veterans Day meeting on the 11th of November at 2.30.
And that's usually pretty big.
You can have anywhere from 30 to 40 veterans there.
It's a big show up.
Arvada West; Veterans Day from 830 to noon.

- **Social Activities Committee: Jerry Zimmer;**

Last weekend in September, we had a good group go up to Soldier Stone, the secret monument in southern Colorado. Bill and his wife, Jerry and his wife, Doug Scherer and five members of my family (Owen's), including my brother Rocky standing there in the middle. For those who don't know, Rocky served with me in Vietnam, so it's a special trip to get him up there.

Beautiful day, afternoon we're at their peak and anybody who has not been to that monument seriously consider going there. The hike is a couple hundred yards to get from the parking area to the monument. There is a trail to follow which makes it easier.

The last thing we did was the Wild Animal Sanctuary. This is in Kingsburg, Colorado.

I don't know how many have been there. If you haven't, you certainly should. These are just some of the photographs, which you see on the right-hand side. It's like a massive Quonset hut, it's very colorful.

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\$20 for if you're over 65. Everything is elevated. So you walk over where the animals are. Amazing place to visit wild animals at a safe distance. 😊

Participation in this Social Activities Program has been very low and disappointing, very low membership interest, volunteering was not great, pretty much it was always headed up by someone on the board of directors, which really wasn't the goal of the program at all, therefore the program is being discontinued for now unless somebody comes up with something better.

- **Veterans In Need Program: Doug Nunes & David Nila; Soups and warm shirts are needed.**
We're probably going to have to stand down at Robinson's Place. A stand down from what Doug says is we bring out the clothes that we have, we lay them out for all three locations and try and get rid of all these clothes. We have an electric scooter that was donated by Edward here.
- **Rod's got a veteran going to be donated that scooter too. So that's coming from us.**
- **Scholarship Program; Jerry Zimmer;**
- **Director discussion:**
 1. **(Dick Bares); Wreaths Across America program, Participation in buying Wreaths will help our Chapter with a \$5 reward for every \$17 paid for a wreath. The way it works, if you go online or if you fill out one of the forms on the table over there, you can do a wreath specific to a grave by putting in the person's name. They like to have the date of birth, date of death, and the marker, the section they're in, and the number on the back of the marker. I just filled out a couple online. I didn't know the date of birth, so I used mine. December 13th at Fort Logan National Cemetery. Volunteers will be over at Fort Logan helping us lay wreaths, if any of you (& Kids) want to help out you are very much needed and appreciated.**
Additionally, over at Morrison, there's a place called, it was Prestige Care Center, it's now called Lake of the Lodge at Red Rocks. There's a lot of veterans in this small retirement home.
One of the veterans decided to clean up the flagpole outside and get them to cut down the trees so that a flag could fly in the flagpole. Now they want to take down their large flag, put up a little bit smaller flag and the POW MIA flag.
I thought it would be nice if we could have a ceremony for them on Veterans Day, November 11th.
We have one in the town of Morrison with the VFW and I'm going to try to have a free lunch right after that at Red Rocks Grill. I'm going to try to have a service at this lodge at Red Rocks if anyone is interested in joining us.
- **Member Discussion / Input;**
My name is Richard Hogue; I'm a member of this chapter. I'm also an executive director of a non-profit 511 C3 foundation called Colorado Veterans Service Foundation. Last year we donated some money to this chapter, and we've been successful in fundraising, So I have another check to present to chapter 1071 in the amount of \$1,500. We also have some flyers about our organization back on the table and will be glad to talk with anybody after the meeting. Thank you.
- **Merchandise;(Jim Topkoff)**
- **Door Price Drawings; (Jim Topkoff);**
 - 1.\$25 Home Depot card; # 792 Nelson
 - 2.BBQ Sauce # 744
 3. BBQ Sauce #717
 - 4.\$25 Black Eye Pea #766
 5. Surprise Gift # 727

Remembering our Veterans / POW MIA: Otto Smolik, Bill Bridges

- **Benediction; Otto Smolik**
- **Meeting adjourned: Stan (Turn Cell Phones back on).**
- **Coming Events:**

VVA Chapter 1071 BBQ, October 25th, 2025 @ 9901 West 50th Ave in Arvada.

Next VVA Members meeting; Nov.15th 2025

Marty Chavez – Secretary, VVA Chapter 1071 – Denver