**Membership Meeting Minutes for:**

**Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1106 on November 3, 2018.**

**Location: South Metro Denver Fire and Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Ave., Centennial, CO 80112**

**Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM by President Lee White**

**Board Members Present:**Lee White, Patti Ehline, Milt Omoto, Dave Lyons, Tom Werzyn, John Vargas, Bob Easter, Joe Plant

**Members Present:**Gary Bentzen, Mike Burzynski, Donna Chaney, Barry Fiore, Sonny Gorsuch, Dan Green, Ted Hanfelder, Warren Harrison, Jim Hemphill,  Jack Hunter, Peggy Kelly, Roger Lanphier, Bob Lee, Marvin Lich, Jerry Liechti, Bob Mallin, Donald McNeely, Viola Nathan, Tony Nickerson, Jack Paulsen, Richard Price, Clarence Rebolledo, Steve Robertson, Bob Rotruck, Rob Senatore, John Sheadel, Hazel Simeon, Mike Sizemore, Ron Smith, Gary Steinhoff, Gary Turks, Wendell Wallace, John Williams. And Jack Wright.

**Associate Members Present:**David Ehline, Diane Graham, Michelle Mallin, Theodora Plant, Litta Plant-Schaper, Barbara Rotruck, Suzanne Sigona, Siltham Smith, Jim Williams

**Guests and New Members Present:**Jim Bright, Cliff Butler, Alycia Carmin, Kelly Carmin, Al Hardt, Teresa Lambie, Richard Lewis, and Jenny Muehloy.

**Invocation and Prayer given by Gary Turks.**

**Color Guard for VVA Chapter 1106 marched in and presented the colors.**

**Pledge of Allegiance by all**

**The Sgt At Arms conducted the POW/MIA ritual, followed by a Moment of Silence.**

**Moment of Silence for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and for those who are still MIA**

**Minutes from the October 6, 2018 VVA Meeting were approved.**

**Motion:   Dave Lyons; 2nd by Joe Plant**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

Ms. Alycia Carmin and Mr. Kelly Carmin came from the **Quilts of Valor** organization to present quilts to some of our members.  These Quilts are made by quilters all over Colorado, with parts from across the USA.   The purpose of these quilts is to provide a “tangible hug” of thanks to veterans and to wrap veterans in the love of the quilters in thanks for their service to our country.   Each quilt was accompanied by a pillowcase made by Colorado high school students and a written history of each quilt.

Ms. Carmin seemed to find quilts that had custom made themes for the veteran who received the quilt.    She presented each quilt in a very heart-warming manner to each veteran.

Veterans of VVA Chapter 1106 receiving a Quilt of Valor today included:

Jack Hunter, Ted Hanfelder, Donna Chaney, Milt Omoto, John Williams, Gary Turks, Pattie Ehline, Bob Rotruck, Sonny Gorsuch, Robert Senatore, and Peggy Kelly.

Teresa Lambie from Sand Creek Elementary school invited us to all to attend their Veterans Day program where the Warrior Bonfire program will be speaking on November 12.

Suzanne Sigona presented Vietnam Veterans pins to: Jim Bishop, Al Hardt, Viola Nathan, Bob Lee, Gary Steinhoff, and Jim Hemphill.

Lee White introduced and Thanked Ms. Hazel Simeon who is leaving Denver and moving to Tulsa, Ok.  Hazel was the Founding Secretary for VVA 1106 and Chairperson for founding Scholarship Committee.  She led us in several trips to Veteran Memorials around Colorado.

**Lee White’s President Report:**

-The **Pikes Peak Veterans Honor Guard** has been formed and will become more involved in local veterans’ programs.

**-The Quilt campaign—regarding a quilt that was donated to this VVA Chapter.**

A jar of jelly beans was shown to the members to begin a sale of chances to guess the number of jelly beans in the jar.  Even Lee does not know that number now.  This guessing of the jelly beans will continue into the spring to see who wins the quilt with their correct guess.

**-Poppy Drive Nov 10 at 9AM to 1PM—**Red poppies will be given out. We still need a couple of volunteers to assist at one of our four stores.

**-Lee recently attended a meeting in Silver Spring, Md. of all the State Council Presidents with the National VVA leaders.**

1. The VVA Board of Directors has approved a new Lifetime membership of $50.00. Eliminated the one-year membership and the three-year membership (which went to Lifetime).
2. The national VVA has two working groups on what to happen to the VVA organizations in 6-8 years.  Working 1 is thinking about how to shut-down VVA.  Working group 2 is thinking how to transition to another organization.

**-Wreaths Across America**—Volunteers needed on Dec. 15th at Fort Logan to volunteer to put out wreaths.

**-Aurora Veterans Salute Dinner** will occur Nov 7th and we have a table of 8 with 8 veterans attending.

-**Veterans Day-** Please attend any school events you hear about, like School Events Sand Creek, Cimarron Middle School on Nov. 9, Franklin Elementary, Ben Franklin Academy, etc.

**-New VVA Chapter:  Loveland/Ft Collins**:  They had their first meeting last Saturday.

**VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT** – Bob Easter made a presentation to Hazel Simeon in Thanks for her service to VVA 1106.

Bob Easter also presented a check to President Lee White from the estate of one of Bob’s family, Adeline’s Sister.  The Sister died on September 25th.  She requested funds from her estate be given to veteran organizations to assist veterans.  She specifically asked Bob to convey a check to VVA 1106.

**Regarding the Speakers Bureau,**Bob noted that we may need many speakers available to speak at the Cherry Creek Schools in the near future.   Please see Bob or Tom Werzyn after the meeting to tell them of your interest in speaking.

**TREASURER’S REPORT – by Joe Plant**     As a VVA organization, we have $5233.11 in our checking account; $10,006.88 in savings for a total of $15,239.99 in a bank.

We have been assisting veterans with funds for rent and purchase of medical items.  One of the organizations we assist is the HUD Veterans Assist Specialty Living program who helps get veterans off the street.  Joe read several letters requesting assistance with rent, which we provided. The HUD organization does considerable vetting of veterans and monitors their monthly finances.  Since March 2018 we have assisted 23 veterans.  Our VVA Chapter 1106 general fund is providing these expenses to veterans.

**Grants/Fundraising--VVA Household Goods Pick-up**:  Milt Omoto encouraged us to utilize this program by calling them to pick-up household goods we want to donate.  In turn, this program provides funds to Colorado State VVA which come directly to our Chapter.

**PTSD, Mental Health, and Women Veterans, Veterans Administration**:  Pattie Ehline

--The VA has hired a new person to be a constant voice to them on what veterans want.  So, if you receive VA surveys asking your opinion, please respond to them so they can make recommendations to the VA.

--Suicide Loss Survivors—A program at the new VA on Nov. 17th with a film about a daughter who is recovering from her father’s suicide.

--Ted Hanfelder reported that the Castle Rock VA Clinic is coming on-line soon.

--Thanks to Warren Harrison, Donny Chaney and Joe Plant for working with this committee.

--A Parking Sticker is needed to park at the new VA

--Jim Bishop spoke to remind us to shred our armbands at the new VA when we leave. The outpatient and in-patients receive an armband that has personally identifying data on it.

--Speakers needed next year for Castle Rock Senior Center.  See Pattie.

--Flu Shots:  Please get you flu shots as soon as possible.

**Board Member Dave Lyons on membership**—We currently have 119 members and 27 Associate members in our Chapter for a total of 146 participants.  Dave and others continue to find and encourage veterans to be involved in our chapter.

**Social Committee: John Vargas**

--We have a Suggestion Box in the back for you to give us feedback and suggestion on how to improve meetings and this organization. Please tell us what you are thinking.

--Thanks to **Clarence Rebolledo**for playing guitar music for us at the meetings.

--Thanks to the Social Committee for diligent calendar planning of events this year:  Barry Fiore and Milt Omoto

--On Saturday, Dec. 15 we will have our annual Holiday Luncheon including our families.

            11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Golden Corral at East Arapahoe Road and S Parker Road.

**Newsletter--Bob Rotruck:**Newsletter and Minutes are posted on our website for you to read.

We often post a short bio of a member in our newsletter, and we need some volunteers. Please complete a Member Background Form and get it to Bob.

**Government Affairs—Tony Nickerson**

--Tony represents VVA Chapter 1106 at meetings of the United Veterans Council.

--Currently, 114 legislative bills concerning veterans are in processing.

**Color Guard-Tony Nickerson**

Our Color Guard is scheduled to appear Nov. 7 at the Honor Bell event; Nov. 9th at an Elks Lodge, Nov. 12th at Columbine Hills Elementary School and at the Golden Corral.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**Suzanne Sigona:** We have more brochures from Fort Logan on end-of-life planning.

**Michelle Mallin:** On Nov 11th, a large Veteran’s Day event is planned at Fort Logan, and you are invited.

**Jack Hunter:** Please see Jack at the end of the meeting to get you picture taken.

**Barry Fiore:** Medals for Heroes—See Barry if you know any veteran who has not received medals listed on DD214.

**Meeting adjourned:**by Lee White at 10:06 AM.

**Next Meeting is Saturday:** December 1, 2018 at 9 AM

**Location:** South Metro Denver Fire and Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Ave., Centennial, CO 80112