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**Membership Meeting Minutes**

**Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 1106**

**June 4, 2016**

**9195 E. Mineral Ave., Centennial, CO 80112**

**South Metro Denver Fire & Rescue Building Boardroom**

**Board Members Present: Lee White, Milt Omoto, Paul Seppo, Hazel Simeon, Joe Plant, Patti Ehline, Bob Easter**

**Board Members Excused: Pat Surrena**

**Members Present: David Lyons, John Williams, Wendell Wallace, Sonny Gorsuch, Marv Lich, John Grace, John Vargas, John McMaster, Jerry Leichti. Mark Nickell, Cathie Nickell, Mike Messenger, Jack Hunter, Joe Langran, Robert Senatore, Bob Rotruck**

**Associate Member: Diane Graham, Suzanne Sigona, Barbara Rotruck, Mary Seppo**

**Guests Present: Mike Range, Kyrsten Nelson, Jaime Stantz**

**Meeting called to order by President Lee White at 9:05AM**

**Pledge of Allegiance by all**

**Invocation and Prayer given by Hazel Simeon**

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

**Jaime Stantz spoke to us Thrivent Financial and all that they do to assist non-profit’s and veteran non-profit’s specifically. This organization has given us several hundred dollars in the form of gift cards for the organizations outreach.**

**Minutes from the previous meeting on May 7, 2016 motioned to accept by Sonny Gorsuch and 2nd by Dave Lyons**

**Lee Whites Presidents Report:**

* **Some from VVA Chapter 1106 met Rolling Thunder in Pueblo to escort the Honor Bell to Denver on May 24 at Fort Lyons. Mike Messenger gave a report on the day escorting the bell when it left for Cincinnati to be cast and when it arrived back in Colorado after having been cast. Then on Memorial Day the Honor Bell was dedicated at Fort Logan in a special ceremony. It was attended by several members of VVA Chapter 1106 and Rolling Thunder Chapter 1.**
* **Upcoming events**
	+ **4th of July parade in Highlands Ranch. Parade starts at 9AM but the marchers need to be there at about 7AM.**
	+ **Angel Fire ceremony on June 11. Several members of VVA Chapter 1106 will be attending and or in the ceremony itself. Angel Fire is 26 miles from Taos, NM.**
* **Englewood High School had an event May 28 at 2PM to the “Honor Our Veterans” program. Rolling Thunder did the Missing Man Table Ceremony. Several of our members attended.**
* **Poppy Drive was very successful and made $2956.14 in donations given.**
* **VVA Chapter 1171 and their cremains project has identified 63 cremains as being veterans that have been sitting in a funeral home for years. These veteran’s cremains are eligible to be buried at Fort Logan and this will take place on June 25th at 10:30 AM. There are hundreds more mortuaries that have thousands of cremains that have not been identified so this is an ongoing project for any group who wants to be involved in doing this.**
* **VVA Chapter 1106’s board member Pat Surrena received a kidney transplant on Saturday, May 29 after having been waiting for one for many years. He is doing well after the surgery.**

**Bob Easter Vice President’s report:**

* **6 applications had been received for the scholarship. Four members of the Scholarship Committee will be meeting with the top 4 applicants at the Highlands Ranch Library today (June 4) to interview and decide which 2 will be awarded the scholarships.**

**Paul Seppo gave the treasures report:**

**Hazel Simeon gave the Secretary’s Report:**

* **Polo shirts have been received and have been embroidered so that the people who will be attending Angel Fire will have more of a professional appearance for the ceremony. If anyone who is not attending the ceremony wants to have a polo shirt orders will be taken. The cost will be about $35.00.**
* **Please make sure that she has everyone’s email address, it is so much faster and easier to email the minutes than send them through the mail.**
* **Would anyone like to take over managing the website? She is not able to keep up with it in addition to all of the other responsibilities that she has.**

**Milt Omoto gave his director report:**

* **Spoke about the Poppy drive and the success of the outreach.**

**Joe Plant did not have anything new to report other than 1 veteran needs a power chair, he is looking around to find one for the veteran.**

**Patti Ehline gave her directors report:**

* **Spoke about how she reaches out to other vets, she also spoke about getting into the schools to speak.**
* **She met the head of the psychiatry department at the VA, he invited her to be a part of the mental health community summit on August 31.**

**Membership committee:**

* **Chapter 1106 has 49 regular members and 14 associate members with 2 that are in process for regular membership.**
* **Total national VVA members is 79, 062 and associate members 9053 with 1 new chapter forming in April.**
* **Mike Karsh and Jim Marcille worked on a letter to send out to the Members At Large who live in Colorado. This will go out soon.**

**POW/MIA report given by Mike Messenger:**

* **Nothing new to report.**

**Bob Rotruck newsletter report:**

* **Please pick up your name tags if you have not done so already.**

**Suzanne Sigona gave a report on “The Wall”. The “Moving Wall” will be in Pueblo on July 7-10 at Rose Lawn Cemetery.**

**Roundtable discussion: None**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:10 by President Lee White.**