**Membership Meeting Minutes**

**Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 1106 on February 2, 2019.**

**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, Milt Omoto, Dave Lyons, Tom Werzyn,

Bob Easter, Joe Plant, Glen Payne, Patti Ehline

**Members Present:**Bruce Arndt,Gary Camp, Donna Chaney, Larry Collins, Anthony Croce, Barry Fiore, Sonny Gorsuch, Dan Green, Leo Greunke, Ted Hanfelder, Warren Harrison, Jim Henderson, Jack Hunter, Mike Karsh, Roger Lanphier, Bob Larson, Ernest Ledvina Richard Lewis, Marvin Lich, Jerry Liechti, Larry Majors, Bob Mallin, Jim Marcille, Jim McGrevey, John McMaster, Donald McNeely, Tony Nickerson, Jack Paulsen, John Powell, Jay Quiring, Bob Rotruck, Rob Senatore, Mike Sizemore, Charles Smith, Ron Smith, Gary Steinhoff, Garry Turks Dan Wagle, Wendell Wallace, and John Williams.

**Associate Member:** Linda Croce, Kari Liechti, Litta Plant-Schaper, Barbara Rotruck,

Suzanne Sigona, Siltham Smith, Jim Williams

**Guests and New Members Present:**Jim Bishop, Cliff Butler, Desiree Dayton, Claudia Hunter, Ron NewLander, Tom Puckett, Daniel Riley, Darell Zimbelman

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

**Pledge of Allegiance by all**

**The Acting Sgt At Arms, Milt Omoto, 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 January 5, 2019 VVA Meeting were approved.**

**Motion:   Jim Marcille; 2nd by Tony Nickerson**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:  Greg Crenshaw – Veteran Experience Officer, VA Eastern CO Health Care – Topics: Update on: Rocky Mtn. Regional VA Medical Center and VA Benefits.

            The Leadership of the Denver VA hospital wants Veterans to feel comfortable coming to that facility.  Mr. Crenshaw was hired to ensure your experience with that VA hospital is positive.  He does surveys to learn what you are thinking.   If a department process or employees are creating a negative experience for veterans, Greg has the power to negotiate a better process for better Veteran experience.  Be it parking, too much paperwork, unclean area, or un-cheerful customer service, Greg will intervene if not creating a positive experience.

**Special Presentation**

Jim Marcille, Co-Chair to the Scholarship Committee made presentational certificates to show appreciation for three members who made donations to enable two more Scholarships. So, we now have six $2,000.00 scholarships to offer this year.  Brian Karsh, Bob Mallin, and Glen Payne were given Certificates of Appreciation.

**Lee White’s President Report:**

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

A jar of dry beans has been shown to the members for the past three months so members could guess to the number of dry beans in the jar.  Best guess wins a patriotic quilt and quilt rack.  The Winner announced today is Leo Greunke who guessed the closest to 3,109 beans.

This bean count guessing has generated $1,040.00 for this VVA Chapter.

**-VVA Lifetime Membership is now $50.00**.   On Oct. 20th, VVA National agreed to the Lifetime Membership being $50.00.  Three-year members will be changed to Lifetime. One-year memberships will be phased out and asked to become Life Members. Contact Dave Lyons, Tom Werzyn or Lee White if you want to apply for a VVA Lifetime Membership.

**-Poppy Drive is scheduled for May 25th and Nov 9th in 2019.**

We will need leaders and volunteers for each of 3-4 locations and as many helpers as we can get at each location.

 -**Event Schedule for 2019:**  We are actively scheduling events, and if you have some event to put on the VVA calendar, please see me after the meeting.

**-Standing Committee changes for 2019**—we need volunteers to be committee members; we need a Sgt. At Arms, A non-voting State Council member and a new Board Member or two.   Please let us know if you are interested in being more active in our VVA Chapter 1106.

-**Erwin Dreiling Estate Donation:**We have received a donation from the Dreiling Estate for which we are very grateful.

**Treasures Report**—Joe Plant:At the end of December 2018, we had $18,959.32 in the bank.

Veteran Assistance program: Issued $300.00 to a Veteran for a plane ticket to go get a trained dog to assist him.  We provided two other veterans with support for rent.  We have a letter  request from a Social Worker to apply for assistance.

**Secretary Report**—Glen Payne:

During January we reported the meeting minutes to all the membership by email and by snail mail.   Five FYI emails were sent out to the membership during the month.  Lee and I select issue emails to send to you.  If you do not want to receive these FYI emails, please notify Lee or Glen.

**WEBMASTER – Robert Rotruck** –We have recently updated the website.  Please take a look and give Bob your comments.  The most recent Newsletter is on the website.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – (3 minutes or less)

1.    Membership – Dave Lyons – 128 Members – 28 Associates – for a total of 156 members in VVA 1106.  Please encourage wives and significant others to join as Associate Members.

2.    Grants/Fund Raising – Milt Omoto.   A preliminary Event Calendar is on the website.   VA House hold pick-up services is available to you. Please use this service.  They collect clothing and household items.

3.    Agent Orange/PTSD – Women Veterans – Voices for Vets - Patti Ehline.

Pattie has information on PTSD if you would like to clarify how that pertains to you.  The VA has a new Health Card that does not have your SSN# on it.   Please register with the Agent Orange Registry.

     Pattie showed us the very thorough Pre-Surgery packet sent to her by the VA Hospital for her upcoming minor surgery.  Pattie has worked at hospitals for years, and she is impressed with the positive customer service approach at the VA Hospital Denver.

4.    Newsletter – Bob Rotruck:  The Jan/Feb 2019 Newsletter is posted on the web.

5.    Speaker’s Bureau – Bob Easter, Bob Mallin, Tom Werzyn, Glen Payne, and Donna Chaney. Ten individuals have expressed interest in speaking. We had a meeting with these 10 members to discuss speaker preparation for this type of speech.

6.    Scholarship Committee – Co-Chairs Mike Karsh and Jim Marcille; John Vargas,

Glen Payne.        Mike Karsh reported that the committee has obtained the new Scholarship marketing tri-folds from the printer.   The Application for the 2019 Scholarship of $2,000.00 is now posted on our VVA1106.com website.  The committee marketing effort schools will begin soon with school visits.

7.    Gov’t Affairs – Tony Nickerson: The Blue Water Navy Agent Orange Bill was referred back to the US Senate by the US Court of Appeals—a great step toward approval.  96 Veterans are now in the USA Congress—Senate and House. 7 are Women.

A new National Cemetery is being opened in Cheyenne, WY.

8.    Color Guard – Tony Nickerson: Volunteers as Color Guard members are needed.

   Will be working with the Honor Bell in March.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION** – Comments – Ideas – Issues from Membership – For the benefit of Chapter 1106 Members: (3 minutes or less)

**Barry Fiore** has Rockies Baseball game tickets for sale on May 26th, June 30th, Aug 4th, and one more game.  See Barry to buy tickets.

**Charles Smith** told us about his new book, entitled: The Artic Jungles of Vietnam.

He has a book signing on March 16 at Denver Veteran Center at 10 AM – 1 PM.

**Jack Hunter:**Please stop after meeting in the hall for a picture.

**Litta Plant-Schaper and Desiree Dayton** need 4-5 volunteers for a Bike Show on May 18th, which will have a raffle to raise money for this chapter.

Meeting Adjourned by: Lee White at: 10:51 AM

NEXT:  BREAK TIME – 10:30 – 10-45 AM - ENJOY A COFFEE REFILL AND SOCIALIZE

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**NEXT SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING:  SATURDAY, March 2, 2019.**

**LOCATION:  SOUTH METRO FIRE & RESCUE BUILDING, 9195 E. MINERAL AVE., CENTENNIAL, CO**

**THANK YOU ALL!!!!**

Submitted by:

Lee White, President VVA Chapter 1106 – South Metro Denver