

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Council of State Council Presidents
April 9, 2015 Meeting
Silver Spring, MD
Approved Minutes**

Meeting of Council of State Council Presidents was called to order by Chair Charlie Montgomery at 9:00 AM.

Wayne Reynolds led the devotions. A moment of silence was observed. The Pledge of Allegiance was done.

Agenda was corrected.

Charlie Montgomery said he and Nancy wanted to thank everybody for their cards and condolences after his nephews passing. His nephew was like a son to he and Nancy.

Charlie Montgomery reminded everyone to turn off their cell phones or put them on vibrate.

A sign in sheet was passed around with Chair Charlie Montgomery asking all present to put down their personal email address.

Roll Call of States: At the time of roll call the States at the meeting totaled 39; a quorum was met. Later in the meeting Indiana came in so there were 40 States in attendance. The following States were present:

Alabama		
Arizona	Michigan	Oklahoma
Arkansas	Minnesota	Oregon
California	Mississippi	Pennsylvania
Colorado	Missouri	Puerto Rico
Connecticut	Montana	Rhode Island
Florida	Nebraska	South Carolina
Georgia	Nevada	South Dakota
Idaho	New Jersey	Tennessee
Indiana	New Mexico	Texas
Kansas	New York	Vermont
Louisiana	North Carolina	Virginia
Maryland	North Dakota	Washington
Massachusetts	Ohio	West Virginia
		Wisconsin

Officers Present:

Chair - Charlie Montgomery

1st Vice - Dottie Barickman

2nd Vice Chair - Richard Lindbeck

- **Charlie Montgomery** announced that **Wayne Reynolds** was assigned and accepted the job of the parliamentarian. Wayne will continue as the parliamentarian until he decides not to.
- **Agenda:** Dave Simmons added an item to the agenda, to discuss destroying the ballots from the last CSCP elections. Item added. Agenda accepted.
- **Minutes:** Motion made to forego the reading of the minutes from the February 2015 CSCP meeting. Second and passed without objection.
- **Announcements: Wes Guidry** gave everyone the WIFI code for the meeting room. Wes told us about a new venture he was taking on, DJ for a radio station in Louisiana.
- Wes spoke about the restaurant in the hotel, the free breakfast (please leave a tip), the price of the lunch includes tax and tip.
- Wes talked about the upcoming CSCP February meeting wanting to hold it in Lake Charles, LA.
- He spoke about the upcoming National Convention, get your reservations in. Jefferson Starship/Jefferson Airplane will be performing Tuesday night. Not on the street as it has gotten too big. Concert will be in the convention hall.
- There will be free donuts and Pepsi during the convention. The AVVA luncheon, Wes is going.
- Wes spoke about making your reservations for the National Board meetings. You can ask for a specific room, double beds King bed, but that doesn't mean you will get that room. When you arrive at the hotel whatever room is available that is the room you will get. Can't guarantee a refrigerator, even for medication.
- **John Rowan** welcomed everyone. John spoke about the Toxic Exposure Bills. There are no numbers for the bills yet, John will be coming into Washington, DC for a press conference in hope of getting the numbers for the bills. His annual testimony in February was put off until May 20th due to the snow in Feb. He hopes the Toxic Exposure Bills will be signed by Memorial Day. He urged everyone to check to on their legislators as there have been some changes. Get to

know your legislators. John praised Gene Crego on the work he has done in Arizona.

- **Committee Reports:**

- **Scott DeArman**, Election Committee Chair, passed around a list of the candidates that they now have for the National Convention. He spoke about the difficulties they had getting the League of Women Voters to do the elections. They are coming from Peoria, IL, driving 134 miles round trip for the elections. He spoke about a constitution amendment they are submitting this year to do away with running from the floor, he then explained why. There was a question asked if the amendment is going against Roberts Rules of Order. Discussion had.
- **Joe Jennings**, Rules Committee Chair, went over the rules of the convention. He urged everyone to read the rules. He also advised everyone if you get up at the convention to speak please state your name and where you are from.
- **Jim Blount**, Credentials Committee, asked everyone to pre-register for the convention. He spoke about getting all required reports in early. There was a discussion about delegate count for chapters and state council being sent out. Bill Meeks will sent them out again. Make sure first time delegates have a copy of their DD 214 attached to the convention registration form. Jim spoke about how they will take care of any problems with credentialing. He explained to everyone how the delegates are seated at the convention, about having alternate delegates registered. All registration forms have to be signed by two officers, discussion on signatures.
- **Motion #0415001** by Charlie Montgomery to do away with the National Disciplinary Code/Policy/Procedures. Second by Ben Humphries. Charlie Montgomery explained his reasoning for the motion, the cost for all involved, and causing discontent among members. Motion discussed at length. An amendment to the motion was made to suspend the National Disciplinary Code, amended accepted, vote on amendment passed. Motion as amended voted taken, Amended Motion FAILED. Vote taken on original motion without the amendment, Motion FAILED.
- **Motion #0415002** by Sara McVicker to direct the CSCP Disciplinary Task Force to review the current National Disciplinary Policy and bring recommendations to the CSCP in October 2015. There was a second. Reason, the current policy has problems. Vote taken, motion PASSED. It was brought up that there was no discussion on the motion. Vote was voided and discussion was had. Vote again taken, motion PASSED.

- Discussion was had on problems with emails not going through to certain email addresses.
- **John Rowan** had a request that the Disciplinary committee reviewing the Disciplinary policy review one question about the National Presidents ability to revoke a temporary suspension. This can be done today.
- **Nate Washington** ask everyone to get any changes to the disciplinary policy to the task force by June 15, 2015.
- **Net Foote** spoke about the VVA film project. A Voice-The Birth of Vietnam Veterans of America. The film will be finished because Ned Foote formed a group to raise money to finish the film. Discussion was had.
- **Charlie Montgomery** handed out the updated roster of the CSCP. He asked everyone to look at the list and make sure everything is correct.
- **Officers Reports:**
- **Chair Charlie Montgomery** spoke about the project Faces for the Wall, check your state and help get all the pictures of those killed in. He spoke about the February CSCP meeting, it was good meeting. He spoke about a security system brought before the National Board in February and it was voted down.
- **1st Vice Chair Dottie Barickman** spoke about the third meeting in San Diego and the CSCP budget.
- **2nd Vice Chair Richard Lindbeck** spoke about the Toxic Exposure Bill. He also spoke about the Tomah VA in Wisconsin having a real problem, it is commonly known as the Candyland. The Psychiatrist was issuing opiate an extremely large rate. 24 unexplained deaths in 2000. Last March 30th there was a Senate hearing at the Tomah VA. Several employees fired.
- Charlie Montgomery had the alternates in attendance introduce themselves. Alternates in attendance were from Nevada, Colorado, Maryland and Texas.
- **Dottie Barickman** reported on the CSCP budget. The previous year's budget was used. Next year's budget has been submitted to the finance committee. Maybe put a line item in the budget for contributions.
- **By-laws:** No change.
- **Constitution: Barry Rice** spoke of the constitution amendment submitted by CSCP out of the San Diego meeting, reference the change that Alternate Regional Directors should be elected. Discussion was had.

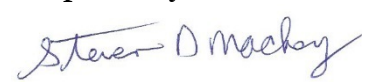
- **Veterans Benefits: Ben Humphries** asked everyone to get their grant reports in by the.
- **Government Affairs:** Richard Lindbeck spoke about the Toxic Exposure Bills, contact your legislators. Richard said he and Charlie Montgomery would be going to the Gov't Affairs meeting to get dates for going to the hill so they won't be on vacation when we go. Charlie Montgomery explained why we did not go to the hill this meeting.
- **Legislative Affairs: Gene Crego** explained that the staff is at the hill so you can talk to them. Gene and his wife Sue went to the hill Monday and Tuesday and talked to staff members there.
- **Motion #0415003** by Gene Crego for the CSCP to support bill H.R. 1581, Veterans Education Tax Security Act of 2015. Seconded. No discussion. Passed without objection.
- Gene discussed other bills including H.R. 303. He discussed Veterans Courts and Blue Water Navy.
- **Dick Southern** advised the CSCP that Utah State Council just received their Charter. He will be picking it up today and delivering it to Utah.
- **Women Veterans: Pattie Dumin** spoke about a donation to the Women's Memorial.
- **Minority Affairs: Gumersindo Gomez** spoke about a team of lawyers that were sent to Puerto Rico where they went through a back log of VVA cases. They also trained a service rep there. They are working on an Agent Orange Town Hall meeting in Puerto Rico.
- **Oversight Committee on CSCP Handbooks: Ron Zink** spoke about CSCP treasurer's handbook and that it would be presented to the VVA National Board tomorrow, 4-10-2015, for their approval. He spoke about changes to the treasurer's handbook that were handed to the committee yesterday and there is now way the committee could make those changes on such short notice. Lots of discussion.
- **Credentials: Charlie Montgomery** said we are all squared away. All the State Presidents and alternates are up to speed except one that is still out. Charlie explained the process of a new state president, filling out a SF180.

- **Membership: Beverly Stewart** advised of the number of members in VVA. Awards will be handed out at the convention.
- **Nate Washington:** Discussed the disciplinary policy changes. Get them to Nate by July. Nate read a motion from July 2009 that addressed temporary suspensions and being able to revoke the suspension. Lots of discussion on the issue.
- **Motion# 0415004** out of committee (Disciplinary) to have Charlie Montgomery take the motion to the National Board of Directors to insert into the National Disciplinary Policy “any and all temporary suspensions imposed by a State President, Regional Director or National Officer may not be reversed prior to the completion of the appropriate disciplinary action other than by a majority vote of the National Board of Directors. Motion PASSED.
- **Homeless Veterans: John Weiss** no report will submit written report.
- **Veterans against Drugs: Dave Simmons** spoke about the upcoming annual ice skating party behind the National office.
- **Motion #0415005** by Dave Simmons to destroy the ballots from last year’s CSCP elections. Seconded. PASSED without objection.
- **Political Action Committee: Dottie Barickman** announced the committee members. They will develop questions for the National Convention.
- **Discussion: Nate Washington** wanted to know if chapters or state councils are having problems calling National office. Discussion was had about the number of membership directors VVA has had at the National office. Lots of discussion on the membership department.
- **Round Table Discussion:** State council Presidents gave reports.
- **Dave Simmons** asked why the CSCP doesn’t wash the Wall anymore. Charlie Montgomery said we will have to check with the chapter in the area to see when they do it. It will be checked into.

Recessed at 4:56 PM.

There being no further business, Meeting was adjourned 04/11/2015 at 2:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Mackey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Steve Mackey
CSCP Secretary