

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Conference of State Council Presidents
February 19-20, 2010
Savannah, GA
Approved Minutes**

Meeting of the Conference of State Council Presidents was called to order by Chair Charlie Montgomery at 9:00 am on Friday, February 19, 2010.

John Weiss led devotions. The Pledge of Allegiance led by Dan Stanvold and a moment of silence followed for POW/MIA's, and our troops in harms way. Charlie Montgomery assigned Avery Taylor as Parliamentarian.

Roll Call of States: The States represented at the meeting totaled 27; a quorum was met. The following States were present:

ARIZONA	NEW MEXICO
CALIFORNIA	NEW YORK
CONNECTICUT	NORTH CAROLINA
FLORIDA	NORTH DAKOTA
GEORGIA	OHIO
IDAHO	PENNSYLVANIA
ILLINOIS	RHODE ISLAND
INDIANA	SOUTH CAROLINA
KANSAS	TENNESSEE
LOUISIANA	TEXAS
MASSACHUSETTS	VIRGINIA
MISSISSIPPI	WASHINGTON
MONTANA	WEST VIRGINIA
NEW JERSEY	

<u>Officers present were:</u>	Chair:	Charlie Montgomery
	1 st Vice Chair	Tom Burke
	2 nd Vice Chair	Bill Messer
	Secretary:	Billee Culin

Lionel Marmolejo, VP GA SC – Welcomed CSCP to Georgia and taked about the bus tour around Savannah. Tickets cost \$20 and Pat Bessignano will have the tickets.

Pete Laikakis, Chairman of Chatham County Commission – Welcomed the CSCP to Savannah and Georgia.

Carol Schetrompf – welcomed the members of the CSCP to Region 4.

John Rowan – talked about the new offices in Silver Spring, MD

The agenda was adopted with changes. The minutes of October 8, 2009 were accepted with changes.

Officers' Reports:

Charlie Montgomery – CSCP Chair

talked about his synopsis of the January BOD meeting and the HGP

Tom Burke – 1st Vice Chair

Needs expense reports by Friday at end of the meeting. Will give balance of his report later

Bill Messer – 2nd Vice Chair

No report – CSCP site update

Wes Guidry – had no report at this time.

Herb Worthington – How to Obtain Services Records – provided an extensive handout and much information for the presidents to disseminate to members at home in their individual states

John Rowan – Veterans Health Council – gave an update of what is going on with the Council and advised that there is a separate foundation set up for VHC. John advised that on 03/11/2010 there will be a showing of the HBO presentation of “The Pacific” and a dinner in New York City, NY

Jerry Klein – Veteran's Advocacy Jerry asked the question – Do you know what to do in April? Will there be enough people coming to the class? Let Bernie, Rick or Sharon know if you are coming.

The CSCP broke for lunch

Carol Schetrompf – Scholarship Grants – explained the Mike Nash Scholarships and how they are set up. Tom Burke (OH) presented Carol with a gift card for \$500 for the raffle.

Tom Burke, Ned Foote, Herb Worthington and Jerry Klein – CFC and Service Rep Programs – Tom went over the MOU with VSF and the requirements for grants. Discussed how to do the CFC program in your area. Herb talked about doing the CFC program in New Jersey.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Constitution Committee – Bill Messer

Chapter template for by-laws has now been approved.

Veterans Benefits – Jerry Klein

VA publish C&P Svc Bulletin. There is a PTSD Service modification and discussed Vet Benefit Mgmt System

Government Affairs – George Newell – No Report

Women Veterans – Beverly Stewart – advised that VA is finally doing a longterm health study of women in Vietnam and will be doing an outreach to obtain the information.

CSCP Handbook – Bob Johnston – wants presidents to purchase thumb drives to put the various information on for their files.

Credentials – Charlie Montgomery – No report

CSCP Disciplinary – Butch Hubner – No report

Membership – Marshall Mudge - Information on Dissolution of a Chapter and new membership application is on the Secretary's Website.

Veterans Healthcare – Pat Bessignano – reminded that service officers need to send in information about secondary illnesses

Nominations – David Simmons – reminded that elections for CSCP officers is coming up in July at Leadership Conference.

CSCP Budget – Tom Burke - extensive discussion was held about the justification of the validity of the third meeting. Suggestion was made that amend the bylaws to three “mandatory” meetings.

2011 CSCP Meeting – Wes Guidry

At the April 2009 meeting, Phoenix, AZ was chosen to be location of 2011 meeting by Motion #2 – presented by Wayne Reynolds. Motion has been pulled and Phoenix, AZ no longer location of meeting.

MOTION #1: To allow Wes Guidry to use his discretion on picking the most suitable site for the CSCP winter meeting. Motion made by Marshall

Mudge (MA) and seconded by Dan Stenvold (ND). Motion passed unanimously.

Wes will go to a few cities to find a place for the 2011 Winter Meeting.

SPECIAL REPORTS

FLORIDA – JERRY KLEIN – Spoke about HR4541 in Florida. If you are in an accident and receive funds as the result of the accident, legislation must be passed to not have these funds included as income.

NEW YORK – NED FOOTE – Discussed the Funeral Planning Guide that they have in New York. He passed out the tri-fold produced in NYS.

1. It educates the funeral directors
2. You must talk to and update the information that the funeral directors must know
3. Should put the “Paper Safe” information on the funeral directors' websites

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

OHIO – TOM BURKE -

1. Veteran Courts – concerted effort b4eing put forward to put this in place There will be a summit in March – will contribute to the meeting – judges and VA are the real powerhouses
2. ALL VSO's in Ohio are accredited by VVA by the Office of Veteran's Services
3. Looking for ideas for Leadership Conference.

NORTH DAKOTA – DAN STENVOLD

1. Conference was held about benefits for veterans
2. Has three start up kits for South Dakota – looks like they will have a state council
3. There is NO Dept of Veterans Affairs in South Dakota – fighting for it

TENNESSEE – CHARLIE HOBBS – advised that membership is growing in Tennessee

MONTANA – BEVERY STEWART – Gold Star Mother's License Plate has been approved

KANSAS – RON ZINK

1. Trying to get Gold Star Family license place
2. Dept VA – reinstate about 15 service officers

3. Working with United Access who need modified vehicles

IDAHO – BOB SEAL – there is one chapter that has not met in two years

– doing the process to fold the chapter but they are in good standing with National even though reports are incomplete.

WASHINGTON – BILLY ROBBINS – will prepare a presentation about Veteran Relief Funds. VSO's working closely with Vet Centers

TEXAS – BUSTER NEWBERRY

1. Membership growing- 107 chapters
2. Looking for revenue avenues
3. New \$10,000,000 Lottery in Texas that will help finance

VSO programs

NEW MEXICO – FRANK RAMIREZ

1. Doing funerals – biker group
2. Working on new chapter
3. \$10,000 grant received towards new van

ILLINOIS – LARRY FRIEDRICH – advised that he feels the CSCP is the most important body in VVA

INDIANA – PAT BESSIGNANO

1. New chapter is growing and exuberant and working well together
2. Working on Veterans Court
3. Spending time in Vet Centers
4. Received a \$10,000 grant from state, which is very hard to get

GEORGIA – LIONAL MARMOLEJO

1. New chapter in Cummings, GA
2. Talked about the St Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah

LOUISIANA – DENNIS ANDRAS

1. Hurricane foundation has been set up
2. Doing a Skeet Shooting Fundraiser
3. Represented VVA at Jewish War Veterans Convention

Gave out Veteran Health Council Tri-folds

PENNSYLVANIA – DAVE JOHNSTON

1. Reported that Jeff White is doing well
2. Household Goods program to start in five county Philadelphia reas
3. Two new chapters – total now 29 chapters

MASSACHUSETTS – MARSHALL MUDGE

1. Veterans Court bill is going to the legislature
2. Have two new Chapter Kits out
3. Massachusetts has a Veterans Assistance Fund for up to \$1,350 monthly

NORTH CAROLINA – JOE KRISTEK

1. Have a new chapter – now have 19 chapters
2. Member of NC Veterans Council – Opening a 100 bed vet home and have submitted plans for another

FLORIDA – JERRY KLEIN

1. Have vet courts in Palm Beach County
2. Have a mentoring program
3. Most of the dissolved chapters are coming back
4. Doing a Powerpoint Training Session

SOUTH CAROLINA – AVERY TAYLOR

1. State is doing well
2. Need to work on chapter participation

NEW YORK – NED FOOTE – no report

RHODE ISLAND – JOHN WEISS

1. Now have a Dept of Veterans Affairs
2. Reported about Mickey Owens doing Winter Sports in New England
3. VA Providence has new prothesis wing
4. To start a Fisher House

WEST VIRGINIA – DAVE SIMMONS

1. One chapter was folding but has been brought back
2. Have three start up kits out
3. Has an AVVA chapter
4. Dream Foundation – Build a Bear – gave out 300
5. Did a three day StandDown

NEW JERSEY – HERB WORTHINGTON

1. Membership is up and down – will do a new marketing program
2. Will be doing CFC
3. Still meet every plain coming/doing
4. Making sure remains of vets in funeral homes has honorable burial

ARIZONA – BILL MESSER

1. Town home Phoenix for family at Phoenix, VA Hospital
2. Judicial Board
3. VSO program going well

CONNECTICUT – BILLEE CULIN

1. Now have three VSO's
2. Member of Veterans at The Capital Committee
3. Working with CT VAHealthcare regarding housing for homeless vets
4. Working on Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in Connecticut

VIRGINIA – CHARLIE MONTGOMERY

1. Have a new governor who is a veteran
2. Joint Leadership Conference - 1st year attending and representing VVA
3. 3 grants for local VA hospitals

Questions were raised regarding the Hardship Policy wording. Charlie set up the Hardship Policy Committee consisting of Dave Simmons (Chair), Bob Seal and Bill Messer.

John Rowan – gave some closing remarks.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm. Charlie Montgomery advised that the next CSCP Meeting will be in Silver Spring, MD with combined meeting with the National BOD April 15-18, 2010. Remember to make your room reservations.

Respectfully submitted,

Billee Culin

BILLEE CULIN
Secretary CSCP