

Vietnam Veterans of America
Conference of State Council Presidents
January 21-22, 2011
Redwood City, CA
Approved Minutes

Meeting of the Conference of State Council Presidents was called to order by Chair Charlie Montgomery at 9:00 am on Friday, January 21, 2011.

Wayne Reynolds of Alabama led devotions. Chapter 201 AVVA Color Guard San Jose, CA, presented the colors. The Pledge of Allegiance was done and a moment of silence followed for POW/MIA's, and our troops in harms way.

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

ALABAMA	KANSAS	PENNSYLVANIA
ARIZONA	LOUISIANA	RHODE ISLAND
ARKANSAS	MONTANA	SOUTH CAROLINA
CALIFORNIA	NEBRASKA	TENNESSEE
CONNECTICUT	NEVADA	VERMONT
FLORIDA	NEW MEXICO	VIRGINIA
GEORGIA	NORTH DAKOTA	WASHINGTON
IDAHO	OHIO	WEST VIRGINIA
IOWA	OREGON	WISCONSIN

<u>Officers present were:</u>	Chair:	Charlie Montgomery - Virginia
	1 st Vice Chair	Tom Burke - Ohio
	2 nd Vice Chair	Billee Messer - Arizona
	Secretary:	Avery Taylor – South Carolina

Opening Remarks:

Steve Mackey, CA state president.

Dick Southern, Region 9 Director

John Rowan, National President

Housekeeping:

Charlie Montgomery assigned Wayne Reynolds of Alabama as Parliamentarian.

The agenda was adopted with amendments to reverse presentations from Dave Simmons and John Rowan.

The minutes of October 7, 2010, were accepted as amended.

Officers' Reports:

Charlie Montgomery – CSCP Chair –

Announced Kathleen Atwood, wife of Randy Barnes, passed away. BOD action TBD.

Gave recap of activities from the January BOD meeting:

Household goods program establishing an 800 number that will route all calls to appropriate states and that drop boxes are being set up in various places.

The AVVA now has their web site up and running.

The "In Memory" plaque changes have been defined and donations are being solicited to complete the changes. A rededication of the completed plaque will take place in April.

S. Dakota now has three chapters so hopefully we will get another state council incorporated soon.

VVA is currently ranked 12 of 63 organizations supporting the VAVS program.

The 2014 Leadership conference will be in Wichita, KS.

The NAACP Convention adopted a program to work with VVA and the VHC.

Mike Townes made a presentation on the planning and activities for the 50th anniversary of the VN war Commemoration.

The Public Affairs department announced plans to expand two issues of *The Veteran Magazine* a year from 48 to 60 pages, all articles and news (no additional ads.)

States are being asked to solicit nominees for recipients of various convention awards. More information about each of the awards is available in several places.

Organizational finances are within plans, with 79% of planned revenue and 71% of budgeted expenses reported as of 1/15/11.

A new IRS ruling raises the income ceiling for 990-N filers from \$25K to \$50K. Now almost every chapter in the nation will do an e-file using the 990-N.

A new law to take effect in 2012 requires all chapters and state councils to report 1099-misc information for any supplier/vendor with whom they do more than \$600 annual business with. We are hopeful that this will be repealed before it takes affect.

If you are not on direct deposit, travel expense checks will be processed and mailed out a week after the event.

Ray Jefferson, Asst. Secretary of Training and Development for the VA made a very motivational presentation.

The USAA made a proposal to partner with the VVA.

An MOU for the National Veterans Legal Services was agreed on.

Veterans Service Officer training will be conducted in April. Our Service Rep roster is undergoing a significant review and purge of inactive and invalid entries.

We had the highest participation in the CFC in a long time and will do the campaign again next year.

The National office will be reviewing and correcting a variety of complaints and suggestions with Medals of America, including AVVA products, women's products, and issues with "high prices."

Tom Burke – 1st Vice Chair – Ohio –

Reminded everyone that chapter certifications are due by February 28.

Service officer reports are due April 30.

The 2nd draft of the Legislative Agenda has been completed.

Bill Messer – 2nd Vice Chair - Arizona –

Jim Vail is collecting information from all states on their VSO programs.

Chapter 106 has started an "In Memory Tree" program for the AZ tragedy.

Wes Guidry:

General announcements about the hotel and the area.

Special Presentation:

Ted Puntillo, Deputy Secretary VSD, CA Dept of Veterans Affairs, made a presentation on the CA Veterans Homes.

National President report:

John Rowan reiterated items from the BOD meeting. Additionally he mentioned that

States should develop Legislative Agendas

We are considering teaming up with the NRA to provide a program to teach gun safety to children.

National is looking at reworking the MOA contract to get chapter prices lower.

The CARES programs, where the VA is selling off property, has got to be stopped. Please send any information you may have regarding such plans to National.

Planning to devote two hours at the convention to the topic of the Future of VVA.

Spent some time discussing the origins and role of our At-Large Directors.

Elections committee – Dave Simmons, WV

Submitted **motion number 001:** To approve John Weiss (RI), Charlie Stapleton (MO), and Bev Stewart (MT) to the 2011-2013 CSCP Nominating committee and to have Bill Messer as the time keeper. Carried.

Veterans Against Drugs:

Dave Simmons showed and distributed copies of video from Veterans Against Drugs committee. The DVD was interviews with inmates of Angola Prison in Louisiana regarding their experiences and how drugs came into play.

Minorities in VVA:

Jerry Yamamoto gave a presentation on Minority membership demographics and recruitment.

He also requested each council to establish a point of contact person for the National Minority Affairs committee.

15th Convention 2011:

Resolutions and Constitution amendments are due by April 1.

May start making reservations now.

Chapters and Councils must complete any transfers of members for delegate counts before 2/28.

Motion 002: To have a question and answer session for the National Officer Candidates conducted by a CSCP committee to be appointed by the Chair. Time to be coordinated with the convention committee. Carried.

Chairman Montgomery appointed Bill Messer, chair, with members Dottie Brickman and Bob Seal. Charlie Montgomery as advisor.

Floor was open for potential amendment proposals. Term Limits was briefly discussed but no action taken.

VVA Talklist:

Dick Southern announced that the CSCP talklist is not used very much and explained how to post information. He encouraged everyone to use Snopes prior to passing along messages to verify they are valid. He also pointed out that there is free s/w available from Microsoft that enables users of earlier Word programs to be able to read .DOCX files (from Word07). Just go to their website to download the patch.

Budget Committee – Tom Burke, Ohio

Motion 003: To accept the proposed CSCP FY2011 budget. Carried.

Agent Orange Issues:

John Weiss gave a general review of the AO issues and updates as to what is happening.

Fund Raising Option:

Loretta Brown (wife of Darrel Brown) presented a program where chapters and councils can buy into (\$149) and become “associates” of “Pre-Paid Legal Services.” Associates are authorized to sell plans in several programs. A portion of the monthly fees people pay for the plan is rebated to the “associate” who signed that person on.

Venue for Next Winter:

Four places were suggested. Lake Charles, LA, Corpus Christie, TX, Tampa, FL, and Charleston, SC. Wes will investigate and report back in April.

Blitz the Hill:

The National Government Affairs committee is offering to train and assist the CSCP with an opportunity to visit new delegates from each state.

CSCP expressed a complete interest in doing this. Tentative plans are to have a training session on Wednesday evening, April 13 beginning about 6:00 p.m. and then have everyone bussed to the government offices where they will meet at the offices of their freshman delegates. The National Government Affairs staff will make arrangements. This will be further discussed on the CSCP talklist. Everyone is encouraged to wear their ribbons.

Bobbie J. Award

The Homeless Veterans Committee has announced a new award to be presented annually at the summer National Event to a formerly homeless veteran (any era.) All states are encouraged to publicize and promote this award.

Round Table Discussions – Went around the table and SCP spoke about what is going on in some of their states that is of interest to the CSCP members

Members from the local chapter, 464, joined the meeting and offered transportation to those wishing to visit downtown San Francisco.

It was suggested that a 1099-N class be offered next year. This will be considered.

There being no new business, Meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am on January 22, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Avery Taylor

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CSCP Secretary