

Vietnam Veterans of America
Conference of State Council Presidents
October 10, 2013
Silver Spring, MD
Pre-Approved Minutes

Meeting of the Conference of State Council Presidents was called to order by Chair Charlie Montgomery at 9:00 am on Thursday, October 10, 2013.

Opening service conducted with Wayne Reynolds leading the Invocation.

Roll Call of States: The states represented at the meeting totaled 38 of 48; a quorum was met. The following States were present:

ALABAMA	MICHIGAN	OKLAHOMA
ARIZONA	MINNESOTA	OREGON
ARKANSAS	MISSISSIPPI	PENNSYLVANIA
CALIFORNIA	MISSOURI	PUERTO RICO
COLORADO	MONTANA	RHODE ISLAND
FLORIDA	NEBRASKA	SOUTH CAROLINA
GEORGIA	NEVADA	TENNESSEE
IDAHO	NEW JERSEY	VERMONT
INDIANA	NEW MEXICO	VIRGINIA
KANSAS	NEW YORK	WASHINGTON
LOUISIANA	NORTH CAROLINA	WEST VIRGINIA
MAIN	NORTH DAKOTA	WISCONSIN
MARYLAND	OHIO	

The following states were absent:

Alaska	Iowa	New Hampshire
Connecticut	Kentucky	South Dakota
Delaware	Massachusetts	Texas
Illinois		

Officers present were:

Chair:	Charlie Montgomery - Virginia
1 st Vice Chair	Dottie Barickman - Nebraska
Secretary:	Avery Taylor – South Carolina

Housekeeping:

The agenda was adopted without objection

Charlie Montgomery assigned Wayne Reynolds, AL, as Parliamentarian.

The minutes of April 18, 2013, were accepted without change.

Announcements: Wes Guidry announced hotel buffet luncheon at \$12.95 and the hotel has a new General Manager. He also passed out National Meetings calendars.

National Officer Reports:

John Rowan, National President made opening remarks to the assembly and announced some staff reorganization. He further discussed the Union Veterans Council of the AFL-CIO and encouraged members to become involved with them and suggested having a table or exhibit at a meeting or conference of the AFL-CIO.

Marsha Four, National Vice President discussed her duties and assignments with staff oversight performed by spending 3-4 days every 3 weeks in the national office and holding monthly staff meetings and director meetings. The motions guidebook is being made available online and improved office security is being put in place.

Bill Meeks, National Secretary, Discussed communications channels and questioned why so many email updates. Also requested all states to insure they have an email distribution list of all chapters in their state.

Wayne Reynolds, National Treasurer, Discussed current contracts.

AVVA Report: Sharon Hobbs, National AVVA President, announced their goal is to increase membership to 10K along with some strategies to accomplish this. Also, the AVVA will prepare a legislative agenda next year and hope to be allowed to present it to congress. Encouraged chapters to develop fund raisers with some of the proceeds earmarked for the AVVA units affiliated with them (money retained in chapter treasury.)

Upcoming CSCP Meetings: Wes Guidry announced we must occupy 35 rooms or “eat the cost” at the Winter meeting. Also discussed possibility of having a Winter meeting aboard a cruise ship. The CSCP requested this be further investigated and reported back.

CFC Presentation: Dick Southern reiterated the importance of getting pledges during the campaign (Sept through December) and encouraged all states to get involved. He discussed strategies, when, where, who, and how to participate in the program.

Miscellaneous Reports:

Grant Coats remarked about the Veterans Initiative information on the WEB site and requested all presidents provide their state POW/MIA contact information.

Herb Worthington discussed Agent Orange task force initiatives and requested all states provide contact info for their AO Chair. He reported that HR2619 does not agree with the VVA objectives as it is providing relief for Vietnamese only.

Officer Reports:

1st Vice Chair: Dottie Barickman discussed the travel reimbursement accounting procedure for 2013 and how it will be done for the Winter meeting in AK.

CSCP Reports:

CSCP Budget: Wayne Reynolds reported on the budget to actual status and that there will be little money left to support the Winter meeting in AK.

Veterans Benefits: John Margowski requested all service officers to get set up on Vet Pro and to contact Jim Vale if there are any problems encountered.

Government Affairs: Rich Lindbeck announced that the Death Benefit was reinstated on Wednesday.

CSCP Handbook: Dave Simmons reported that a new release of the handbook has been updated. It will be made available on flash drives in October of 2014 after the next state council elections.

Credentials Committee: Charlie Montgomery reported we are currently up to date.

Membership: Rossie Nance gave an update on the current membership numbers.

Veterans Healthcare: Pat Bessigano reported on secondary illnesses after prostate cancer and where to go for information on additional benefits.

Veterans Incarcerated: Terry Hubert reported there are 51 prison systems in the country making the program rather complex. States should participate in the committee meetings to learn how to set up incarcerated chapters.

Veterans Against Drugs: Dave Simmons discussed issues of campers encountering meth labs in the woods; problems with people watching for prescriptions being delivered to mail boxes of people known to be taking certain drugs; and that kids are mixing hand sanitizer with OJ – and dying from the concoction.

Political Action Committee: Dottie Barickman announced the CSCP elections will be in October 2014 instead of during the Leadership Conference in August.

Round Table Discussion: At 2:10 the CSCP went into a round table to allow states to discuss what they have been doing since the last meeting.

A question was raised about what should be done about CSCP officers and committee chairs who “never” show up. This was deferred to the By-Laws committee for review/revision.

It was announced that the Wounded Warrior Project that is getting so much TV advertising is spending over 60% of the donations in “administrative” costs. Contributors should be careful to make donations to the DOD only and not to the marketing company based in Jacksonville, FL.

Motion 1013001 made by Terry Courville for the CSCP to write a letter of thanks to the Fisher House Family Foundation for Fallen Heros. Passed without objection.

It was suggested we should “take the Hill” again in April.

Motion 1013002 made by Pat Bessigano to block additional rooms to enable the Hill event to be done on Wednesday. Passed by voice vote.

The plan to extend our meeting by one day was deferred to Wes Guidry to check with the hotel on availability. [On Saturday at 11:40, Wes reported to the CSCP that rooms were not available on Wednesday. The CSCP will plan to do the “Hill” event on Thursday morning with the general meeting in the afternoon.]

There being no further business, Meeting was recessed 10/10 at 4:45p.m. and adjourned 10/12 at 3:04 p.m.

(Complete audio transcript available on request using Digital Voice Editor 3.3.)

Respectfully submitted,

Avery Taylor

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CSCP Secretary