

Vietnam Veterans of America
Conference of State Council Presidents
February 27-28, 2014
Anchorage, AK
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, February 27, 2014.

Opening service conducted with Wayne Reynolds leading the Invocation.

Ric Davidge welcomed everyone to Anchorage on behalf of Alaska state council president David Tweden, who was running late. Ric also introduced his son, Patrick, who is a 4 year veteran of Iraq and a senior at the University of AK, majoring in American History.

Ric also introduced Justin from the "Oathkeepers" who gave a short presentation of what that organization is all about.

Roll Call of States: The states represented at the meeting totaled 25 of 48; a quorum was met. The following States were present:

ALABAMA	MICHIGAN	PENNSYLVANIA
ALASKA	NEBRASKA	SOUTH DAKOTA
CALIFORNIA	NEVADA	SOUTH CAROLINA
COLORADO	NEW JERSEY	TEXAS
FLORIDA	NEW MEXICO	VIRGINIA
IDAHO	NEW YORK	WASHINGTON
KANSAS	NORTH CAROLINA	WISCONSIN
LOUISIANA	OHIO	
MASSACHUSETTS	OREGON	

The following states were absent:

ARIZONA	KENTUCKY	NORTH DAKOTA
ARKANSAS	MAIN	OKLAHOMA
CONNECTICUT	MARYLAND	PUERTO RICO
DELAWARE	MINNESOTA	RHODE ISLAND
GEORGIA	MISSISSIPPI	TENNESSEE
ILLINOIS	MISSOURI	VERMONT
INDIANA	MONTANA	WEST VIRGINIA
IOWA	NEW HAMPSHIRE	

Officers present were:

Chair:

Charlie Montgomery - Virginia

1st 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.

Ric Davidge announced he had arranged for a bus to pick everyone up at 5:00p.m. and take the conference to visit the Veterans Memorial and then on to his house for dinner.

John Rowan presented Ric Davidge with the VVA Commendation Medal. He also discussed the issue of personality disorder discharges, stating that over 35% of them are misdiagnosed and should be PTSD or one of several other causes.

The minutes of October 10, 2013, were accepted without change.

Officer Reports:

Charlie Montgomery reported he had sent the letter of appreciation to the Fisher House Foundation for their actions in October when the military death benefits had been suspended. He had also prepared the budget proposal for the chair of the CSCP.

Dottie Barickman reported what numbers to use for completing the travel expense reports.

CSCP Budget: The final results for FY2013/14 budget to actual were reviewed. The proposed budget for FY2014/15 was discussed and will be presented at the budget meeting in Silver Spring.

DD214 Issue: To satisfy the IRS requirement that membership proof of eligibility has been satisfied they will accept the National Membership database indicator that the DD214 has been reviewed. Since this is sufficient proof, the preferred solution is to have each chapter review their membership roster and try to obtain a copy of the DD214 from each member where the indicator says “no” and submit these to the National membership department. Once the indicator shows up as “yes” the chapter no longer needs to retain a copy.

Also, during this discussion, it was pointed out that the IRS has a new form, Form 8822-B, that must be completed every time there is a change in the chapter or state council finance contact.

Honorary Life Memberships: Joe Kristek reviewed the new form to be proposed to the BOD in April. The CSCP requested changes be made to the MIA statement to insure the family concurs with the membership and that there be a statement that the honorary membership has or has not been endorsed by the appropriate state council.

There was also discussion about things we can do for Hmong (Laotian mountain people) and other non US citizens who fought with US soldiers. The statement was made that we can conduct military funerals and present certificates of appreciation to them but that honorary membership is something reserved for people who do something significant for VVA but are not eligible for regular membership. We can, and do, offer free paid life memberships when it is appropriate to do so.

Distribution of chapter and state rosters: The rosters are sent out per the recipients wishes as hard copy or electronic format. E-format is preferable for the National office

for speed, simplicity, and cost and should be for the recipients because the data can be searched and formatted to meet special needs. E-formats are RTF, Excel, and PDF. The only authorized recipients are the President and/or Membership Chair as reported on the most recent election report. Please discuss with your chapters and insure each informs Mary Stout, mstout@vva.org, of the format desired.

CSCP Winter Meeting: General discussion on the venue selection and timing preference (relative to the BOD meetings) of the annual winter meeting. Issues considered: Central location – no travel advantages; same location as Convention/Conf – good bargaining power but seasonal differences could negate any advantage; having it held soon after January BOD meeting considered best timing.

MOTION 0214001: made by Wayne Reynolds **To authorize Wes Guidry to contract to have the 2015 CSCP Winter meeting at the same venue in Springfield, IL as the Convention, with a preference for a date in February.**

Motion carried with OH, NJ, NY, MA voting Nay, NC abstain.

There will need to be a change to the CSCP By-laws made in April to support a permanent change in venue selection/timing of the Winter meeting.

CFC Presentation: Dick Southern reiterated the importance of getting pledges during the campaign (Sept through December) and encouraged all states to get involved. The main concern is “how do we get non-stakeholders to be supportive and involved in the program.” He proposed obtaining display boards for ALL states hoping to get some buy-in. He pointed out that VSF donations have dropped yearly and this trend needs to be reversed. A probable cause is that many Vietnam veterans are retiring from Civil Service and we don’t have as many inside spokespeople to support our cause.

Public Affairs PSA: Tom Burke was scheduled to show two of our newest You Tube videos but we did not have a projector (normally use the one Dave Simmons has) so he just described them. These can be accessed from the National web site via the “Who We Are” tab. The new ones that he was discussing are “A History of VVA” and “The 2013 Convention Highlights.” The “Highlights” show is in a PSA format that makes a great presentation for chapters, and could serve to encourage attendance at the conventions.

“Going To the Hill” in April: There was discussion and concern about how the notice of the AO Briefing came about. The CSCP was never involved in the planning and production of this briefing yet the invitations implied it was a CSCP event and they were sent to state presidents as a complete surprise. A general concern is the loss of staff support for the “Take The Hill” event planned by the CSCP.

You should keep your scheduled appointments and continue to make appointments with your delegation and staff. The AO Briefing is a separate event and is optional. You may want to do both.

April CSCP Meeting: The April meeting will be on Thursday, April 10, from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., allowing sufficient time for the buses to return from Capitol Hill.

CSCP Bylaws: The CSCP bylaws need to be reviewed and updated.

Motion 0214002 made by chair to **remove Darrel Martin from the Bylaws committee and add Ben Humphries and appoint Mr. Humphries as committee chair.** Accepted w/o objection.

CSCP Document Reviews: There was some discussion about the fact that the National Secretary was performing document reviews and proposing updates for the BOD to approve without first going through the CSCP for comment.

Motion 0214003 made by Dottie Barickman to **Have the CSCP establish an oversight committee to monitor documents created by the CSCP (such as the handbooks and policies) and recommend updates to the corporation when needed.** Accepted w/o objection. Committee established with Tom Burke, John Riling, and Ron Zink.

CSCP Talklist: The talklist is not being used as much as it should. Discussion indicated there was concern about just who was seeing messages posted on the talklist. Delegates were concerned about the privacy of their posts. The Talklist group consists only of the state presidents, their designated alternates, National President, and the Moderator, Dick Southern. However, it must be stated that anything posted on the internet can be copied and sent elsewhere so there is no guarantee of a selected and limited distribution of posts.

Meeting recessed for the day at 3:30 p.m. and reconvened at 0900 Friday.

Day 2 roll call taken: All the same delegates were in attendance.

Request to Reconsider: Wes Guidry expressed concern about motion #001 requesting he book the Chicago hotel for the 2015 Winter meeting.

Motion 0214004 To Rescind motion 0214001. Passed with AL & NB voting Nay and NC abstaining.

Motion 0214005 made by Terry Courville To **Continue to allow the Meeting Planner to research the best options for the Winter CSCP meeting, considering weather, travel options, and other factors relevant to obtaining the best overall price.**

Ammended to include: **“and report the findings to the CSCP in October each year for approval.”**

Passed by voice vote with NC abstaining.

“Going To the Hill” in April Update:

An update on what is being planned for the April meeting:

- If you want to attend the AO Briefing please let Sharon Hodge know by 3/17
- Also let her know of any spouses, delegate alternates, and others planning to attend
- It is open to the public but is not being advertised
- The Advocacy Training workshop is Wednesday evening from 6 – 8p.m.
- The busses will leave the Capitol area at noon Thursday to return to the hotel.

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

Wes Guidry discussed the VVA booking procedures. He stated the hotel has a master list of people authorized for VVA to pay ½ of room. Also, if you are not on this master list

when you book your room you will need to ask for the VVA rate. He also announced that VVA is leaving the Sheridan at the end of this contract (January, 2015) and will be using the hotel next door to the VVA Office. He also reviewed the "Lets Travel" booking procedure and issues.

Dan Stenvold (North Dakota) who was not present at the meeting wanted to let everyone know that Canada was recalling all Vietnam Veteran license plates. They are planning to issue new plates with different eligibility requirements. Dan wanted the CSCP to endorse a letter of concern to the Canadian Government that he would prepare.

Motion 0214006 made by Skip Hochreich **That the CSCP send the letter of concern to the Canadian Government.** Passed w/o objection.

John Riling announced he would like to design pins, patches, and other items as special CSCP products. The proceeds of sales could go to the CSCP Coffee fund or other purposes. Items could also be made available to past CSCP members. The chair requested he proceed with plans.

There being no further business, Meeting was adjourned 02/28 at 11:42a.m.
(Complete audio transcript available on request using Digital Voice Editor 3.3.)

Respectfully submitted,

Avery Taylor

Avery Taylor

CSCP Secretary