

**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Council of State Council Presidents  
October 9, 2014 Meeting  
Silver Spring, MD  
Approved Minutes**

Meeting of Council of State Council Presidents was called to order by Chair Charlie Montgomery at 9:01 am on October 9, 2014.

Wayne Reynolds led the devotions. A moment of silence for the POW/MIA's and our troops in harm's way. The Pledge of Allegiance was done.

Charlie Montgomery reminded everyone to silence their cell phones.

Charlie Montgomery mentioned that it was not proper to call everyone guys. Protocol says to say Ladies and Gentlemen. He will try to remember to say Ladies and Gentlemen.

Charlie Montgomery announced the CSCP would be having elections today as the last order of business. He was going to give the nomination committee time to speak this morning about the elections. The election chair will let us know how the elections will be held. Without objection we will do it that way. No objections.

Charlie Montgomery let everyone know that Steve Mackey was the acting Secretary sitting in for the secretary, Avery Taylor, who could not be at the meeting.

**Roll Call of States:** The States at the meeting totaled 40; a quorum was met. The following States were present:

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

- **Officers present were:**           Chair    Charlie Montgomery  
  1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair   Dottie Brickman
- **John Riling, Michigan**, asked the Chair if the new state presidents could stand and introduce themselves. All the new State Presidents stood and introduced themselves.
- The new presidents were from New Jersey, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Ohio, Illinois and North Carolina.
- **Wayne Reynolds** was assigned and accepted the job of the parliamentarian.
- The agenda was adopted as presented. The minutes of the April 18, 2015 meeting accepted without objection.
- **John Rowan, National President** welcomed the state council presidents. President Rowan asked how many SC Presidents have been president for more than 10 years, then between 5 and 10. CSCP Chair Charlie Montgomery asked what about 20 or more. Charlie Montgomery stated he has been over 20 years, John Rowan mentioned Butch was over 20 years and Charlie Montgomery mention Darryl Martin has been a SC president over 20 years, since 1989.
- President Rowan spoke of the VA Town Hall meetings, asking the SC presidents if they have been to one yet. He asked if everyone had seen his letter he sent to the Secretary of VA Affairs. He talked about West LA VA land lease of 1888 giving the West LA land to the veteran. West LA VA heads said all the land leases were now going to be controlled by central office. He has asked Rick Weidman to track down who the central office is so he can contact them.
- President Rowan spoke of the time payment being phased out.
- **Motion 1014001** made by Wayne Reynolds for the CSCP to support terminating all time life payments effective 02-28-2015. Passed without objection.
- **Wes Guidry** explained why every SC President did not have a microphone in front of them. He advised us of the February CSCP meeting to be held in San Diego, CA, cutoff date to register at hotel is Jan. 19, 2015. He also spoke about making your reservations for the National Board meetings. New hotel starting in Jan. 2015. He spoke about the hotel reservations for the upcoming National Convention in IL. Gene Greco, AZ, brought up about going to the hill in April 2015.

- **Motion 1014002** made by Dottie Brickman for the CSCP to attend the hill session April 2015, which means we come in one day early, subject to availability of rooms. Motion seconded, lots of discussion. Passed without objection.
- **Marsha Four** spoke about starting a working group to see where VVA is going, where we want to be and what are we going to do in the end. What are we going to do with our assets? What about our staff? The working group will be a living body that moves forward to record the ideas. This working group is not about making a decision-we are working for something far greater than that.
- **CSCP Handbooks** Ron Zink, Richard Lindbeck and John Weiss have gone through the handbooks. Ron started to go through the President's book hitting the highlights. Charlie Montgomery interrupted and told everyone he had sent the handbooks out on the Presidents talks. He wanted to know if everyone received them. Ron Zink again started going through the changes to the president's handbook.
- **Motion** made by Ben Humphries to adopt all handbooks as presented, a second was made. After discussion Ben Humphries withdrew his motion.
- **Ron Zink** started to go through the Treasurers handbook. Most of the presidents that were present could not find where in the handbook to follow with Ron's corrections.
- **Motion 1014003** made by Dottie Brickman to postpone the reading and approval of the three handbooks until the CSCP February 2105 meeting. Passed without objection.
- Discussions on the handbooks continued for a short time.
- **Elections-Nominating Committee Chair** Dave Simmons thanked his committee. Dave named the list of candidates. Dave then opened up nominations from the floor. Rex Moody was nominated from the floor for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-chair.

Secretary cast one vote for the Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-chair and Secretary.

CSCP will have to vote for position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-chair. Recommendation from election committee member to vote by ballot. Both candidates running for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-chair then spoke to the body. Questions were asked and answered.

Ballots were cast by the state presidents. Chair of the election committee collected the ballots and exited the hall to have them counted. CSCP business continued while ballots were counted.

**Chair** Montgomery spoke about quest speakers and the length of their talks, wanted to make sure all SC President were okay with letting the speakers talk.

- **Chair Montgomery** again apologized for the handbook issue. Every two years we should be going over the handbooks and approving them.
- **Officers Reports:**
  - Chair Charlie Montgomery discussed going to the Leadership Conference, good conference, well attended and especially by new members.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-chair Dottie Brickman spoke about the SC president's reimbursement forms for the CSCP meeting. Dottie spoke about the CSCP's current budget. Dottie let us know she is working on next year's budget and will get it to Charlie Montgomery for his review before going to finance committee.
- **Elections revisited:** Dave Simmons announced the outcome of the election for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-chair, Richard Lindbeck was elected to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-chair.
- **By laws and Policies:** Chair Ben Humphries spoke about two changes to the CSCP by-laws. Both changes were motions out of committee.
  - **Motion 1014004** out of CSCP by-laws committee, Article III, Section 5, delete section #5. Passed without objection
  - **Motion 1014005** out of CSCP by-laws committee, Article V, section 3, delete "The first meeting to be held after June" **Add** "October CSCP meeting of the even number years shall be the election meeting. The last order of business will be the election of officers". Passed without objection.
  - Reviewed Travel assistance, no changes, passed without objection.
  - Reviewed Travel reimbursement, no changes, passed without objection.
- **Constitution:** Barry Rice spoke about the issue of whether state council officers can vote at state council meetings and who is a delegate and who isn't.
  - **Motion 1014006**, out of committee, to amend the constitution at next year's convention," All officers and directors who have not been elected a delegate by a chapter will be designated a delegate of the council." Lots of discussion. Question called and second. Passed without objection. Motion passed without objection.

- **Veterans Benefits:** get your reports in.
- **Government Affairs:** Two bills before legislators, HR 5484 Toxic Research act. Senate Bill 2738. Contact your legislators.
- **Women Veterans:** No report.
- **CSCP Handbooks:** Will be on the new disk done by Dave Simmons when they are finished.
- **Credentials Chair:** Charlie has everyone up to speed.
- **Membership:** Mary Stout spoke about the online roster program, the suspended chapters, Life Member Time Payment Program. **Charlie Hobbs** spoke about his rip to Kokomo to set up a membership recruitment tent. Great turnout.
- **Veterans Health:** Pat Bessignano talked about concentrating on COPD, countless members on oxygen as well as secondary illnesses.
- **Nate Washington** talked about heart disease and his heart transplant. If you are 65 or older VA will not give you a heart transplant. Don't give up.
- **John Minor** spoke about a letter he received National Association of Veteran Homes. The VA has a concern about domiciliary care. VA says they won't cover veterans that go into domiciliary as patients. The homes have stopped taking veterans in.
- **Veterans against Drugs:** Dave Simmons spoke about his trip to the Arizona State Council Meeting. They have their skating party coming up in February which will be held behind the National office.
- **Political Action:** Dottie Brickman spoke about the Question and Answer part of the 2015 election. She has been re-appointed to chair the committee. Will put together questions for the convention.
- **Combined Federal Campaign:** Dick Southern, Region 9 Director, spoke about the CFC. 14 states and 1 chapter benefit.

Dick Southern told everyone about the resolutions for the upcoming convention. Start October 1<sup>st</sup>. Resolutions submitted will be mailed to chapters on March 22, 2015. Get your resolutions in. Dick talked about the State Council Presidents talklist.

- **Chair Appointments 1014 - 2016:**
  - Parliamentarian-Wayne Reynolds
  - Sgt at Arms – Dan Stenvold
  - Bylaws and Policies - Ben Humphrey
  - Constitution – Barry Rice
  - Budget – Dottie Brickman
  - Government Affairs – Richard Lindbeck
  - Veterans Affairs – Ben Humphrey
  - Women Veterans – Pattie Dunmin
  - Health Care – Pat Bessignano
  - Homeless Veteran – John Weiss
  - Membership – Rex Moody
  - Credentials – Charlie Montgomery
  - CSCP Handbooks – Ron Zink
  - Disciplinary – Butch Hubert
  - Nominations – Dave Simmons
  - Political Action – Dottie Brickman
  - Incarcerated Veterans – Terry Hubert
  - Veterans Against Drugs

Approved without objection.
  
- **Constitution Amendment:** Charlie Montgomery introduced the amendment. CSCP, in the constitution, paragraph B, “Corporation shall insure that the Conference has the opportunity to meet not less than two per year to share information and discuss matters.” Would like to change two times a year to three times a year. Has nothing to do with the CSCP winter meeting. To attend the January National Board meetings. Will go forward with the amendment.
  
- **CSCP Winter Meetings:** Discussion about who is or who is not invited to the CSCP winter meetings. Suppose to be State Council Presidents only. If others show they are there on their own dime.
  
- Ron Zink recommended that Dave Simmons come to the San Diego winter meeting to give a presentation on Veterans Against Drugs.
  
- Dave Simmons recommended that Ron Zink give us a presentation on the handbooks while in San Diego.
  
- Gene Grego mentioned he would like to volunteer for a political program to talk about going to Capitol Hill and state legislators.

- Meeting Adjourned at 1705 hours.