

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Council of State Council Presidents
February 13-14, 2015 Meeting
San Diego, CA
Pre-approved Minutes**

Meeting of Council of State Council Presidents was called to order by Chair Charlie Montgomery at 9:00 am on February 13, 2015.

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

Dan Stenvold reminded everyone to silence their cell phones.

Wayne Reynolds was assigned and accepted the position of the meeting parliamentarian.

Roll Call of States: The States at the meeting totaled 31; a quorum was met. The following States were present:

Alabama	Montana
Arizona	Nebraska
Arkansas	New Jersey
California	New York
Colorado	North Carolina
Connecticut	North Dakota
Florida	Ohio
Idaho	Oklahoma
Illinois	Oregon
Indiana	Pennsylvania
Iowa	South Dakota
Kansas	Virginia
Louisiana	Washington
Maryland	West Virginia
Massachusetts	Wisconsin
Michigan	

Officers present were:

Chair - Charlie Montgomery
1st Vice Chair - Dottie Brickman
2nd Vice Chair - Richard Lindbeck
Secretary - Steve Mackey

- **Wayne Reynolds** announced the bridge over to the mall was closed, he wanted to know if there is a different route. Directions were given to get around the closure,
- **Steve Mackey**, California State Council President welcomed everyone to San Diego for the winter meeting. Steve also gave away a special door prize.
- **Charlie Montgomery** thanked the California State Council and Steve and Elayne Mackey for the Thursday night hospitality room.
- Sign in sheet was passed around for all state council presidents to sign.
- The agenda was adopted with changes, without objection.
- **Announcements: Wes Guidry** introduced Tom the sales person for the Town and Country Resort. Tom was responsible for the free breakfast for the presidents for the two days. Tom was also responsible for the free Wi-Fi in the meeting room. Tom thanked everyone for being in attendance and he explained the future of the resort.
- Wes Guidry reminded everyone about the April board meeting being in the new hotel and getting your reservations in. Lunch at the new hotel is a buffet for \$13.00 including tax and gratuity.
- Wes spoke about the 2015 VVA convention in Springfield, IL. Web site is up. When you make your reservation you will be charged for the first night and it is not refundable. Both hotels and convention center have been renovated. Bags for the convention will be available to pre order on reservation form. Cost is \$10.00 each.
- Wes spoke about the Tuesday night Welcome Home party. Jefferson Starship will be performing a concert, no charge to us. The concert will take place at the convention center, the hotel will sell food and drinks. He spoke about the vendors at the convention.
- Wes spoke about the 2016 CSCP meeting. Where to meet. Terry Courville recommended the CSCP go to Lake Charles, LA. Cajun atmosphere, chapters around the area will feed the group every night at no charge. One of three casinos to stay in.

- **Motion 0215001**, made by Wayne Reynolds to accept the recommendations of Wes Guidry to make arrangements for our next meeting in Lake Charles, LA. at the best date he can work out. Second was made. Discussion followed on the motion. Vote taken, Motion passed.
- **Charlie Montgomery** brought up the parking issue at the National Board Meeting. Parking at the new hotel is Valet only. \$10.00 to park.
- **Wayne Reynolds and John Rowan** made a special presentation to Sons and Daughters In Touch founder Tony Codero. Wayne submitted Tony's name for the Honorary Life Membership of VVA and it was approved. Wayne presented the Honorary Life Membership in VVA to Tony Codero.
- **Tony Codero** spoke about the activities for the 2015 Father's Day reunion in Washington, DC. It will be their 25th anniversary.
- **National VVA President John Rowan** spoke about his coming in early to San Diego and the touring he did before the meetings started.
- A motion was made to accept the minutes of the October 9, 2014 meeting, seconded, minutes accepted without objection.
- **Officers Report:**
 - Chair Charlie Montgomery had three appointments to make to committees. Gene Crego, Beverly Stewart and Gumersindo Gomez to the respective committees. Charlie also spoke about suspended chapters.
 - 1st Vice Chair Dottie Barickman spoke about the political action committee. The question and answer session at the National convention. Looking for volunteers.
 - 2nd Vice Chair Richard Lindbeck spoke about the two toxic exposure bills that will be coming out in the next legislative session.
- **Budget** was submitted to National VVA on time. Dottie Barickman spoke about the budget that was submitted. She then went over the current fiscal budget. Try to save money where ever we can. Get your San Diego trip reimbursement forms in today. Room rate is \$61.37. That is half the room rate. Dottie went over reimbursement policy.
- Charlie Montgomery reminded all that this winter meeting is our meeting, not out of Nationals budget, but your state council budget.

- **Gene Crego** presented an Arizona State Council award to VVA National President John Rowan.
- **Treasurer Handbook Review** - Ron Zink went through the Treasurers Handbook showing all the changes that were made with the handbook. One change in Chapter 2 is that there shall not be any signing of blank checks. After going through the entire handbook there was a motion to accept the re-write of the handbook and send it to the National VVA board for approval. The motion was seconded, passed without objection.
- **Wayne Reynolds c-3 presentation.** Wayne discussed the format to form a C-3. Some donors will not donate to you unless you are a c-3. There is help on the internet to help you get a c-3 started. Do not shy away from starting a c-3. Not as hard as you think. Discussions about the difference between c-3 and c-19's. Should have directors on the c-3 board that you know and trust. Lots of discussion on c-3's.
- **Health Care:** Pat Bessigano discussed the meeting the Veterans Health Council had at the January board meeting. Working on getting lung ailments as presumptive illness. Not getting a good response on these being presumptive. Discussed the prostate surgery, after surgery the VA says you are clear and you lose your benefits. Working on secondary illnesses and lung ailments. Health council wants input on what the membership would like to see posted on the web site.
- **Agent Orange:** Jack McMannus, special advisor to President Rowan, spoke about his work in research of the effects of Agent Orange on the descendants of Vietnam Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange. He spoke about other toxic substances such as the water at Camp Lejune.
- There is a new bill to be dropped with Congress and the Senate next week. It is a different bill than the one from 2013 and 2014. The new bill is a research bill. The new bill will need significant commitment from VVA membership and VVA state presidents. Would like to have the new bill passed and signed by the President by May 25th this year. No number for the bill yet. They want all legislators to co-sponsor this bill.
- President John Rowan spoke about the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015. The bill came from all the talk at the town hall meetings.
- Tanya Lesnick, a daughter of a Vietnam Veteran spoke of her illnesses caused by the effects of Agent Orange because of her father being exposed to the toxic substance in Vietnam.

- Jack McMannus spoke about getting each state to sponsor a resolution supporting the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015. Take the resolutions to your congressmen and senators.
- President Rowan spoke about making the resolutions from the state a joint resolution. Also get your city councils do a resolution. State Councils to go back and ask the chapters if they have anyone involved in a political party. Network.
- **Dan Stenvold** spoke about the awards for the upcoming National Convention. Go to the National web site to find the award applications. Would like to see every SC President to submit their state for an award. Dan also talked about the VVA Commendation Medal. Submit nominations for the medal.
- **Ed Ryan**, Chapter 47 PTSD Committee Chair, spoke about the PTSD committees. Would like to see every state council have a PTSD committee. Start a PTSD Symposium.
- **Wes Guidry** spoke about registration forms for the National meetings. Fill them out completely. Make sure you have the correct dates on the forms. If you put down a roommate make sure that person wants to room with you.
- **Motion 0215002**, made by Dan Stenvold, for the state presidents not to come in a day early in April 2015, second by Gene Crego, passed without objection.
- **Motion 0215003**, made by Dottie Barickman, if the state president wants to come in a day or earlier than what is the designated day of travel you would need the chairs signature or approval in writing to be reimbursed by the CSCP budget.

Break until Saturday Morning

Meeting resumed on 2-14-2015 at 9:00 AM.

Roll Call of States: The States at the meeting totaled 31; a quorum was met. The following States were present:

Alabama
 Arizona
 Arkansas
 California
 Colorado
 Connecticut

Florida
 Idaho
 Illinois
 Indiana
 Iowa
 Kansas

Louisiana
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Montana
Nebraska
New Jersey
New York
North Carolina
North Dakota

Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
South Dakota
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin

Officers present were:

Chair - Charlie Montgomery
1st Vice Chair - Dottie Brickman
2nd Vice Chair - Richard Lindbeck
Secretary - Steve Mackey

- **Dottie Barickman** spoke about the reimbursement forms.
- Dream Foundation presentation by Kristy Raihn. Kristy spoke about the foundation and how they provide wishes to dying adults. She also spoke about the foundations project Dreams for Veterans. Their organization provides wishes to dying veterans.
- Lara Ryan from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation, Western Regional Director, spoke about the museum being built in Washington, DC. She also spoke about the Wall of Faces, where they are looking for pictures of all those listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, DC. Pictures of graduation, civilian life before the service, etc. She also talked about the Wall that Heals. It will be in San Diego the end of April and will be displayed on the USS Midway.

Round Table:

- **Charlie Montgomery** advised everyone that VVA had a new National Membership Director Alyson Alt. She came from the Blind Veterans Association. Charlie discussed the CSCP going to the hill at April meetings. He will discuss it with the Government Affairs Committee.
- **Charlie Montgomery** mentioned that National wants all state council presidents to become certified service officer. Not mandatory but National would like to see it. Contact Jim Vale.
- **Charlie Montgomery** mentioned that the 2018 Leadership Conference will be held in Palm Springs, CA.

- **Charlie Montgomery** spoke of two motions brought before the National board reference a security system for the National office. The motion was voted down. Charlie spoke about the other motion and why the National board went into executive session.
- **Charlie Montgomery** spoke about the National Convention in Springfield IL.
- **Beverly Stewart** passed around two forms to be filled in by the state council president's reference if the state has a board of directors or not. Beverly spoke about an amendment to the VVA National Constitution.
- **Motion 0215004**, by Beverly Stewart, second by Wayne Reynolds, to endorse a constitutional amendment by the constitution committee to add a statement in Article II, State Provisions of the VVA Constitution that authorizes establishment of a board of directors with duties and powers designated in the state council by-laws. After discussion the motion was approved without objection.
- **Motion 02150005**, by Richard Lindbeck, the motion is for an amendment change to the VVA constitution. The motion is if the regional director is unable to fulfill their duties on the board of directors the vacancy will be filled by the elected alternate region director. After lots of discussion passed without objection.
- **Motion 0215006**, to approve the corrections to the previous minutes that were approved on 2-14-2015. Someone noted that the minutes of the CSCP October meeting show Springfield, MO. Minutes of October CSCP meeting corrected to show Springfield, IL. Passed without objection.
- **Motion 0215007**, by Dan Stenvold, to have the chair of the CSCP, Charlie Montgomery, check with VVA on the possibility of E-voting for the CSCP. Second by Nate Washington. Passed without objection.
- Discussion on the Political action committee members, the question and answer part for the National Convention.
- Wes Guidry wanted everyone to go back and check their arrival dates for the April CSCP and National Board meeting. Let Wes know if you have the wrong dates so he can correct it.
- Discussion on the softball team, The Hollywood Jesters, fundraising event. Will come to your chapter to play. Nationwide group made of Hollywood actors wanting to have a good time.

- Dan Stenvold spoke about the State of North Dakota getting \$100,000 for their Toxic Exposure program.
- Discussion on talking about Toxic Chemical Exposure. Do not say Agent Orange anymore. Use Toxic Exposure.
- Tom Haberkorn spoke about the membership drive at KOKOMO last summer. Someone's VVA application was altered, a chapter was scratched out and another number put in the box. PA took a lot of flak about stealing members. Not true.
- Dave Simmons spoke about the Veterans Against Drugs free ice skating behind the National office in Silver Spring, Feb 19th. Yearly event. Kids have a great time.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:50 AM