

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Conference of State Council Presidents
October 15, 2015 Meeting
Silver Spring, MD
Draft Minutes**

Meeting of the Conference of State Council Presidents was called to order by Chair Charlie Montgomery at 9:01 AM.

Wayne Reynolds led the devotion. The Pledge of Allegiance was done. A moment of silence was observed.

A sign in sheet was passed around with Chair Charlie Montgomery asking all present to put down their personal email address.

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

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

Officers Present:

Chair - Charlie Montgomery
1st Vice – Rex Moody (After elections)
2nd Vice Chair - Richard Lindbeck

Charlie Montgomery appointed Wayne Reynolds as the Parliamentarian.

Agenda was adopted with additions.

- **Elections** – Charlie Montgomery spoke about the 1st Vice-chair Dottie Barickman resigning. Therefore we need to have an election to fill the 1st Vice-chair position. Dave Simmons, as the election chair, took over the meeting. Dave explained the amount of time each candidate would be allowed to speak. John Weiss would be the time keeper. Marking the ballots was discussed. The three candidates then spoke and answered questions. Ballots were handed out, marked, collected by the election committee to be counted.
- **Minutes:** Motion made to accept the April 2015 meeting minutes as written, seconded, passed without objection.
- **Announcements:** Wes Guidry spoke about reservations at the hotel. He spoke about the wi-fi in the rooms being slow so he gave out another code to get a faster internet connection. E-reservations, get them in on time. The buffet for the weekend will be pre-pay so you don't have to wait to pay your bill after eating. Wes also spoke about the winter CSCP meeting for 2016. Lake Charles was approved at the February 2015 CSCP meeting, but it will be too expensive. So if the CSCP approves, the meeting will be in Lafayette, LA at the Windham hotel from Jan. 21 to Jan. 23, 2016. Wayne Reynolds spoke about signing the contract with the hotel.
- **Motion #1015001** by Carlton Rhodes to go to Lafayette, LA for the CSCP winter meeting, second by Francisco Ivarra. Roll call vote, motion PASSED.
- **Election Results:** Dave Simmons came in to announce the results of the election.
 - Rex Moody was elected as the 1st Vice-chair. Rex Moody was then sworn in by Charlie Montgomery.
- **Wayne Reynolds** announced the reception at the National Office tonight from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.
- **Charlie Montgomery** had the Utah State Council President introduce himself. Dennis Howland spoke about being the president of Utah and also being appointed as the National Public Affairs Committee Chair.
- **John Rowan**, National President, welcomed everyone. John spoke about the new National VVA web site, the reception at the National office tonight and office personnel. John spoke about the Veterans Benefit department losing personnel. Marsha Four and Tracy Houston spoke about the office problems, mainly the membership department. Long discussion on fixing the problems in the membership department. John Rowan spoke about the toxic exposure bills. Marsh Four talked about the strategic plan group, the office and what VVA owns.

- **Dan Stenvold** spoke about the National awards process and told what National awards there are. Go to the National web site to get the applications.
- **Officers Reports: Chair Charlie Montgomery** thanked everyone for their condolences, thoughts and prayers for his mother. Talked about the Jan. committee meetings, getting the minutes out to the committee members after the Jan. meeting.
- **1st Vice-chair Rex Moody** spoke about the CSCP reimbursement forms, per diem, parking - Don't forget the per diem or parking.
- **2nd Vice-chair Richard Lindbeck** spoke about taking care of the CSCP meeting agenda for Charlie Montgomery. He spoke about the Wisconsin Agent Orange Town Hall meetings.
- **CSCP Budget:** Rex Moody and Charlie will be working on next year's budget. Charlie Montgomery said he would try to put into the budget for the CSCP to attend the Jan. meeting at National VVA. He wanted to know if the CSCP came in for the Jan meeting do we want to come in a day early for the CSCP to meet or just come in for the National Board meeting. Lots of discussion on attending the Jan. BOD meeting and other alternatives to conduct meetings (My Meetings). Charlie and Rex will put in the budget for two meetings only.
- **Motion #1015002** by Beverly Stewart to move the agenda. Seconded by Richard Cox. PASSED without objection. It was mentioned there was no discussion. Lots of discussion then had on the issue. Someone Called the question, seconded, voice vote. PASSED. On the "Move the agenda" vote, hand vote PASSED.
- **Constitution:** Barry Rice thanked Leslie DeLong for her work at the convention. Leslie DeLong spoke about constitution questions and updating chapter and state council bylaws.
- **Government Affairs:** Richard Lindbeck spoke about the Toxic Exposure Act bills, get your legislators to sign on.
- **Membership:** Charlie Hobbs spoke about the VVA "Fire Sale" and how well we were doing on getting life members. He told how many signed up for a life member. We have a total of 76236 members. He handed out the special applications for the life member sign up.

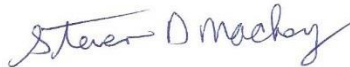
- **Legislative:** Gene Crego spoke about the Toxic Exposure bills. The bills may not come up for a vote this year. Gene is working on a letterhead for sending letters.
- **Minority Affairs:** Gumersindo Gomez spoke about racial discrimination issues in each of the states. Bring the issues to CSCP instead of taking them to National VVA.
- **Women Veterans:** Pattie Dumin wants all state presidents to send her the contact information for each states Women Veterans Committee Chair information, name, email, phone number.
- **CSCP Handbooks:** Dave Simmons spoke about putting the handbooks on a disk and distributing them to the presidents.
- **Credentials:** Charlie Montgomery spoke about handing out two of the credentials he had received back and he has several more SF180's to send in.
- **Homeless Veterans:** John Weiss turned his report over to John Minor. John Minor spoke about the homeless veterans issue in New Hampshire. New Hampshire is always talking about what they do for Veterans so now it is time for them to put up or shut up. John will have a letter of support which all state presidents can sign off on. John also spoke about the Veterans Homes in Vermont and the state not wanting to fund them.
- **Motion #1015003** by John Minor that CSCP write a letter to support New Hampshire for their effort in getting a homeless site at Bear Mill Pond Camp, second by Gumersindo Gomez. PASSED without objection.
- **Veterans Against Drugs:** Dave Simmons spoke about the committee having a Facebook page and if anyone wants to post you can.
- **Political Action:** Russ Fankell gave a report about the convention. He went over some of the survey's that were turned in, overall response was positive.
- **Combined Federal Campaign:** Dick Southern spoke about the program and how important it was for all of the state presidents to get out and work the program.
- **Net Foote** spoke about the DVD on how VVA was started. He has more DVD's for sale.
- **Rick Weidman** spoke about the Gold Star Mothers. Please reach out and support them. The Gold Star Home in DC was a Gold Star Mother's home and

she willed it to the organization. Rick spoke about the proposed Gold Star Mothers Monument that they want to construct at Arlington National Cemetery. Rick is encouraging everyone to write letters in support of the monument location. Also raise money for the monument. Rick also spoke about the Agent Orange Town Hall meetings.

- **Round Table Discussions:** Charlie Montgomery went around to all state council presidents. The presidents gave their reports for their respective states.
- Charlie Montgomery spoke about the Agent Orange Town Hall meetings. Charlie wanted to know if the National office was supporting the states with the town hall meetings. Discussion was had on how well National helps out.

There being no further business, Meeting was adjourned 10/15/2015 at 5:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Mackey".

Steve Mackey
CSCP Secretary