

**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Conference of State Council Presidents  
October 20, 2016 Meeting  
Silver Spring, MD**

Meeting of Conference of State Council Presidents was called to order by Chair Charlie Montgomery at 9:00 AM.

Rex Moody made a presentation to Charlie Montgomery, a retirement gavel.

The Pledge of Allegiance was done. Wayne Reynolds led the devotion. Charlie Montgomery asked everyone to remain standing for those in harm's way and those who we have lost a love one. A moment of silence was observed.

Charlie Montgomery went through the states that were suspended for no financial reports. None of the suspended state were present.

**Roll Call of States:** At the time of roll call the States at the meeting totaled 38; a quorum was met. The following States were present:

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

**Officers Present:**

**Chair** – Charlie Montgomery  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair**– Rex Moody  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair** - Richard Lindbeck

**Wayne Reynolds** had a point if information-Maine no longer has a state council. Maine will be removed from the roll call.

- **Charlie Montgomery** asked how many state councils we now have. It was determined that there are 47 state councils.
- **Charlie Montgomery** had all the state council presidents introduce themselves with those new presidents letting everyone know they are new.
- **Charlie Montgomery** asked all the state presidents present if they had received the Disk that Dave Simmons had put together for the CSCP. The disk contains the CSCP bylaws, procedures and minutes. The last date of the amended bylaws was 2014. The bylaws should be updated every two years. They should be updated by the new chair, however he wants to do it. The disk was handed out to those president who did not have one.
- **Charlie Montgomery** appointed Wayne Reynolds as the Parliamentarian.
- The agenda was adopted as amended.
- **Wes Guidry** spoke about a banner he had made for VVA, cost \$125.00. He had the banner hanging on a side wall of the meeting room. Anyone can order one. He also mentioned there were bags left over from the leadership conference and past convention, he is selling them for \$10.00. He spoke about the free breakfast everyone is getting, please leave a tip for your server.
- Minutes from April 2016 minutes, motion made by Wayne Reynolds to accept the minutes as presented. Passed without objection.
- **John Rowan, National President**, welcomed everyone. He spoke about recent deaths of VVA members. 4 death notices just last Saturday. John mentioned the presentation we were going to be given in the afternoon by Dr. Bob on how VVA is going to go forward. Things in VVA are doing well in some areas and not so good in others. He mentioned the state councils who don't have their reports in yet. John spoke about the VVA Achievement medals. Just send an email to him telling him who you want to present it to, when you want to give it to them and where you want them to send the medal and certificate to. Johnny Prancrazio received his medal 2 days before he passed away.
- **G. Gomez**, Massachusetts State Council President, presented two plaques to President John Rowan from the Vietnamese communities of the states of New Hampshire and Massachusetts thanking the Vietnam Veterans of America for their support of the South Vietnamese community.

- **Marsha Four** welcomed the new state council presidents. Marsha spoke about the communications the four officers have between each other, they speak at a minimum of 2-3 times a week. She spends 5 days a month at the National office speaking with staff.
- **Dr. Tom Berger** spoke about the Veterans Health Council. The VHC is self-supporting by raising all the funds for the VHC. Dr. Berger spoke about the study the VA is engaging in. The questionnaire will come in an envelope with the three man statue on it. Don't throw it away, answer the questionnaire and send it back.
- **Dick Southern** spoke about the state council presidents talk list and about the Combined Federal Campaign. He also spoke about the resolutions for the upcoming convention. If you want to submit a resolution the forms are on the web site and will be in The Veteran.
- **Bill Meeks** spoke about getting information out in emails. He sends out back up deliveries because some people have complained about not getting emails.
- **Terry Courville** spoke about the floods this year in Louisiana. He thanked all the VVA chapters and state councils who donated funds to help the VVA members in Louisiana who were affected by the floods.
- **Mike Keating** spoke about The Veteran and introduced two new members of The Veteran magazine.
- **Charlie Hobbs** introduced Tracy Houston who spoke about the web rosters. She also mentioned about going from printed rosters to electronic rosters only. Tracy introduced Annisa, the new membership coordinator. Annisa is the person to contact if you have a membership question. Charlie Hobbs also mentioned that VVA now has over 80,000 members.
- **Tom Burke** introduced the new director of the Veterans Affairs Department, Kelsy Yoon. Kelsy is looking forward to working with everyone.
- **John Rowan** spoke about the VSO program and that the state council president is responsible for the program.
- **Vonnie Cogdell** spoke about the state council president packets they put together for the National BOD meetings. If you are looking for name tags go directly to Medals of America as they have the name tags there.
- **Dr. Tom Hall** thanked all the state council presidents for their leadership.

- **Frank Barry**, the chair of the Economic Opportunity Committee, invited everyone to his committee meeting on Friday.
- **Mokie Porter** thanked everyone for what they are doing on the Agent Orange issue. Thanks for getting the word out.
- **Rick Weidman** spoke about working on Veterans legislative issues since 1978. He looks forward to working with everyone.
- **Walt Schumacher**, Arizona State Council Secretary spoke about his archiving all of the Arizona State Council documents. He explained how he organized all the documents for the Arizona State Council and had them put in a book that Staples then bound for him. He also includes a CD with all the info that is in the book.
- **Rick Weidman** introduced the newest member of their staff, an Iraqi Veteran.
- **Officers Reports:**
- **Charlie Montgomery** wanted to thank everyone who has been here during his CSCP chair for their support. He reminded everyone the next CSCP meeting is in January, come in on Wednesday, meet Thursday then attend the National BOD meetings Friday and Saturday. Wants the presidents to attend the National Committee meetings.
- **Rex Moody** spoke about attending the Leadership Conference in Tucson, how well organized it was. Rex asked everyone to get their reimbursement forms turned into him by 4:00 PM Friday. Please attend the committee meetings at National.
- **Richard Lindbeck** spoke about attending the Leadership Conference in Tucson thanking the Arizona State Council on a job well done. He also urged the state council presidents to pick up the CSCP welcome guide.
- **CSCP Elections-** Dave Simmons gave his report for the upcoming elections. If you wish to run from the floor you can. Dennis Howland withdrew from the election.
- **Committee Reports:**
- **Credentials** - Charlie Montgomery reported that every State Council President here is eligible to vote in today's election.
- **CSCP Budget** - Rex Moody let everyone know we had the funds for the remainder of the year. Rex also related that after the election he will be getting

together with whoever wins the election to do the next year's budget. Rex went over the remaining budget for this year. Question was asked, what is the liability for the remainder of the year? Charlie Montgomery and Ned Foote explained the budget.

- **By-laws and Policies** - Charlie Montgomery said the by-laws should be reviewed after the elections and updated as necessary.
- **Rick Weidman** - spoke about the Gold Star Mothers Memorial Foundation which was formed to raise funds to build a memorial to Gold Star Mothers. The memorial has been granted and it will be at Arlington National Cemetery to the right of the visitor center. Col Ward Nemish, a Vietnam Veteran and co-founder of Gold Star Mothers Monument Foundation, presented John Rowan and VVA with the Gold Star Mothers Distinguished Service Medal from the Gold Star Mothers Monument Foundation for VVA being a Gold Sponsor at their golf tournament. John Rowan mentioned how VVA supports Gold Star Mothers and most other VSO don't.
- **Committee Reports Continued:**
- **Constitution** - Barry Rice spoke about any potential amendments to the constitution for the upcoming convention.
- **Veterans Benefit** - Wayne Reynolds introduced Mark McCabe who spoke about VVA's VSO claims and VVA's fiduciary commitment.
- **Government Affairs** - Richard Lindbeck spoke about congress being on recess. Bill 2921 is on the back burner but he has been informed that we may not have to start over with the bill. Dennis Howland asked a question about Veterans First Act. Rick Weidman answered the question, speaking about the new bill for next year. Gene Crego complimented Rick Weidman and Dr. Tom Berger for what they do. Rick introduced another new member government affairs, Joe Wynn. Joe spoke about the for profit schools
- **Membership** - Charlie Hobbs introduced Tracy Houston. Tracy Houston spoke about the web roster going live at the end of the year. Membership will stop sending out printed rosters. Tracy spoke about why emails were not included on rosters. Tracy said the reason for no emails was security reason, keeping individual's emails from getting into the wrong hands. Question was asked how secure will the web site be. Tracy answered the question.
- **Lunch** 12:02 - 1:28
- **Committee Reports Continued:**

- **Veterans Against Drugs** - Dave Simmons spoke about the January skating party located behind the National office. All kids get to skate for free.
- **Women Veterans** – Nothing.
- **Minority Affairs** - G. Gomez spoke about his trip to Puerto Rico where he and Sec. McDonald presented an award to the 65<sup>th</sup> infantry. Went a second time to meet with Chapter 398 president where a veterans home was opened on land that was donated to them.
- **Wayne Reynolds** spoke about filing past 990's. There is a way to file past 990N's. Jake Barsottini, Pennsylvania State Council Treasurer, explained the process on how to file a past 990N.
- **Elections** – Dave Simmons said the ballots have been printed. There is a change as Dennis Howland withdrew from the secretary position. He explained about marking the ballot then folding it in half and put it in the ballot box. He has asked Dick Southern and Dan Stenvold to step outside with the election committee to count the ballots.
- Patti Dumin advised everyone she was withdrawing from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-chair and changing to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-chair.
- Charlie Montgomery had some questions for Dave Simmons. Dave answered all the questions. Dave advised everyone that each candidate will have 8 minutes to speak, 5 minutes of questions and 3 minutes of discussing who you are. You don't have to use the full 8 minutes.
- Dave Simmons announced that Richard Lindbeck and Rex Moody were running for the position of Chair of the CSCP. Dave asked for any nomination from anyone wanting to run from the floor. There were no candidates announcing they were wanting to run from the floor.
- Both candidates running for the position of Chair spoke separately and answered questions from the CSCP members.
- **Ned Foote** asked Charlie Montgomery why the 1st Vice-chair does the CSCP budget. Charlie Montgomery advised that it was not a requirement that the 1<sup>st</sup> vice-chair do the CSCP budget.
- Dave Simmons announced that Charlie Stapleton and Patti Dumin were running for the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-chair of the CSCP. Dave asked for any other

nomination from anyone wanting to run from the floor. There were no other candidates announcing they were wanting to run from the floor.

- Both candidates running for the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair spoke separately and answered questions from the CSCP members.
- Dave Simmons announced that Gumersindo Gomez, Terry Courville and John Riling were running for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-chair of the CSCP. Dave asked for any other nomination from anyone wanting to run from the floor. There were no other candidates announcing they were wanting to run from the floor
- All three candidates running for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair spoke separately and answered questions from the CSCP members.
- Dave Simmons announced that Steve Mackey was running for the position of secretary of the CSCP. Dave asked for any other nomination from anyone wanting to run from the floor. There were no other candidates announcing they were wanting to run from the floor.
- The one candidate running for the position of secretary spoke and answered questions from the CSCP members.
- The voting for officers of the CSCP then took place by ballot. While the ballots were being counted the CSCP meeting continued.
- **John Minor** spoke about a bill in Congress. Vietnam Helicopter Association members are trying to get permission for a memorial for all Medi-vac helicopter crews at Arlington Cemetery. We need a letter of support from VVA to the helicopter association. We need to ask John Rowan to write a letter of support for the helicopter association.
- **Motion 1016001** by Terry Courville to ask John Rowan to write a letter of support to the Helicopter Association for their memorial at Arlington Cemetery. Seconded. Passed without objection.
- **CSCP Round Table**
- **Gene Crego** spoke about the billboard showing support for the Phoenix, AZ. VA that is now up right outside the VA in Phoenix.
- **Rex Moody** spoke about the replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall that is being constructed in Tupelo Mississippi. The Wall will be 60% of the Wall in

Washington. Broke ground and Wall should be completed by November 2017. State of Mississippi gave them \$750,000.00 for the memorial.

- **Dennis Howland** told about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall being built in Utah, it will be 80% and should be finished next spring.
- Kentucky working on an 80% wall, raising money. If you are looking to get a street memorialized for a veteran instead of going to state go to the city or county where the veteran grew up in and get them to name the street after the veteran. We don't change the name of the road just memorialize it.
- **Tom George** spoke about a post office in Las Vegas that was named after a veteran, then later on they found out the veteran was not all he proclaimed to be, this was a case of stolen valor.
- **Charlie Montgomery** told about going to Frankfurt, Kentucky. His friends took them to the memorial. The memorial is a sun dial. Where the sun hits each name is the time that person died. When he stopped at the memorial the sun was shining on Lawrence Washington, one of his buddies.
- **Beverly Stewart** wanted to discuss the membership committee. Other committees have been funded to come to states to assist but she has not seen the membership committee come to other states to assist in membership growth. She has yet to see the benefit of the membership committee as far as the presence in the state. She is looking for a discussion in the CSCP on the issue. The membership committee does not have a presence in the state from National. She spoke about sending letters to all Wyoming chapters trying to get them to recruit. How about sending at-large money to states to recruit at-large members. Why not send National membership to states to help recruit. Lots and lots of discussion was had on the issue.
- **Dan Stenvold** spoke about a trip he made over Labor Day to the Chippewa Pow Wow where he represented National VVA at an Agent Orange Town Hall where he gave out 72 packets, each packet had a membership application in it. A lot showed interest in joining but the Native Americans don't like giving out their DD 214.
- **Dave Simmons**, election chair, gave the results of the CSCP elections.
  - Chair – Rex Moody
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-chair – Patti Dumin
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-chair – Gumersindo Gomez
  - Secretary – Steve Mackey

- Dave Simmons added that there were 38 ballots cast and 38 presidents able to vote.
- **John Rowan** thanked all the old officers for their work. John then swore in the new officers.

Outgoing Chair Charlie Montgomery handed the gavel to the new Chair Rex Moody.

The new CSCP board took over the meeting.

**John Rowan** introduced Reverend Bob, a New York State Council Delegate, who then gave his presentation on the future of VVA. Bob's hand out is called "Lights Out? Preserving Our Legacy", The Strategic Plan. Bob explained his plan. To create two groups, one to develop a plan on closing down VVA. The other group will develop a plan on starting a new group to take over for VVA when VVA decides to close their doors.

During Bob's presentation John Minor made a statement, saying he thought AVVA was going to be VVA's legacy. John Rowan advised everyone that AVVA was their own organization, AVVA is not a veteran organization.

Bob then finished his presentation at 5:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted



Steve Mackey