**Vietnam Veterans of America**

**Conference of State Council Presidents**

**January 10, 2019 Meeting**

**Silver Spring, MD**

Dan Stenvold reminded everyone to turn off their cell phones as he was going to be doing random calling.

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

Charlie Stapleton presented the POW/MIA chair.

Gumersindo Gomez then led the devotion.

Rex Moody asked for a moment of silence, moment of silence held.

Dan Stenvold led the CSCP in The Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call of States:** At the time of roll call the States at the meeting totaled 43; a quorum was met. The following States were present:

Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

California

Colorado

Delaware

Florida

Georgia

Idaho

Iowa

Kansas

Kentucky

Louisiana

Maryland

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

Mississippi

Missouri

Montana

Nebraska

Nevada

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New Mexico

New York

North Carolina

North Dakota

Ohio

Oklahoma

Oregon

Pennsylvania

Puerto Rico

Rhode Island

South Carolina

South Dakota

Tennessee

Texas

Utah

Virginia

Washington

West Virginia

Wisconsin

**Officers Present:** **Chair** – Rex Moody

**1st Vice chair** – Richard Lindbeck

**2nd Vice chair** – Charlie Stapleton

* **Chair Rex Moody** appointed Richard Lindbeck as Parliamentarian.
* **Minutes**: Minutes from the October 2018 CSCP meeting were accepted as written.
* **Announcements:** Chair Moody reminded everyone when speaking to use the microphone and state who you are and what state you are from. Rex reminded everyone if you are going to have a substitute sit in for you at the CSCP meeting that the substitute must fill out and submit a SF 180 form to be seated on the board.
* **Wes Guidry** Questions about reservations about the convention. State presidents have to make your own reservations. Go to hotel for reservations DO NOT use the on line form. 2022 VVA will be going to Greenville, SC for leadership conference. Wes reminded everyone again please tip the staff in the restaurant. Wes answered questions about the upcoming convention.
* **Agenda:** Motion was made by Charlie Stapleton to accept the agenda. Seconded. Passed without objection.
* **John Rowan** welcomed everyone back. Hespoke about going to the hill the day before. He and Rick Weidman are starting off the new year where they left off last year. The Blue Water Bill is coming back. He talked about the meeting they had with Congressman Takano. He is very veteran friendly. Going to start immediately with the Blue Water Navy bill, 299. John wanted all presidents with Republican Senators to contact them and let them know how you feel about the bill. John spoke about not taking political sides with the legislators. It doesn’t matter if they are republican or democrat, our agenda never changes. They had a meeting with Secretary Wilkie, first time he has met with him. We pulled no punches with him and told him straight out his people lied about Blue Water reports. Wilkie talked about the burn pits with them because he knows about the issue. **Dan Stenvold** asked if VVA was going this alone. John says no, all the organizations are in on this. John received a call from the head of the VFW asking him to attend a meeting of all the commanders of the big 6 VSO’s. He will be there.

John Spoke about the Student Veterans running around the office today. Working groups meeting today. We just sent VVA representatives to the Student Veterans Convention on Florida. PTSD and burn pits are going to be the new veteran’s problems. John spoke about the number of veterans serving today compared to when we served. **Roland Mathew**, Kansas, asked about the VA budget on suicide being cut. Mr. Wilkie said it was a big issue with them and he will fix it. VVA will follow up on it. John told everyone he was meeting later in the day with a gentleman for the head of the Veterans Health Council. **Sam Brick**, South Carolina, spoke about women veterans and them not joining VSO. Marsha Four said there are a lot of small organization trying to get the women veterans to organize.

* **Rex Moody** passed around the CSCP roster and asked everyone to make sure their information is correct.
* **Dr. Tom Hall** spoke about a Vet Center survey. He has a newer version. The board wanted something that said VVA on it. So far he has received 28 completed surveys. Not many for the country. Tom spoke of the results of the returned surveys. It seems that the Vet Centers are doing a good job. The survey is on line.
* **Richard Lindbeck**: We are updating the CSCP Welcome Guide. Everyone has a copy. It is the current welcome guide. **Charlie Montgomery**, Virginia, wanted the insurance offered by National VVA included in the guide. Take out room sharing information. Richard will bring an updated guide to the April CSCP meeting. Discussion on insurance. New state presidents should receive this guide.
* **Rex Moody** reminded all state council presidents to pass on information to your predecessors when that time comes.
* **Membership:** Charlie Hobbs spoke about getting things straightened out with the new life memberships. Tracie Houston spoke about the 3-year membership members who did not have a DD 214 on file with National because the chapter kept those DD 214. When the new life membership went into effect it caused 3 year members without 214 on file to go to pending status. Therefore, the membership department decided to convert all 3 year memberships to Life Members. Lots of discussion on new life members, DD 214’s and when the new life membership took effect. Tracie mentioned the 1800 3-year to life membership packets that were sent out in the last few days. All packets have a note to the member explaining to them why they are now a life member. Still getting one year renewals into the office. New membership application and transmittal form are now on line.
* **Dan Stenvold** handed out the household goods agreement to all presidents. Ned Foote mentioned to all that the HGDP agreement had the wrong state on the back page of the agreement.
* **Morning Break:** 10:50 – 11:00 AM.
* **Tom Haberkorn** handed out a resolution from the Pennsylvania State Council reference to support legislation to reduce the 10-year rule for dependency and indemnity compensation. PASC wants the CSCP to endorse the resolution. Resolution will be sent to the National Resolution Committee for inclusion in the 2019 convention. **Motion 0119001** made to endorse the resolution. Second. Discussion had. Motion passed.
* **Dick Southern** explained submitted resolution procedure.
* **Tom Burke** advised everyone if you want to bring something to the benefits committee you can certainly bring it to the committee.
* **Officers Reports:** 
  + Rex Moody mentioned he had taken the CSCP roster to the VVA office and they will make the correction and we will have a copy this afternoon for CSCP. He asked once this list is corrected does it go to other departments with the corrections, he was told it did not. He asked them to send it to other departments in the office for correction of information. It is encouraged that you use Let’s Travel for you travels. If your reimbursement is more than what Lets Travel’s would be you get reimbursed the Let’s Ravel quote. He is working on the CSCP proposed budget and will get it turned in. Had a tough time putting together this meeting’s agenda, if there is something of interest to other presidents please let Rex know so it can be added to the agenda.
  + **Richard Lindbeck** We have a new Governor in Wisconsin, he has not made any statements on his stance for veterans. This is a convention year make sure your pre-register. Rex told everyone now is the time to start raising funds for the convention.
  + **Charlie Stapleton** advised everyone that Joe Sternburg was compiling a list of those chapters that are bonded and those who are not. As far as insurance there are things that are not covered. Spoke about the importance of this year’s convention.
* **Dave Simmons**: **Motion 0119002** to do away with election ballots and letters of intent from 2018 elections. Second. No discussion. Passed.
* **Charlie Montgomery** advised everyone of a free item at the back table. A black case to put your used cigarette butts in. Please take as many as you want.
* **Lunch Break**: 11:50 – 1:30
* **Bob Seal** spoke about the results of his study as to why chapters and state councils are suspended. He wanted to know why. Bob had a handout showing the findings of his work. State councils giving CPR to smaller chapters trying to keep them alive. What CSCP can do is start an ad-hoc committee to provide guidance in VVA policy to SC and Chapter presidents. Incarcerated chapters, 10% have a problem. Problem could be what warden allows in. Some of the problems were neglect. No one on the outside to help with reports. Discussed incomplete reports, some listed officers are not VVA members. If chapters are suspended for 12 months, secretary supposed to pull charter. Not happening. Rex asked Bob that the recommendations he has appear to be at state council level wants to know if these recommendations been sent to national. Bob says no. Rex says how do we proceed? We have taken first step, now what? Ad-hoc committee might be the answer. How does CSCP feel?
* **Joe Sternburg** spoke about the bounding program, all state councils are covered. All are covered for $10,000. If you want more you can get through Hays but you pay for the difference. If you have events and need an insurance certificate for an event go to Hays. Any questions contact Hays, phone # 800-647-4297.
* **State Tax Pension on Veterans:** Rex passed out a letter about the retired military pension tax. It is a state issue. Those states that are taxed, the state council should contact local legislators.
* **CSCP Committee Reports:** Rexadvised everyone, in your packets you have a list of committees. There are 3 openings. Steve Mackey will be representative for the constitution committee, Melvin Murrel will be minority affairs committee. The other two committees are the Veterans Benefits and Health Committee, no one has stepped forward for either. Rex brought up the Political Action Committee which puts together a series of questions to be asked of the National officers at the National Convention. We did this at the last convention. Do we want to do it again this convention? Discussion was had. **Motion 0119003** by Charlie Montgomery to do away with the political action committee of the CSCP. Second. Discussion had. Motion passed.
* **Gerald Corrigan** advised Rex Moody that he would chair the Veterans Benefit committee.
* **Rossi Nance** mentioned there seems to be a gap between state councils and National VVA in communications. Make a phone call to National, you might talk to someone, you might not. Steve Mackey responded by saying he has no problem with membership but with others emails not being answered. Second email no answer. Other SCP told about not getting answers from National office. Lots of discussion. Steve Mackey advised that Dick Southern said National supposed to answer emails, questions in 5 days. Dick Southern, there is a policy National has to respond to you within 5 days.
* **Round Table:** State council Presidents gave their reports on what is going on in their states.

**Sam Brick**, South Carolina, spoke about the constitutional amendments he is submitting for the convention. Sam made a motion that at the April meeting we look at amendments for the convention second by terry Yates. Discussion. After discussion Rex asked Sam to withdraw the motion, rewrite it, simplify it and send it out in an email to all SCP. Sam agreed and pulled his motion.

**Charlie Stapleton** spoke about the homeless veterans. Send an email to him telling him what your state is doing for homeless veterans.

* **CSCP Bylaws:** Rex Moody brought up the CSCP by laws. Richard Lindbeck and Bob Seal worked on the by-laws. Richard went through the changes made.

Motion to accept By-laws as amendment. Second. No further discussion. Passed.

* **Afternoon Break:**
* **Agent Orange, Maynard Kaderlick** handed out his AO report. Talked about the AO strategy meeting held in Silver Spring on 12-4-2018 and 12-5-2018. There were 9 attendees. Good meeting. Maynard wants AO committee to stand alone, don’t combine it with health committee. Question and answers.
* **Ken Rose** spoke about the VAVS program. Looking for VAVS state chairs.
* **Richard Lindbeck,** get you expense reports in.
* **Rex Moody** thanked everyone who gave reports today.
* **Recessed at 4:52 PM:** Will not adjourn until after the National BOD meeting on Saturday January 12, 2019, just in case there is other business that needs to be taken care of.

**CSCP** Meeting Adjourned Saturday January 12 at 11:04 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Mackey

CSCP Secretary