



## Vietnam Veterans of America - Chapter 1075

### Meeting Minutes 29 October 2022

**Meeting Location:** Skills Academy DP, 1575 Garden of the Gods Rd  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907

**Meeting called to order:** By Thomas Dowell

**Opening Ceremony:** Prayer by Marcus Baird, Pledge of Allegiance and Recognition of POW/MIA by Thomas Dowell

**Special Recognition:** George L. Claxton, a former US Army 25th Inf Div soldier whose life work was deeply entwined with the Agent Orange movement. His awards included the VVA Commendation Medal and he was the sole recipient of the VVA Agent Orange Medal.

**HURRAH's** to our Vice President LeRoy Trusty's article which was published in the Oct 2022 issue of the VVA Magazine.

**Guest Speaker:** N/A

**Roll Call of Officers:** Thomas Dowell (President), LeRoy Trusty (Vice President), David Ramey (Treasurer), George Merriam (Secretary)

**Mission Statement:** LeRoy Trusty

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** Acceptance/Approval of Previous Month - 24 Sep 2022 minutes

**Sickness and Distressed:** Continue Prayers of Strength and Comfort for Terry Mikesell, Manny Pedraza, Larry Mckenzie and Perry Johnson.

### **Application of Membership/ Introduction of New Members:**

**Bill Brandt - US Army and Buddy Mondragon -US Army joined our Chapter with Life Memberships paid by the Chapter. Buddy was present and introduced himself to the group.**

### **Treasurers Report:**

**David Ramey reported incoming expenses for the month of October which included donations to the Veterans Center in Aurora and the VVA Chapter in Puerto Rico. Motion to accept Treasurers Report by Larry Peterson; 2nd Jerry Lollar**

### **Correspondence /Committee Reports:**

**George Merriam read Thank You notes from Marcus Baird -Good News Jail and Prison Ministry and Melissa Blair-O'Shaughnessy-Veterans Community Living Center at Fitzsimmons.**

### **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- \* Time Capsule Update - Greg Harsch displayed a drawing of the proposed appearance of the Time Capsule site. Greg also showed how the items to be placed in the Time Capsule could be packaged in zip-lock bags to be opened in 20 years by family members when the Time Capsule is unearthed. We are just waiting on final approval from the parks management.**
- \* Gazette Sunday Paper Ad- LeRoy Trusty reported being in contact with both the Gazette and The Courier as well as Life Over 50 with our Chapter information to be published. So far nothing has been published. LeRoy will revisit these sources as well as local military publications.**
- \* Start-Up of the new VVA Chapter in Alamosa - Paul Kennedy and Colorado State Council President Tony Nickerson will make a trip to Alamosa November 15. Tom mentioned that he and Paul have been to Almosa, Paul has made several trips, and now that Tony and Paul will be meeting with the Alamosa group again, that the ball is in their court as to if they want to start a new Chapter. With the State Council becoming involved, maybe our Chapter participation is no longer necessary.**
- \* Annual Chapter Christmas Party with spouses - 17 Dec 2022, Noon-2:30pm at the Red Lobster, 4925 N. Academy (between Flintridge and Union). Tom**

needs to let the Red Lobster know the exact number of those attending this event by 15 Nov 2022. Tom needs name/number from each member who is planning to attend. You can email or text Tom with this information no later than 14 Nov 2022. Also, a “White Elephant” gift exchange will be part of this event. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift (\$10.00-\$30.00) Spouses may participate if they also bring a gift.

- \* **El Paso County Homeless Stand Down 18 Oct 2022-Tom reported that he was hospitalized and could not attend this event but Paul Kennedy did an excellent job coordinating this event in his place with the help of Sonny Litchfield, John Armstrong, Red Carver, Ed Florez and George Merriam. Tom also recognized LeRoy Trusty for the vast amount of items he procured from the Vibes organization which was donated to Veterans and items which can be used by the Skills Academy, McAndless and Walsenburg Veterans homes.**
  
- \* **Visit to the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial at the USAF 19 Nov 2022 Motion made to attend this as a group by Larry Peterson, 2nd Greg Harsch. LeRoy Trusty will coordinate this event and notify Chapter time and location to meet.**
  
- \* **Colorado Springs Veterans Day Parade - 10 am 5 Nov 2022 - Our Chapter will participate and march with the Honor Bell. Larry Peterson will be at space #14 (near Tejon & Willamette) 7:30 am. Arrive early for better parking and wear Red Chapter shirts.**
  
- \* **VVA Scholarship Award Packages - Tom passed out the packages to volunteers who will deliver to all school districts in the area within the next couple of weeks**
  
- \* **AVVA membership - Tom encouraged membership to contact George Merriam for AVVA membership forms as well as the new VVA membership forms**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- \* **Tom opened for discussion that a member proposed that the first 1/2 hour of our 9:00 am be used as social time. Jerry Bryant made the motion to have social time from 9:00-9:30 am on our meeting day. Greg Harsch 2nd motion. Tom asked for a show of hands with a great majority approving this.**

- \* Tom also brought up for discussion a member questioned whether we needed to meet each month since we didn't meet in November or December. Tom explained that we don't meet in November because Thanksgiving is right before that holiday. We don't meet in December because we have our Christmas Party which serves as our meeting time. Larry Peterson brought up that he and probably others sometimes have to miss because of conflicts and would not like to see the number of meeting further reduced. Tom also stated that really wasn't a month that would be easy to cut from the schedule because of our activities monthly throughout the year. No motion was made and Tom asked for a show of hands of those who wanted to keep the schedule the same

**GOOD OF THE ORDER: Any information that maybe of interest/benefit the Chapter**

- \* **TOM NEEDS HELP SETTING UP THE MEETING ROOM IN THE BUILDING FRIDAY AT 4:30 pm BEFORE OUR MONTHLY MEETING. NO NEED TO CALL, JUST SHOW UP. 3 - 4 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
- \* **John Armstrong mentioned that he had been contacted about the Camp Lejeune lawsuit. LeRoy Trusty advised all that those affected should not contact a lawyer and that the VA would be handling any claims for no charge to affected Veterans.**
- \* **SPECIAL COIN Orders VVA Chapter 1075 (\$7.00 each). Tom reviewed the final individual orders with members present. There were several members present who wanted to order Chapter Coins. Tom said he would take their orders at the conclusion of the meeting.**
- \* **Chapter 1075 will pay \$50.00 new Lifetime Memberships for new members thru 31 Dec 2022**
- \* **The new Veterans Hotline number is 988. This line is open 24/7, 365.**
- \* **Leftover Items from Stand Down for sale: Socks -\$3.00 or 2 for \$5.00 and hand knitted scarfs-\$10.00**
- \* **Commissary reminds Vets that you can now shop in all Military Commissaries with any service connected disability, Purple Heart recipients, POW's and designated primary care givers.**
- \* **DONATE YOUR OLD REPAIRABLE/USED CAR TO THE SKILLS CENTER**

- \* **FLU Shots available at VA Clinic and local pharmacies**
- \* **Special SALE on Chapter long sleeve shirts with pocket-\$40.00, Long sleeve shirts without pocket- \$35.00; short sleeve-\$30.00 Handmade quilts-\$25.00**

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

**Eloy Ortega  
Edward Florez  
Lawrence Van Wert  
Mrs Mittie Pedraza  
Mrs Patrick Hines**

**NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

**Mr&Mrs Larry Peterson  
Mr&Mrs Larry McKenzie  
Mr&Mrs Terry Mikesell  
Mr&Mrs Joseph Litchfield  
Mr&Mrs Greg Harsch  
Mr&Mrs LeRoy Trusty**

**Closing Ceremony and adjournment-retire the colors-Moment of Silence for POW/MIA**

**Next Meeting: 0900 hours, 28 January 2023 at “New” facility. The address is:  
1575 Garden of the Gods Road**

