

Vietnam Veterans of America
Conference of State Council Presidents
April 15, 2010
Silver Spring MD
Approved Minutes

Meeting of the Conference of State Council Presidents was called to order by Chair Charlie Montgomery at 9:00 am on Thursday, April 15, 2010.

John Weiss of Rhode Island led devotions. The Pledge of Allegiance was done and a moment of silence followed for POW/MIA's, and our troops in harms way. Charlie Montgomery assigned Avery Taylor of South Carolina as Parliamentarian.

Roll Call of States: The states represented at the meeting totaled 42; a quorum was met. The following States were present:

ALABAMA	MONTANA	WEST VIRGINIA
ALASKA	NEBRASKA	WISCONSIN
ARIZONA	NEVADA	
ARKANSAS	NEW JERSEY	
CALIFORNIA	NEW MEXICO	
CONNECTICUT	NEW YORK	
FLORIDA	NORTH CAROLINA	
GEORGIA	NORTH DAKOTA	
IDAHO	OHIO	
INDIANA	OKLAHOMA	
IOWA	OREGON	
KANSAS	PENNSYLVANIA	
LOUISIANA	PUERTO RICO	
MAINE	RHODE ISLAND	
MARYLAND	SOUTH CAROLINA	
MASSACHUSETTS	TENNESSEE	
MICHIGAN	TEXAS	
MINNESOTA	VERMONT	
MISSISSIPPI	VIRGINIA	

MISSOURI

WASHINGTON

Officers present were:

Chair:	Charlie Montgomery - Virginia
1 st Vice Chair	Tom Burke - Ohio
2 nd Vice Chair	Billee Messer - Arizona
Secretary:	Billee Culin - Connecticut

The agenda was adopted as amended. The minutes of February 19-20, 2010 were accepted.

Officers' Reports:

Charlie Montgomery – CSCP Chair - Virginia No Report

Tom Burke – 1st Vice Chair – Ohio – No Report

Bill Messer – Arizona – No Report

Wes Guidy

1 Leadership Conference: Reminded that presidents must make their own reservations with
2 the hotel.

32011 CSCP Winter Meeting

4a. San Mateo, CA 01/20/22/2011

5 \$89 per night plus 10% tax and \$1.50 fee

6 Free meeting place, free shuttle, free parking

b. Austin, TX

\$117 per night plus 16.75% tax

Free 1 hour long distance calls, free internet, Free meeting place

\$14 per night parking, Free breakfast and supper

MOTION NO 1: To have the January 20-22, 2010 CSCP meeting in San Mateo, CA

Motion made by Wayne Reynolds of Alabama and seconded by Sara

McVicker of Maryland. Motion passed. 32 for and 10 against

Craig Tonjas Spoke about the Golf Tournament at the 2010 Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL on
Tuesday morning. Stated that it was a great course

● **CSCP COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Budget Committee – Tom Burke - Ohio

Tom discussed the Reimbursement form. Submitted CSCP for \$85,000. Discussed the 3rd meeting.

Dave Simmons – West Virginia spoke about the Travel Assistance Policy.

Suggested increase to no more than \$5,000 in the bank

Dennis Andras – Louisiana wants minimum increased to \$10,000

MOTION NO. 2: Raise to \$10,000 from \$5,000 for amount on bank statement on Travel Assistance Policy Motion made by Dennis Andras of Louisiana and seconded by John Miner of Vermont Motion defeated. 6 for and 32 against

MOTION NO. 3 To approve this new policy and name change to “TRAVEL ASSISTANCE POLICY Motion made by Travel Assistance Policy Task Force Policy passed

Bill Messer of Arizona suggested that the \$42.50 per diem be brought back. This issue should be addressed and set the same as the National BOD

MOTION NO 4: Set CSCP per diem to be the same as the National BOD per diem. Motion made by Wayne Reynolds of Alabama and seconded by Dennis Andres of Louisiana Motion Passed 39 for, 1 against and 1 abstained

By-Laws Committee – Jeff White – Pennsylvania – No Report

Constitution Committee – Bill Messer – Arizona – No Report

SCP Handbook Committee – Bob Johnston – California – go online or use thumb drive

Credentials Committee – Charlie Montgomery Virginia – Don't forget the SF180's

CSCP Disciplinary Committee – Butch Huber Illinois – No Report

Membership Committee – Marshall Mudge Massachusetts

– No Report Just reminder to get reports in on time

Healthcare Committee – Pat Bessigano-Indiana– Expecting 30% more to be using the VA System. Over 70% using private healthcare. There would be more than a 50% increase that would be for women. Companies are using IT to get in touch and assisting VA & Vets.

Veterans Benefits Committee – Jerry Klein – Florida – Talked about AVVA, VA Judicators/backlog.

With regards to the new A/O diseases, you can file the claim now and those previously reported will be retroactive. NVLSP – questionable

Government Affairs Committee – George Newell – Missouri – Report on File

Women Veterans Committee – Beverly Tewart – Montana – Sent about twelve emails about the Women's Healthcare Survey

Homeless Committee – Ric Davidge – Alaska –

1 Vetism – discrimination – not want to look at new vets and their injuries

2VN Vets looked to help correct this problem

3Need a copy of the VA Plan to end homelessness in five years

4Housing First – if want to go to treatment programs, they make the choice as

5to what they want. Corroboration isn't necessary if psych says it is..

Nominating Committee – David Simmons – West Virginia – Will need letter of intent to run for officer position on CSCP either by email or snail mail.

Round Table Discussions – Went around the table and SCP spoke about what is going on in some of their states that is of interest to the CSCP members as follows:

ARIZONA – Bill Messer – nothing to report at this time

MONTANA – Beverly Stewart – all chapters are in good standing. Two transitional homes have been opened, but there are no rooms for women. There will be a stand down this summer.

MISSOURI – George Newell – Had 21 Listening Post (panel for all eras of veterans) this summer. Info was taped, summarized and presented to the governor. There will be a Fisher House opening late summer.

PENNSYLVANIA – Dave Johnston – Gave report of status of Jeff White's illness and recovery
Stand Down in Western Pennsylvania – homeless rate is down about 40%

BREAK FOR SPECIAL PRESENTATION AND SPECIAL GUESTS

TOM BURKE – Ohio – CFC

Taled about CFC and funding for VSO programs through VSF. United Way usually assists in making contacts. Will be having a training session at the Leadership Conference.

NANCY REKOWSKI – Pennsylvania – spoke about the CD of her husband's original music dedicated to Veterans – Angel on My Wrist Also funds raised would stay with chapter or state council to run VSO programs. Her contact phone number is 814-965-5760

JOHN ROWAN - Introduced two gentlemen – Steve and Nick Frazier, who started the Car Donation Program. They will be speaking at the BOD Meeting.

ROUND TABLE (CONTINUED)

NORTH CAROLINA -Jack Kristek – VSO had a meeting. NC Vet Council will meet on

April 19, 2010

FLORIDA – Jerry Klein

1New chapter in The Villages – 274 membership

2Ben Humphreys new chapter in Vero Beach

NEW YORK – Ned Foote

Spoke about the NY Burial Planning Guidelines

He is willing to help other states to get it up and running

Now have a 15 page booklet

SOUTH CAROLINA – Avery Taylor

1Membership Campaign did not work

2Will come up with new ideas

3Region 3 Conference will be in Greenville SC 03/31-04/03/2011

ARKANSAS – Larry Robinson

\$1 to \$2 will be put into a veterans fund when get license/tags

INDIANA – Pat Bessignano – 2 year service grant of \$10,000 and an office were received

NEW MEXICO – Frank Ramirez – March 29th will be Welcome Vietnam Veterans Day

Donations were made to the homeless

MICHIGAN – Ken Dieget

127% loss in Veterans Benefits Funding

2Another 7% will be lost in 2011

3Have started the car program

NEVADA – Ken Braker

1Membership is up

2High response to banquet for Women Vets in November – 300 t 400

3Hard to put bills thru – legislature only meets every two years

OREGON – Tom Owen

1MICK Project – reaching out to vets to tell them about their benefits

220 year lease of 2 acres that is ADA compliant ith fishing box on a pond

WASHINGTON – Billy Robbins – have offices in universities for Vet Office. New Federal
cemetary being opened this year new Spokane, WA

KANSAS – Ron Zink

1Putting on one day seminars

2Gold Star Family License Tag added to VN Veterans Tag based on DD214

303/30/2010 – Recognition of VN Vets Day

IDAHO – Bob Seal – Two chapters still in trouble

PUERTO RICO – Jorge Pedroza – Nothing has changed/in fact it is worse. VVA looked up to by
young soldiers

GEORGIA Wayne Watkins

1Started a new chapter

2Now have car tag w/branch tags

3Fort Benning WHVN Day 05/27/10 to 06/05/10 – will be an annual event

TENNESSEE – Charlie Hobbs – Membership is growing

MAINE – Wayne Cartier – Bangor has a one stop CBOC as of 04/06/2010

MINNESOTA – Maynard Kaderlik

1VSO program going strong

2Working with legislature

32nd Fisher House being built

WISCONSIN – Mike Demske – 05/21-22/10 Welcome VN Vet Celebratio9n

NEBRASKA – Dottie Barickman

1New federal cemetery

2Has six chapters and one is closing down

3Government leads roundtable discussions with the veterans organizations

OKLAHOMA – Nathaniel Washington – 07/02-04/2010 – VN Vet Welcome Home Day

TEXAS – Buser Newberry – No Report

LOUISIANA – Dennis Andres – No Report

VERMONT – John Miner

1Lottery for veterans brought to the legislators and changed to check off on income tax

2Commander's Meeting will be held on April 25, 2010

MARYLAND – Sara McVicker

1The state is surviving

2Will be chartering its first incarcerated vet chapter soon

3Veteran nursing homes survived the cuts

4New email address www.vvmaryland.org

ALABAMA – Wayne Reynolds – No Report

IOWA – John Bishop

1Governor is now calling to see what veterans need

2Now have two incarcerated Veterans Chapters

CALIFORNIA – Bob Johnston

1Commented on census survey about not having question about veteran status

203/27-28/2010 – Welcome Home VN Vet Day across the state

303/25 – First legislative lobby day

WEST VIRGINIA – David Simmons

1New cemetery was dedicated

2Build a Bear – 798 bears have been given out

3VN Vets Welcome Home day on 05/05/2010

4One Vietnam and One Desert Storm Vets were lost in the mine accident

NEW JERSEY – Herb Worthington – one chapter will dissolve due to lack of interest.

ALASKA – Ric Davidge – SB215 passed VA and state for vets to get meds they need. Vet City -
idea for vets to go under transition.

MASSACHUSETTS – Paul Richards – No Report

CONNECTICUT – Billee Culin

1Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day will be March 29th every year starting 2010

2Announced that will not be running for re-election and moving to Arizona in June.

VIRGINIA – Charlie Montgomery – No Report

There being no new business, Meeting was recessed until after the National BOD Meeting on Saturday
04/16-17/2010

CSCP and National Board Meeting ajourned at 4:29 pm on April 17, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Billee Culin

BILLEE CULIN

CSCP Secretary