

Vietnam Veterans of America
Conference of State Council Presidents
April 14-16, 2011
Silver Spring, MD
Approved Minutes

Meeting of the Conference of State Council Presidents was called to order by Chair Charlie Montgomery at 2:08 pm on Thursday, April 14, 2011.

Wayne Reynolds of Alabama led devotions. The Pledge of Allegiance was done and a moment of silence followed for POW/MIA's, and our troops in harms way.

Roll Call of States: The states represented at the meeting totaled 37; a quorum was met. The following States were present:

ALABAMA	MICHIGAN	OREGON
ALASKA	MINNESOTA	PENNSYLVANIA
ARIZONA	MISSISSIPPI	RHODE ISLAND
CALIFORNIA	MISSOURI	SOUTH CAROLINA
CONNECTICUT	MONTANA	TENNESSEE
FLORIDA	NEBRASKA	TEXAS
GEORGIA	NEW JERSEY	VERMONT
IDAHO	NEW MEXICO	VIRGINIA
INDIANA	NEW YORK	WASHINGTON
KENTUCKY	NORTH CAROLINA	WEST VIRGINIA
MAINE	NORTH DAKOTA	WISCONSIN
MARYLAND	OHIO	
MASSACHUSETTS	OKLAHOMA	

<u>Officers present were:</u>	Chair:	Charlie Montgomery - Virginia
	1 st Vice Chair	Tom Burke - Ohio
	2 nd Vice Chair	Bill Messer - Arizona
	Secretary:	Avery Taylor – South Carolina

Housekeeping:

Charlie Montgomery assigned Wayne Reynolds of Alabama as Parliamentarian.

The agenda was adopted with no amendments.

Question was raised regarding composition of the Convention Candidates Q&A committee. Same members, Bill Messer, Dottie Brickman, Bob Seal, Charlie Montgomery as advisor, but Dottie Brickman was appointed chair (instead of Bill.)

The minutes of January 21-22, 2011, were accepted without amendment.

Wes Guidry:

Reported on findings of venues for the CSCP Winter meeting.

Motion 01 To accept the Daytona Beach Resort, Daytona Beach, FL offer; made by Wayne Reynolds, 2nd by Charlie Hobbs. Carried. Date will be January 25-29, 2012.

Special Presentation:

Tom Berger and Tom Hall made a presentation on the activities of VA & VVA in the area of suicide risk prevention and evaluation.

The VA will be creating hand outs, coasters, and a video. Vietnam Veterans will be involved in the video production.

VVA is heavily involved with the National Center for Suicide Prevention on an “anti Stigma” campaign and PSA’s that will involve VVA Veterans.

Dr. Tom Hall made a report of presentations at the Boston Suicide Prevention conference he attended.

Officers’ Reports:

Charlie Montgomery – Virginia –

No report.

Tom Burke – 1st Vice Chair – Ohio –

Announced that for those states with a service officer program there will be sufficient funds from the VSF to continue operations through the contract year.

Each state must designate a person to responsible for all service officer reports for the state.

We will be participating in the CFC campaign again this year.

Some state councils are not compliant with the MOU with VSF. VSF has announced they may fine them (but not take away any of the contracted funds disbursement.) There was much heated discussion of this announcement.

Bill Messer – 2nd Vice Chair - Arizona –

We have \$20 in the “kitty.” (fines for phone interruptions.)

Budget report: Tom Burke –

Budget submitted for \$85K but if the finance committee votes to increase the per-diem by \$10/day our budget will need to be increased by \$5K to cover the increase.

Motion 02 By Pat Bessigano, 2nd by Wayne Reynolds: To increase the CSCP Per Diem rate to \$45/day, subject to BOD approval. Carried.

Motion 03 by Ric Davidge: To direct the Chairman of the CSCP to attend the Finance Committee to request an increase in the CSCP budget of \$5K to cover the Per Diem increase. Carried.

Credentials Committee Report: Jim Blount.

Encouraged everyone to insure all delegates pre-register. Each state should notify Jim at herdssg@cox.net of their state's delegate count as soon as it is known to facilitate setting up the hall.

Constitution Committee Report: Bill Messer.

Stated two of the current amendments to report out. Indicated there may be more after the committee meeting later this week.

Elections Committee Report: Adolph Gardner.

Distributed the candidates roster as of 4/13. Letters of Intent are due no later than 4/30. All required documentation from the candidates is due by the end of May.

Government Affairs: John Weiss.

Commendations for the Advocacy Training classes conducted on Wednesday and the "Take the Hill" event of Thursday morning..

Plans are to have an IG inspection of any VA issues. Let Ric Davidge know if you have any issues to report.

Women Veterans: Ric Davidge reported that Alaska women veterans are experiencing problems working with the VA in that state.

Disciplinary Committee: Ric Davidge requested information regarding the status of the issue submitted about a year ago (names withheld for confidentiality.) He was advised the case has be through reviews and is currently awaiting the completion of the 90 day response period before proceeding to the next level.

Q&A Session for Candidates: Session scheduled to be held Thursday afternoon after the resolutions. Arranged with Wes to place it on the agenda to run from 3 – 5 p.m. The committee will formulate the questions to be asked and will be the only people who know what they are.

Membership Committee: 15K new membership flyers are being printed. States and chapters must submit a written request to get copies.

Veterans Health Care: Pat Bessigano reported new brochures about systemic Heart Disease are being printed.

Homeless Veterans: Ric Davidge.

Encouraged all state presidents to get their states moving toward getting legislation enacted to have a statement included on driver licenses identifying the person as a veteran.

Reported that AK is experiencing some problems dealing with the homeless camps.

National President report: John Rowan.

Reported about the Service Rep training program is now available online at the same fee as the MVLSP book - \$160. Successful completion of this course will enable candidates to be accredited by the VA.

The VVA, in order to maintain standards, also requires:

Completion of the 1 week in house class

Completion of the “Trip Training” at any regional office.

The next VVA in house class is being scheduled for July 11.

State Council presidents must approve, along with completion of the MVLSP or Online course as the minimum for VVA accreditation.

990N's: Charlie Montgomery reminded everyone that all chapters and councils must include a copy of the IRS acceptance letter of the 990N filing with their VVA Financial Report.

There being no new business, Meeting was recessed at 16:42 until after the BOD meeting adjourns on Saturday.

Meeting adjourned 16:00 Saturday, April 16, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Avery Taylor

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CSCP Secretary