

Minutes for January 10, 2024 Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 279 Meeting

The regular meeting of VVA Chapter 279 was called to order by President Hester at 1830 hours. Pres. Hester led the Pledge of Allegiance. Officers present were: President Hester, Vice President Mangiamelli, Secretary Halbkat, and Treasurer Haase. There were 4 officers and 15 members present. We have a quorum.

Guest Speaker: None

New Members: None

Sick Call: Tom Brown has pneumonia, Dennis Wilson is putting up with chemo, Ron Dupell is still fighting his battle with cancer, and Jim Kjosa is taking time off to recover from his illness. Get well ,men. We miss you!

Secretary Report: Sent to all members via email. George Abbott made a motion to approve as written and it was seconded by Dick Rowe. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report: Report is on the table for all members to review. Mike Steffen made a motion to accept the report and it was seconded by Andy Dosa. The motion carried. Treasurer Haase then brought bills to be paid by the chapter. President Hester's grandson \$240.00 for website maintenance, and Pres. Hester \$715.84 for damage to his garage by the Chapter's parade trailer. George Abbott made motion to pay said bills and Allan Browley seconded. Motion carried.

Golf Outing: Will be September 30, 2024. Cost is the same as last year -- \$57.00 per person.

Scholarships: No Report

Veterans Home Board: No Report

Correspondence Report: Vice Pres. Mangiamelli read a letter from Lynn DeShon with the Quilts of Honor for minority Vietnam Veterans. She thanked the chapter for their support of the Dec. 9th event at the African American Methodist Church in North Omaha. Another letter was read from the director of Boys Town. He thanked the chapter for our donation to their Christmas program.

Veterans Court: Joe Mangiamelli and Eddie Nelson report another graduation to be held Feb. 1, 2024.

National VVA Delegate Report: No Report

Nebraska VVA Foundation: George Abbott reports all the heavy work is done. The helo should be placed around last week of January. On the 29th of March there will be a private service for Howard Ball, former member of the chapter.

Homeless Veterans: No Report

Chapter Membership: Pres. Hester reports 209 members and 12 associates, to be 211 shortly.

POW/MIA: Ron Haase reports 1577 after one more pilot was identified using 12 bones recovered.

Quilts of Valor: See Mike Steffen for an application form.

New Business: Pres. Hester reports that Cliff Leach, former chapter member, has passed at the VA. He had transferred to the Fremont chapter. His service will be Jan. 24th at the National Cemetery. Tom Meradith, former chapter Chaplin, is now retired and back among us fulltime. Welcome back, Tom. The OPS system would like us to give talks at their schools to the JROTC groups. We did this last year and they were very successful. See Pres. Hester for more details.

Dates to Remember: Sunday – 2-18, Valentines dinner at the Post, 5:30

Monday – 4-5, National VV Day, Quilts of Valor. More to come. Watch your email.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, February`14, 2024 at 1830 hours, located at the Millard American Legion Post 374.

A motion to adjourn was made by Andy Dosa and seconded by Allan Rowley. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Tom Halbkat, Secretary