

## Minutes for March 13, 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. President Hester led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for deceased members. President Hester, Vice President Mangiamelli, and Treasurer Hasse were in attendance; Secretary Halbkat was excused for medical reasons. Three officers and 28 members attending, a quorum. One prospective member was in attendance and was provided an application for membership following the meeting.

The meeting agenda was adjusted to provide for Nominations of Officers. Member Dottie Barickman conducted the nomination of officers calling for nomination for each office three times with the current officers being re-nominated and the slate of officers approved by acclamation. These officers will serve a two year term. The discussion of officer positions included a suggestion for a new position, Second Vice President, to ensure Chapter needs are adequately met - this position will be considered for the next officer election period at the conclusion of the current term.

Guest Speaker: None but a speaker is being planned for the April 10 meeting.

New Members: None

Sick call: Member Dennis Wilson and Andy Dosa are doing better and were present at the meeting; Member Ron Dupell is also doing better.

President Hester reminded the members that advance reservations need to be made to attend the annual Vietnam Veterans Days dinner on April 5.

Secretary Report: The report had been emailed to members. Motion by Mangiamelli seconded by Page the minutes as written, approved as written. President Hester clarified a question about the reported cost of golf at the prior outing; the cost quoted was that paid to the golf course for each golfer, not the cost of golf at the event.

Treasurers Report: The report was available for review by the members. Treasurer Hasse presented a year end report of revenue and expenses during the year with a year end balance of \$5,408.08. Motion by Abbott, second by Steffen to approve the Treasurers Report, motion carried. Current bills of \$128.66 for President Hester for trailer lock(\$22.15) office supplies (\$85.02) and Valentine's Day dinner programs (\$21.44) and for \$40.85 for Vice President Mangiamelli for printing of Chapter By-Laws; motion by Boller seconded by Dosa, motion carried.

Treasurer Hasse addressed the Chapter accounts: CD at Veridian matures March 22 and suggested reinvestment for 21 months at 4.6%, motion to approve by Boller, second by Rowe, motion passed; also, there is a large amount in our Money Market account at Core Bank, Abbott moved to take \$10,000 from this account and to have the officers direct investment in a CD for a term and interest rate beneficial to the Chapter, second by :Lundquist, motion passed.

Review of By-Laws: Copies of the current By-Laws were distributed for review. The By-Laws are general in nature a number Chapter "rules" approved by the membership, including the two year term for officers, location of our meeting place and the donation policy all previously approved by the membership. The By-Laws were presented for review with the intent of adopting the same at the April meeting. Following the meeting, two members currently serving a "board of directors" noted that the By-Laws call for meetings every other month be revised - that item will be considered by the officers for action at the April meeting.

Golf Outing: The annual outing will be held September 30, 2024 at Pacific Springs Golf Course.

Scholarships: State Council President Brown reported information will be provided at the April meeting.

Veterans Home Board: State Council President Brown reported the Board met in January in Bellevue when 85 applications for housing were considered with three rejections for various reasons. Brown further elaborated on the status of openings at several of the state facilities and the close and detailed review each application receives.

Correspondence: Vice President Mangiamelli read information relative to an invitation for Vietnam Veterans to attend a Vietnam Veterans Day celebration at Bellevue University on March 29. Detailed information will be sent to the membership via email

Veterans Court: Member Eddie Nelson reported on the recent graduation of veterans in the court system and asked the members to think about veterans they may know who have eligible offenses to apply for consideration as members of the court to have those offenses resolved.

National VVA Delegate Report: Member Barickman advised the national association is identifying a seven year period in which dissolution plans will need to be considered and adopted - these plans will provide direction for state councils and local chapters to determine their respective courses of action when the national organization might cease operations.

Nebraska VVA Foundation: Member George Abbott provided information about the status of work underway at the Memorial site: Concrete at the north end started with completion anticipate later this month; landscaping to be completed by April 5; a ceremony honoring Member Howard Ball to be held at noon on March 29; bench grading work expected to be complete March 18; the contractor construction trailer is being moved to facilitate paving; and, events being scheduled for June 4, 5 and 6 all requiring tickets - additional information will be provided as these dates draw closer. And , a ceremony at the Nebraska National Cemetery (NNC) at 0900 on March 29; Headstone cleaning at NNC on April 27 at 0900; Flag placement for Memorial Day on May 25; and a Veterans Town Hall with Congressman Bacon on May 6. Again, more information will be provided as these dates draw closer.

Homeless Veterans: No report

Chapter Membership Report: 209 members

POW-MIA: 1,577 still MIA

Quilts of Valor: No discussion, see member Steffen for application forms.

New/Old Business to be discussed: President Hester addresses several items: need to identify a site to store the Chapter trailer requesting members forward his Facebook posting to get a wide range of info sharing to secure a needed site and his discussion with JROTC Commander DeBolt regarding our members attending local OPS schools to speak to classes. Treasurer Hasse addresses the purchase of addition POW bracelets for resale to members and interested parties. The membership recommended acquiring 100 bracelets for \$142 for resale at \$2 each, motion by Love, second by Page, motion carried.

Next meeting to be held Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 1830 hours at the Millard American Legion Post 374.

Motion to adjourn: Motion made by Rowe, seconded by Boller - motion carried.

Draft submitted to Secretary Halbkat by Mangiamelli on March 17. Amended draft submitted March 20.