

Minutes for August 14, 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. Officers present were: President Hester, Vice President Mangiamelli, Treasurer Haase, and Secretary Halbkat. There were 4 officers and 25 members present. We have a quorum.

Guest Speaker: None

New Members: Ruben Bera. Great to have you, Ruben. Welcome aboard!

Sick Call: Jim Kjosa is still under the weather but says he hopes to be at the next meeting. Get well, Jim.

Secretary Report: Report was sent out to all members via email. Ed Boller made a motion to approve as written and it was seconded by George Abbott. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Haase made the reports available on the table for all members to view. He explained all entries to the chapter and then reminded everyone that the numbers are confidential and if they do not need the report to hand it back to him for shredding. No bills to be paid. VP Mangiamelli made a motion to approve the report and Jim Quick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Parade: Our next parade will be Millard Days August 24. Parade starts at 11am, meet at the Legion Club in Millard at 10am. Our last parade will be the Labor Day Parade downtown Omaha. Meet at 930am at parking lot next to Conagra building. For those who haven't been to the parades this summer, think about coming. It's really a lot of fun.

Golf Outing: Don't forget our outing is September 30, 2024 at Pacific Springs Golf Club. We will need as many volunteers as possible. Please be there around 730am. This will be a big one and a lot of fun!!!

Scholarships: Tom Brown read a letter from the executive director of Metro Community College thanking us for our incredible support of MCC students through our scholarship program. Enclosed with the letter were 5 thank you letters from students who benefited from our program. Each student received at least \$950.00.

Veterans Home Board: Tom Brown reports the board met in Scottsbluff in July and still have openings in all homes.

Correspondence Report: VP Mangiamelli read thank you letter from the Quilts of Valor Foundation in reference to the chapter's donation of \$1000.00. Because of donations like ours, their organization has been able to award over 125,000 Quilts of Valor. Just a side note --- one of our chapter members, Mike Steffen's wife, Mary, is quite the seamstress and has had her hands in awarding many of our chapter members with their Quilt of Valor. Thank you, Mary.

Veterans Court: Eddie Nelson reports all is going well with program. He would like to see more members of the chapter there. Location is the Douglas County Court House, 5th floor, Room 503.

National VVA Delegate Report: Our delegate, Dottie Barickman, is currently at a VVA conference in Reno, NV and should have a lot to report at the next meeting.

Nebraska VVA Foundation: Tom Brown reports visitors at all times of the day. It was mentioned at the Nebraska VVA reunion and 2 bus loads of veterans came to visit.

Homeless Veterans: No report

Chapter membership: We have 210 members and 12 associates

Quilts of Valor: See Mike Steffen for a form.

POW/MIA: Currently 1575. Ron Haase reports about 400 of those will be exclusions.

Next meeting will be September 11, 2024 at 1830 hours. Mtg. at the Millard American Legion Post 374

Dick Rowe made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Jim Quick. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

Tom Halbkat, Secretary