

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

NEBRASKA STATE COUNCIL MINUTES

BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY VETERANS CENTER

APRIL 6, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 0900 hours by President Brown, who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of State Council Officers: President Brown, Vice President Schissel, Treasurer Kjosa, and Secretary Halbkat, who was excused

Roll call of Chapter delegates:

Chapter 279 – Joe Mangiamelli, Jim Quick

Chapter 455 – Steve Schawang

Chapter 727 –William Duffield II

Guest Speaker: None

Sick Call: Chapter 455 President passed away

President Brown: reports the Membership-At-Large is 148. He also gave us an update on the NEVVA Memorial. Some important dates are; 4/5 helicopter mounted, 4/8 all brick work to be done, 5/1 all landscaping to be complete, 6/4 soft opening, 6/5 original helicopter crew arrives, 6/6 Grand Opening. He also states that the new Chapter from Polk County will be attending the July meeting. President Brown also gave the members present some very interesting handouts. Besides a new National VVA phone directory, other handouts included; VA health and benefits update, the purpose of VVA, a summary of the JROTC top cadet competition, a very interesting piece on stolen valor, and a must read on the National Memorial in Washington, DC.

Vice President Dennis Schissel: reports were made on the Nebraska Veterans Home Board concerning new applications, reports from the Home administrators, and the Nebraska Veterans Council meeting that he and member Holloway attended Jan. 16, 2024. As the reports were quite lengthy, Schissel had passouts for all members present. The pickle report shows sales of \$8,372.27 and expenses of \$814.55 for a balance of \$48,162.30. George Abbott made motion to accept the report and it was seconded by Joe Mangiamelli. Motion carried.

Secretary's report: the minutes were emailed to all delegates and members. The reading of the minutes was waived. Joe Mangiamelli moved and Steve Schawang seconded to accept the minutes as written. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: the report was presented for January through March of 2024. Jim Quick moved and Steve Schawang seconded to accept report as written. Motion carried. A motion was made by Joe

Mangiamelli that the Council split the cost of the medalions with Chapter 279. The council and the chapter would each pay \$4000.00. Jim Quick seconded and motion passed.

AVVA report: no report

Nominations and Elections April 2024: for a 2 year term the present officers were all re-elected. They are: Tom Brown President, Dennis Schissel Vice President, Tom Halbkat Secretary, and Jim Kjosa Treasurer.

Correspondence: none

Old business: lifetime membership is still \$50.00. There are 587 chapters with 90,846 members. AVVA membership is 10,563.

Veterans Health and Benefits: Mike Jackman from the DAV reports that all veterans death certificates must have VA dated causes. He also warns against seeking lawyers for representation. It could cost loss of benefits.

POW/MIA: The latest count reported by Ron Haase and Randy Holke is 1,578.

Chapter Reports: Chapter 279 reports an outstanding turnout for our annual Valentines dinner with spouses served by Millard South JROTC members. The March meeting brought election of officers with the current slate agreeing to another 2 year term. With the summer city celebrations brings parades. The chapter is participating in at least 12 parades and the membership keeps growing. Now at 209 members and 12 associates. Members are selling tiles and other funding opportunities towards their goal of the Grand Opening of the NEVV Memorial. Delegate Mangiamelli had a passout for each member present. There were no reports from chapters 455 and 727.

New Business: be sure to check our webpage: vanebraskacouncil.org—it has been updated. Paper safes and Vietnam maps are available.

Calendar of Events:

Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial Grand Opening – June 6, 2024

NESC Meeting – July 13, 2024 (change from July 6 because of July 4th weekend)

NVVR Aug. 8 – 11, 2024, Lincoln, Ne.

VVA Leadership – Summer 2024, Reno, Ne.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Quick and seconded by Joe Mangiamelli. Motion carried.

Submitted by : Tom Halbkat, Secretary