

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

NEBRASKA STATE COUNCIL MINUTES

BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY VETERANS CENTER

JULY 13, 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, Secretary Halbkat, and Treasurer Kjosa was excused due to illness.

Roll call of Chapter delegates:

Chapter 279 – Joe Mangiamelli, Jim Quick

Chapter 455 - Stephen J. Schawang

Chapter 727 – Greg Holloway, William Duffield II

Guest Speaker: None

Sick Call and Funerals: Council Treasurer, Jim Kjosa, is on sick call.

Officers Reports:

President Brown reports the membership-at-large is 148. He also let the council know that the new VVA Chapter from Polk County has not shown up. President Brown also handed out passouts for everyone to read and keep: The Purpose of VVA, What Drives a VVA Away, and Group Guidelines.

Vice President Schissel reports the Nebraska Veterans Home Board met on April 12, 2024 at the Central Nebraska Veterans Home in Kearney, Nebraska. Agenda items were reviewed for the homes and applications for admittance to the homes were taken. All Nebraska homes reported on their status. He also reported that the Eastern Nebraska Home will hold its grand opening of the new wing on June 6, 2024. The opening of the new Grand Island Cemetery will be in the spring of 2025. The pickle fund has a starting balance of \$53,945.44 with expenses of \$6731.75 for a balance of \$47,213.69.

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

Treasurer's report: In the absence of the treasurer, President Brown presented the report for the months of April through June of 2024. Steve Schawang moved and Joe Mangiamelli seconded to accept the report. Motion carried.

AVVA report: No report.

Correspondence report: President Brown read three articles pertaining to Vietnam Veterans.

Old Business: lifetime membership is still \$50.00. There are 587 chapters with 90,846 members. AVVA membership is 10,563. The At Large Membership is 148. Causes for chapters closing are: no officers and health problems of the members.

Veterans Health and Benefits: Mike Jackman reports veterans who served in Guam are now coming into his office because Agent Orange has now been expanded to Guam.

POW/MIA: Ron Haase reports 2 more Vietnam veterans have been re-patriated and the number is now 1576.

Chapter reports: Joe Mangiamelli reports Chapter 279 has been busy with many parades the last quarter with parades in many surrounding cities. They also were well represented at the annual Honor and Remember activities. At the Memorial dedication they were well represented in the reading of the names of the Nebraskans. The chapter members continue to serve our veterans through the Douglas Cty. Veterans Treatment Court . There were no reports from Chapters 455 and 727.

New Business: Be sure to check our website: vvanbraskastatecouncil.org. It has been updated. Paper safes and Vietnam maps are available.

Calendar of Events:

NVVR Aug. 8-11, 2024 Lincoln, Ne.

VVA Leadership Aug.20-25, 2024 Reno, Nevada

NESC Meeting Date Oct.5, 2024 Bellevue University

Motion to adjourn was made by Greg Holloway and seconded by Dottie Barickman. Motion carried.

Submitted by: Tom Halbkat, Secretary