

Minutes for the January 11, 2023 Vietnam Veterans Chapter 279 meeting.

The regular meeting of VVA Chapter 279 was called to order by Vice President Mangiamelli at 1830 hours.

Vice President Mangiamelli led the Pledge of Allegiance. Officers present were: Vice Pres. Mangiamelli, Treasurer Haase, and Secretary Halbkat.

There were 22 members and 3 officers present. We have a quorum. Once again our guest speakers from the VA did not show up. They were to give us a talk on volunteers at the VA.

A reminder that Quilt of Valor forms can still be picked and returned to Mike Steffen. Believe Mike has 2 forms turned in already. If you have not participated in this program before, please consider. It is very emotional and very moving.

We have a new member tonight. Please welcome aboard Gary Nissen.

Sick Call: Dennis Wilson had back surgery, Andy Doza with stomach problems, and Ken Millhouse. Please keep our members in your prayers.

Secretaries Report: Minutes for the January 2023 meeting were sent out in advance to the membership via email. Motion to approve as written by George Abbott and seconded by Jim Quick. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report: The report was made available on table for both November and December 2022. Motion was made by Ed Boller and seconded by George Abbott to accept.. Motion passed unanimously.

Bills to be paid: Storage fee-\$430.00 flags cleaned to Vice Pres.--\$71.13 biannual report--\$30.00. Motion to approve by Tom Brown and seconded by Ed Boller. Motion carried.

First parade will be in May.

Scholarships: Tom Brown reports receiving letters from the VP of Advancement at Bellevue University. thanking the chapter for another scholarship given to another student. Along with the letter was attached a very grateful letter from the student thanking the chapter for our scholarship. He also received a letter from Metro Community College thanking us for scholarships totaling \$1855.10. The University of Nebraska Foundation also thanked us for our scholarships and gave us the names of the recipients.

Veterans Home: Tom Brown reports there will be a meeting on Jan. 20 and he will report at next meeting in February.

Correspondence: VP Mangiamelli informed the chapter of a pancake breakfast at the Benson VFW Post 2503 on Jan. 15, 2023. All Vietnam Vets are free. Proceeds will go to the 31 cadets that are marching in the Vietnam Veterans Day parade March 29, 2023 in Hawaii. All chapter members should meet in lobby at 10AM with our uniform and socialize with the cadets. The state council is giving \$1000.00 and Pete Gill made a motion that the chapter contribute \$1260.00 to their cause and Gary Nissen seconded. The motion carried. In other correspondence, VP Mangiamelli read 2 thank you letters, one from Bellevue

University thanking us for the \$1000.00 to fill backpacks for the homeless veterans. The other letter was from the Washington County VSO for the gift cards the chapter supplied them at Christmas.

In other correspondence, VP Mangiamelli read article from the AMVETS of Nebraska. They are hoping to move forward with erecting 3 bell towers in Veteran cemeteries across the state. These are Omaha National, Ne. Veterans Cemetery in Alliance, and Fort McPherson National Cemetery in Maxwell. Pete Gill made motion to make a preliminary donation of \$1000.00 to AMVETS and Leroy Christianson seconded. The motion carried.

Veterans Court: Eddie Nelson reports 5 new graduates for March and a new coordinator from Offut Air Base.

VVA Foundation: George Abbott reports new opening for Memorial set back to March 29, 2024 due to granite problems.

Chapter Membership: currently 201 members and 12 associates.

POW/MIA: Ron Haase reports 1581. MIA from Nebraska was found.

Ed Boller made a motion that chapter make donation of \$1000.00 to Quilts of Valor and it was seconded by Tom Brown. Motion carried.

Don't forget the annual VVA reunion held this year at the Regency in Omaha on Aug.10-13. Jim Quick made motion to donate \$1000.00 for advertising and Ed Boller seconded. Motion carried.

Jim Quick asked for more volunteers to speak at schools with cadet program. There are books located on table in front about Vietnam War. Take if you like, they are free.

A point of order was made by VP Mangiamelli. During the November 2022 meeting, a motion was made to send Anthony Weathers a gift card as a get well gesture from the Chapter. The motion was seconded and motion passed. Upon further review the officers found it to be in violation of the VVA Constitution. Therefore, a motion to resend the prior motion was made by Jim Quick and seconded by Glen Page. Motion carried. Anthony Weathers then stood up and addressed the chapter by expressing his gratefulness that we would consider that gesture. He expressed his thoughtfulness and thanked the chapter for thinking of him. All in attendance applauded.

The Chapters next meeting will be Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 1830 hours at Millard American Legion Post 374.

A motion was made by Jim Quick to adjourn and it was seconded by Tom Brown. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Tom Halbkat