

Minutes for the April 12, 2023 Vietnam Veterans 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 25 members and 4 officers present. We have a quorum.

As soon as the meeting got started, Vice Pres. Mangiamelli stated that we had forgot to list in last month's minutes that we had given Ron Hernandez from Vets Moving Forward a check for \$750.00 to help with his organization. We are making an amendment to this month's minutes which was made by Jim Quick and seconded by Ed Boller. The motion passed unanimously.

Chapter member Larry Ash's grand-daughter gave us a report on the National Vietnam Veterans parade and events held in Hawaii. She was one of the many JROTC members from Omaha that the Chapter sponsored and gave us all an interesting overview of the parade and activities.

Sick Call: Dennis Wilson is out with COVID. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Secretaries report: Minutes for April 2023 meeting were sent out via email to the membership. Motion to approve as written by Ed Boller and seconded by Dick Rowe. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurers Report: Report was made available on the table. Motion was made by Vice Pres. Mangiamelli and seconded by George Abbott to accept. Motion passed unanimously.

Bills to be paid: President Hester ordered new patches for the chapter. After finding the right price, he was able to purchase them at \$2.45 each which came to \$468.00. Pete Gill made motion to accept and Anthony Weathers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Golf Outing: We can lock in a price from the golf course for \$57.00 per person including food for the next 2 years with a vote. Pete Gill made a motion to accept and Andy Doza seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Parade Trailer: We are looking for a new driver this year to pull the trailer in parades. Also, looking for a place to store the trailer.

Parades: The first parade this year will be May 27, 2023. It is the Patriotic Parade downtown at 10am. Pres. Hester will be gone so we need a truck to pull trailer. Also, need someone with a small trailer to pull the POW cage. Thought I heard Walt Love volunteer.

Scholarships: no report

Veterans Home Board: no report

Correspondence: Vice Pres. Mangiamelli read letters of thanks to our chapter for the help we have given them through our donations. LTC {RET} DeBolt sent a letter outlining all the activities of the JROTC parade in Hawaii. Major {Ret} Nguyen also sent a letter from his classes at Buena Vista and Burke High schools thanking us for our help. Sgt Major Folts sent a letter thanking us for our support of the Metro JROTC program. We also received a letter from a family relocating here in the military about how they found our website so helpful in the relocation process. Finally, we received a letter from Quilts of Valor Foundation thanking us for the generous donation towards their cause.

Veterans Court: Eddie Nelson invites us to witness the good we do by visiting room 501 at 2pm in the court house.

National VVA delegate: no report

Nebraska VVA Foundation: Tom Brown reports LB 609 has passed the committee 9 for 0 against

Homeless Veterans: no report

Chapter membership: President Hester reports 201 members and 12 associates

POW/MIA: Ron Haase reports the number at 1579. A MIA has been identified as a Nebraska native and the funeral will be June 5th in Lincoln.

Quilts of Valor: Mike Steffen has forms.

Please check out the chapter's webpage-----nebraskavietnamveterans.com

Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 1830 hours at the Millard American Legion Post 374.

Tom Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Dick Rowe. The motion carried unanimously.