

Minutes for the February 8, 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 24 members and 4 officers present. We have a quorum.

Our guest speaker was Ron Hernandez representing Moving Veterans Forward. Ron has started this non-profit to help homeless veterans get placed in homes. He explained how he relies on donations from groups to help these veterans get established. He handed out brochures with his contact info.

A reminder that Quilts of Valor forms are to be returned to Mike Steffen.

We have a new member tonight. Please welcome aboard Joe Boman.

Sick call: Andy Doza is recovering from appendix surgery. Get well, Andy, we miss you.

Secretaries report: Minutes for the February 2023 meeting were sent out in advance via email to the membership. Motion to approve as written by George Abbott and seconded by Ed Boller. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report: The report was made available on the table for January 2023. Motion was made by Ed Boller and seconded by Dick Rowe to accept. Motion passed unanimously.

Bills to be paid: office supplies of \$92.90 to be paid to President Hester. Tom brown made motion to accept and Dwain Holmes seconded. Motion carried.

Parades: First parade will be Memorial Day. It will be the Bill Williams production, which is always a big one. Watch your email for more information.

Scholarships: There will be a National ROTC 500 word essay contest and the winners will be awarded a medal and certificate plus \$2500.00 {first place} \$1500.00 {second place} and \$1000.00 {third place}. The Omaha Public Schools that participate in the ROTC program will be given medals and a certificate. The cost will be \$90. A motion by Jim Quick and seconded by Joe Mangiamelli to split the cost with the State Council. Motion carried.

Veterans Home Board: Tom Brown brought back many brochures from National meeting. Most were pertaining to survivor benefits and he urged us to take one and read and then put in our paper safe.

Veterans Court: Eddie Nelson reports they have 27-28 members in his class and will graduate 5-6 more in the next few weeks. They meet in Room 501 at the detention center on Thursdays and welcome all members of the chapter to visit. He and Joe Mangiamelli got National exposure in the Veteran magazine. Outstanding!!!

National VVA Delegate report: Dottie Barickman reports the VVA will start shifting towards our legacy of "last man standing" so we need to get real serious about educating the younger generation.

Nebraska VVA Foundation: Tom Brown and George Abbott report Tuesday, February 28, will be the day the Legislature will be voting on LB609. This bill will allocate \$2.5 million to the Nebraska VV Foundation to finish the state memorial. Check your email for more information.

POW/MIA: Ron Haase reports the number is still 1581. He also reported that the League of Families is disbanding.

New Business: Joe Mangiamelli read 2 thank you cards. One from the Quilts of Valor and the other one from the AMVETS. Both were thanking us for last month's donations. Joe also handed out NEW Agent Orange brochures. Lots of new info in them. President Hester reports that his grandson would get our website cleaned up and up to date, including pictures. The price was not set in gold, but somewhere between \$150 and \$200. Ron Haase made a motion to get website current and it was seconded by Ed Boller. Motion carried. President Hester also read a demographic and geographic breakdown of the Vietnam War and showed interesting statistics.

The chapters next meeting will be March 8, 2023, at 1830 hours, located at the Millard American Legion Post 374.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ed Boller and seconded by Anthony Weathers. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Tom Halbkat