

Minutes for the March 8, 2023 meeting of the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 279.

The regular meeting of VVA Chapter 279 was called to order at 1830 hours by President Hester who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Officers present were President Hester, Vice President Mangiamelli and Treasurer Haase, Secretary Halbkat was out of town and excused. There were 24 members present and a quorum declared. New member Ted Beesen was introduced.

The Secretary's report, having been sent out in advance, was approved as amended with a motion by Mangiamelli and second by Abbott, unanimously approved.

The Treasurer's report included a discussion of a proposed split of the CD's up for renewal at rates recommended by the Treasurer, motion by Abbott and second by Brown to authorize the recommended change, motion unanimously approved. A discussion about the upcoming Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29, and a cost sharing for the Chapter dinner between the Chapter and State Council on a 50/50 split, motion by Quick and second by Brown, motion unanimously approved.

A reminder of the upcoming first parade of the season, Patriotic Parade, to be held May 27 in downtown Omaha. Parade organizer Bill Williams has been invited to speak at the April 12 meeting.

There were no reports on the scholarships or Veteran Home Board activities.

Several letters of appreciation were read for donation made by the Chapter on prior months.

Eddie Nelson reported a number of participants in the Veterans Treatment Court have progressed to a graduation ceremony to be held in April.

No report provided on the National Delegate arena.

Nebraska VVA Foundation report surrounded the tremendous turnout by members, 11, at the Nebraska Legislature Appropriation Committee in support of LB 609 which proposes a grant to the Foundation of approximately \$2.5 million for construction of the proposed memorial.

The representation by the Chapter was well received by the Committee – it is hoped the Committee will vote the bill out to the floor for hearing and positive vote, to the Governor's desk for signing.

No report on Homeless Veterans.

POW-MIA, no new activity reported with 1581 still missing.

Members were advised of the National Convention in Orlando in August and the Nebraska Reunion also in August in Omaha. The State Council is awaiting advice from NVVA as to the number of delegates the Chapter can send; with the reunion being in Omaha, members are encouraged to attend.

Quilts of Valor – three Chapter members will receive quilts at the dinner on March 29.

**Reminder – please bring household cleaning supplies for our drive in support of Vets Moving Forward to the April 12 meeting.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by member Quick and seconded by member Boller at 1939, motion carried.

Draft minutes prepared by Mangiamelli