

Minutes for October 11, 2023 Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 279 Meeting

The regular meeting of VVA Chapter 279 was called to order by President Hester at 1830 hours. Pres. Hester led the Pledge of Allegiance. Officers present were: President Hester, Vice President Mangiamelli, Secretary Halbkat, and Treasurer Haase. There were 4 officers and 28 members present. We have a quorum.

Guest Speaker: None

New Members: We have another new member with us tonight. Please welcome Paul Lesac to our Chapter. Welcome aboard, Paul.

Sick Call: Ron Dupell is still on the sick call list. Let's get him a card or call to cheer him up.

Secretary Report: The secretary's report for October 11, 2023 was sent out to the chapter membership via email. George Abbott made a motion to approve as written and it was seconded by Dick Rowe. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report: The report was made available to the membership on the table. Treasurer Haase explained all entries on the report. Because of the success of the golf outing, George Abbott moved we add another \$10,000.00 to our money market account and it was seconded by Vice Pres. Mangiamelli. The motion carried. Terry Voss motioned and Dwain Holmes seconded to accept the report. Motion carried.

Bills to be paid: "hole in one" insurance---246.00, new hole signs---433.35, cash for "change"bags-1,170. Motion was made by Vice Pres. Mangiamelli and seconded by Ed Boller that the bills be paid. Motion carried.

Golf Outing: Because of the hard work of the chapter, we had a very successful tournament. Our net was just short of \$16,000.00. We met new teams that can't wait for next year, and we recruited at least 3 new members. Next year it will be held on September 30, 2024.

Scholarships: No report

Veterans Home Board: Tom Brown reports next meeting in Norfolk on the 27th.

Correspondence Report: Vice Pres. Mangiamelli reports that the Nebraska Department of Veteran Affairs has been awarded \$8.4 million for the establishment of the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery in Grand Island. He also reports that on Nov. 10th there will be a ceremony and backpack presentation to veterans at the Sienna Francis House in Omaha, to which the chapter has donated \$1000.00 to help stuff the backpacks.

Veterans Court: Eddie Nelson reports great progress in the court system. Court will resume tomorrow with mentors Joe Mangiamelli and Eddie Nelson present. They can always use more mentors.

National VVA Delegate Report: No Report

Nebraska VVA Foundation: George Abbott and Tom Brown report there are still plenty of memorial tiles for sale. Lots of work has begun on the site and if you wish, you can view the work from 8 to 4 daily. The helo will be placed first and will be air lifted from Iowa Western College to the site. George reports we are seeking TV coverage of that event.

Homeless Veterans: No Report

Chapter Membership: President Hester reports the membership now at 205 members.

POW/MIA: Ron Haase reports the number is now at 1578. He also showed the members present of a very touching poster of the missing and also suggested we have the poster lamented on a board for future presentations. He will look into costs.

Quilts of Honor: Please see Mike Steffen for forms.

New Business: Chapter 279 was awarded a certificate for 2nd place color guard participation in the Millard Days Parade. Kudos to our members whose legs still work. Four members of the chapter were awarded the Vietnam Veterans of America Medal. Ron Dupell, Glen Page, Eddie Nelson, and Ron Haase were presented the Medals with certificates by President Hester for their constant devotion to the Chapter through volunteerism and dedication to the cause at hand

Other new business: Boystown coins were offered to members, business cards were offered, and leftover T-shirts from the reunion were offered at a close-out price of \$10. We also had a ticket raffle for prizes not given away at the golf outing. Winners were: Ed Boller, Pete Gill, Tom Halbkat, Dick Rowe, Jim Quick, Ray Coenen, and Jim Bezoni.

Please check out the chapter's webpage: nebraskavietnamveterans.com Also, check out a new webpage for the shopper in the family: shopmyexchange.com

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 8th, 2023, at 1830 hours, located at the Millard American Legion Post 374.

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Pres. Mangiamelli and seconded by Tom Brown. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Tom Halbkat, Secretary