

## Minutes for May 8, 2024 Vietnam Veterans of America, 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, Secretary Halbkat, Treasurer Haase. Vice President Mangiamelli was excused. There were 3 officers and 30 members present. We have a quorum.

New Members: We have a new member, Gerald Vocansen. Welcome aboard, Jerry.

Guest Speaker: Ted Bissen from the Omaha National Cemetery Support Committee gave us some information on the cemetery. We learned that since it's opening in 2016 there have been some 6000 internments. He also informed us of a new monument they are planning to have placed at the cemetery. He left us all with brochures.

Sick Call: None

Secretary Report: Sent to all members via email. George Abbott made a motion to approve as written and it was seconded by Anthony Weathers. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report: The report is on the table along with the yearly budget for all members to review. A motion was made to approve the report by George Abbott and seconded by Dick Rowe. Motion passed unanimously. Treasurer Haase then reviewed the budget with the chapter and went through bills that needed to be paid. \$425.42 to be paid.—frames for certificates for JROTC members \$30.44—programs for VVA recognition dinner cake for dinner \$49.98—Legion Post 374 for recognition dinner \$235.00 and ½ expense for JROTC medals \$90.00. Motion was made by Jim Quick and seconded by Eddy Boller to pay the bills. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was also made by Tom Brown and seconded by George Abbott to approve the budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Parades: Memorial Day Parade will be May 25 at 10am. Meet at 10<sup>th</sup> and Howard for set-up. A passout was given to members of all upcoming parades..Please join us for all the fun. Bill Williams has a display set up in the Westroads Mall It is a must see for all veterans.

Golf Outing: Date still remains as September 30, 2024. President Hester urges members to get word out now to avoid the last minute push we always have in August.

Scholarships: Tom Brown reports that besides UNL, UNO, and UNK there is a push for scholarships to UNMC and Metro Community College.

Veterans Home Board: Tom Brown reports the meeting was 2 weeks ago and the new addition is coming along well to the Omaha home. In taking applications, they are not accepting any that show felonies. Still need more staffing.

Correspondence Report: Thank you cards were read from South High JROTC and Quilts of Valor.

Veterans Court: No Report

National VVA Delegate Report: No Report

Nebraska VVA Foundation: VERY IMPORTANT DATE----JUNE 6, 2024. Gates open at 9am and the GRAND OPENING OF YOUR NEBRASKA VIETNAM MEMORIAL IS AT 11am. We want to see you all there.

Homeless Veterans: No Report

Chapter Membership: President Hester reports 209 members and 12 associates

POW/MIA: Treasurer Haase reports one more identified bringing number to 1576.

Quilts of Valor: See Mike Steffen for a form.

New Business: We have been contacted by many people wondering if the chapter is going to help out the tornado victims in Elkhorn. Pete Gill made a motion and Ed Boller seconded that we wait for 3 months to see what is needed. Motion passed unanimously.

Please visit the chapter's website.[nebraskavietnamveterans.com](http://nebraskavietnamveterans.com)

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 1830 hours at the Millard American Legion Post 374.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dick Rowe and seconded by Ed Boller. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Tom Halbkat, Secretary