

Minutes for January 8, 2025 Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 279 Meeting

The regular meeting of VVA Chapter 279 was called to order by President Hester at 1800 hours. After the salute to the American flag, President Hester led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Officers: President Hester, Vice President Mangiamelli, Treasurer Haase, and Secretary Halbkat. There were 4 officers and 29 members present. We have a quorum.

Guest Speaker: None

New Members: We have 2 new members---Stephen Foster and Taylor "Gus" Berry. Welcome aboard, gentlemen.

Sick Call: Pat Smith on dialysis and Jim Bezoni's wife, Debbie, became very ill while on vacation.

Secretary Report: The report was sent out to all members via email. George Abbott made a motion to accept as written and Ed Boller seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report: The report for Nov, 2024 and Dec, 2024 was made available to the members and Treasurer Haase explained all the entries. A motion was made by Dwain Holmes to accept the report and it was seconded by Jim Quick. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Haase explained the expenses for the months and bills to be paid. 1000.00 to Bellevue University for the Back Pack Program and 4000.00 to the county VSOs for the gift card for veterans Christmas program. Also had 194.29 for the Christmas pot luck dinner with spouses.

Golf Outing: Being held at Pacific Springs Golf Course, September, 29, 2025. This will be our 10th Outing.

Scholarships: No Report

Veterans Home Board: No Report

Correspondence Report: Vice President Mangiamelli read a thank you letter from Anthony Weathers, chapter member, expressing gratitude to the chapter for being present at the Quilts of Honor presentations. He also read letters to the Chapter from Bellevue University thanking us for supporting the Back Pack program.

Veterans Court: Eddie Nelson reports there will be a 2 week break and they will start back up again the week of January 15.

National VVA Delegate Report: No Report

Nebraska VVA Foundation: No Report

Homeless Veterans: No Report

Chapter Membership Report: 214 members and 12 associates

POW/MIA: Ron Haase reports 1573. A USNR pilot, Larry Kilpatrick, was identified after a 1972 crash. Some more identities have been found. Warrant Officer Albert Trudow and 4 others have been found out of the 10 that went missing in that crash.

New Business: Victory Apts. Is in need of food. They are OK on other needs, but in need of food. President Hester said he would email the chapter with more information. Pete Gill made a motion that the Chapter make a donation of 500.00 to Victory Apts.. It was seconded by Ed Boller. Motion passed unanimously.

Just a reminder--- the ladies that serve as bartenders at our VVA home are working on a volunteer basis. So the next time you order a drink--- think TIPS. I'm sure they will appreciate it. Thank you.

Vice President Mangiamelli is in need of a person to help him with communication with working on articles for the Veteran Magazine. Any volunteers????

We have the possibility of a Dermatologist and a Chiropractor from the VA as guest speakers. Stay tuned.

Please check out the Chapter web page--- nebraskavietnamveterans.com

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 1830 hours, at Millard American Legion Post 374.

Motion to adjourn made by Ed Boller and seconded by Alan Rowley. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

Tom Halbkat, Secretary