

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Nebraska State Council Minutes
Bellevue University Veterans Center
Date: January 7, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 8:30 AM by President Tom Brown. The President led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of State Council Officers: President Brown, Vice President Schissel, and Treasure Kjosa, all present. Secretary Haase arrived late.

Roll call of Chapter Delegates: Chapter 279 – Jim Quick and Joe Mangiemelli, Chapter 455 – Steve Schawang, Chapter 727 – William Duffield and Greg Halloway.

Introduction of Guest: Mike Jackman, DAV Dept. Commander.

Guest speaker: Member of the DAR gave brief presentation to the Council. The DAR will be partners with the VVA in the Vietnam War Commemoration program.

Sick call /funerals: Terry Carpick (727) and Anthony Cervzntes (At-large).

President's report: President Brown presented the following information to the Council:
1. Membership at large report. 138 from Nebraska. Possible source of new chapter members.

Vice President's report: VP Schissel gave a report on the Nebraska Veterans Home Board meeting. Written report attached. The pickles fund financial report was also presented,

Secretary's report: Minutes of the October 8, 2022 meeting where emailed to all delegates and officers. Reading of the minutes was waived. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's report: The financial report for the months of October through December 2022 was submitted. The report was approved as submitted.

Nominations and Elections: Not applicable for this meeting. The next Council election will be held in April 2024.

AVVA Report: No report.

Old business:

1. Need man hours and mileage reports.
2. Continue need for member outreach activities.

3. Life time membership remains at \$50. 89,133 total memberships. 587 Chapters.
4. AVVA membership 10,117.

Committee reports:

1. Nebraska Veterans Council. Next meeting will be held on Jan 23rd at the Lincoln VFW Club on North 48th St. All are welcome. Legislative Day at the Capital is February 3, 2023.
2. Veterans Home Board. Dennis gave report on activities. Next meeting will be held on January 20, 2023.
3. PTSD issues. Nothing new to report.
4. Women's Veteran. No report.
5. Agent Orange. Nothing new.
6. Veteran's Health and Benefits. Update given by Mike Jackson on the PACT Act. Emphasized the need for people to stay away from attorneys to help with claims.
7. POW-MIA. 1,581. Remains of Nebraskan Larry Zich returned and identified. Nebraska still has 15 people listed as MIA.
8. Legislative. Greg Holloway. Working on making changes in the Homestead Exemption deduction, property tax exemption for disabled based on income and concealed carry proposals.

Chapter Reports: Report was given by Chapter 279 (attached). No other reports.

New business:

1. Vietnam maps are still available for sale for \$10. Cost is \$1 to the chapters.
2. Paper safes are available as needed. Handed out at the VA and veteran's homes.
3. The State Council's web page is: vvannebraskastatecouncil.org.
4. Motion made and approved to get approval from National to make Mike Jackman an "Honorary VVA Member"
5. Motion was made and approved to donate \$1,000 to the OPS Foundation to support the ROTC fund raiser to send Omaha ROTC color guards to Hawaii.
6. A donation to the 2023 Nebr. Vietnam Veterans Reunion of \$3,000 was approved.

Calendar of events:

1. VVA National Convention, summer 2023, Orlando, FL.
2. Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Reunion, August 10-13, 2023, Omaha, NE.
3. NESCS - April 2023.
4. Next Meetings: April 1, 2023, July 8, 2023 and October 7, 2023. Bellevue University Veterans Center.

Note: These minutes prepared using the tape of the meeting (very poor quality) meeting agenda and Tom Brown's notes.

Respectfully submitted:

Ronald A. Haase, Secretary

