

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

NEBRASKA STATE COUNCIL MINUTES

BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY VETERANS CENTER

JULY 8, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 0900 hours by President Brown. President Brown led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of State Council Officers: President Brown, Vice President Schissel, Treasurer Kjosa, and Secretary Halbkat. All present.

Roll call of Chapter delegates:

Chapter 279 - George Abbott, Dottie Barickman, Jim Quick, and Joe Mangiamelli

Chapter 455 – Steve Schawang

Chapter 727 – William Duffield, Greg Holloway, and Jerry Lippincott

Guest Speaker: None, however Mike Jackman from the DAV was present to answer questions. Some of the points he brought up concerning benefits were: if you are receiving benefits from Vietnam service you cannot receive the same benefit from Camp Leguenne (no double dipping). Do not even talk to lawyers about this.

Sick call and funerals: Chapter 279 had a funeral for member, Ken Melhaus

President Tom Brown Report

New handout booklets are being prepared to replace old one with all new information. He also informed us that the 74 sailors that were killed on the USS Evans off the shores of Vietnam will hopefully be on the Wall, but a lot of red tape is in the way. DD-214's and a lot of Navy forms. Membership – At – Large is now 128.

Vice President Dennis Schissel Report

Dennis and Greg attended Ne. Veterans Home Board meeting in Kearney Ne. representing the VVA. 70 new applications were approved. He gave a brief sitrep of the 4 homes in Nebraska. The pickle fund was then discussed. We have a balance of \$35,580.19 in the fund.

Secretary Tom Halbkat Report

The minutes for the July 8, 2023 NESC meeting were emailed to all delegates and officers. The reading of the minutes was waived. Jim Quick moved and Greg Holloway seconded to accept the minutes as written. Motion approved.

Treasurer Jim Kjosa Report

Treasurer Kjosa presented the financial report for the months of April through June 2023. Joe Mangiamelli moved and Greg Holloway seconded to accept the report as submitted. Motion approved.

AVVA Report No report

Nominations for Elections April 2024

Correspondence Pres. Brown read a letter from a woman whose uncle is a veteran and incarcerated in a Nebraska prison. He has no chance of parole, but she wants him released. Joe will follow up.. Good luck! Dottie read a brief description of the 10 major important issues facing the VA Health Care System. All present were given a copy.

Man Hours and Mileage Motion was made by Greg and seconded by George to pay the mileage of \$50.00 for the meeting at Kearney. Motion approved.

We now have 587 Chapters with 90,234 members. AVVA membership is at 10,438. POW/MIA now stands at 1579. On July 5,2023 28 WWII veteran's remains were brought back to Offut Air Base for identification.

Chapter Reports: Joe Mangiamelli reports Chapter 279 has been very busy the past qtr. With dedication of Memorial Park, funeral services for Larry Zich and Ken Melhas, Memorial Day parade, also parades in Elkhorn, Papillion, Ralston with upcoming parades in Ashland, Fremont, and Gretna. The chapter has been helping Ron Hernandez with Moving Vets Forward. The chapter presented Ron with a check for \$1000.00 to help the group's efforts. The big fund raiser is the golf outing in September. Chapter 727 is raising \$5000.00 for 2 high school girls to travel to Washington DC.

Events coming soon: Nebraska VVA reunion August 10 – 12, 2023 in Omaha and the national VVA convention in Orlando, Fla. August 8 – 12, 2023.

Note: These minutes prepared using a tape recording of the meeting (poor quality) and the meeting agenda.

Motion to adjourn by Greg Holloway and seconded by Steve Schawang. Motion approved.

Submitted by; Tom Halbkat, Secretary