

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

NEBRASKA STATE COUNCIL MINUTES

BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY VETERANS CENTER

OCTOBER 7, 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 were present.

Roll call of Chapter delegates:

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

Chapter 455 – Falls City – and Chapter 727 – Lincoln – were not present.

Guest Speaker: None

Sick Call: None being reported

President Tom Brown Report:

President Brown spent some time reviewing the 17 reasons a Vietnam Veteran will be driven away from his /her local chapter and lose interest in the chapter altogether. A very comprehensive list and too large to publish here. If anyone wants a copy, I have several. Tom also informed the meeting of the 2024 Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Reunion. It will be August 8-11<sup>th</sup> 2024 at the The Cornhusker Marriott in Lincoln.

Vice President Dennis Schissel Report:

Dennis gave a very extensive report on the Home Board meeting that he and Greg Holloway attended on July 20. Fifty-seven applications were approved. All administrators of the homes gave a short recap of their concerns regarding workloads, overtime, staffing, and improvements. The Nebraska Veterans Council met on July 17 and discussed bills in the Legislature and the ground breaking for the new State Cemetery in Grand Island. The pickle fund was discussed. Dottie Barickman suggested we should be looking for someone to be trained in case of emergencies. We have a balance of \$38,623.13 after expenses of \$2,350.00.

Secretary Tom Halbkat Report

The minutes for the October 7, 2023 NESC meeting were emailed to all delegates and officers. The reading of the minutes was waived. Joe Mangiamelli moved and George Abbott seconded to accept the minutes as written. Motion approved.

Treasurer Jim Kjosa Report

Treasurer Kjosa presented the financial report for the months of July through September 2023. Joe Mangiamelli moved and George Abbott seconded to accept the report as written. Motion approved.

AVVA Report No Report

Nominations for Elections April 2024

Old Business

We now have 587 Chapters with 90,846 members. AVVA membership is at 10,563. POW/MIA now stands at 1,578.

All monies have been approved for the Memorial. The hill is being shaved and work is progressing. A motion was made by Joe Mangiamelli and seconded by George Abbott that the Council donate \$1000 to Bellevue University for their Veterans clothing drive. Motion carried.

Mike Jackman from the DAV gave the meeting some more Information about the PACT Act. Since hypertension is now being included with many health benefits, an overwhelming amount of claims are being redone.

Chapter Reports

Joe Mangiamelli reports that Chapter 279 was very active in the third quarter with parades and color guard service. In the 6 parades they averaged a total of 22 members per parade. September was the big fund raiser of the golf tournament. Along with other activities , Joe is involved in the resolutions that have been out there to dissolve the VVA. He was at the last convention and brought back much information concerning the subject. To get more informed please read your September-October 2023 issue of VietnamVeteran Magazine. Dottie Barickman handed very interesting brochure from the National Convention.. If you didn't receive one, see me and I will get one for you.

Chapter 455 and 727 had no reports

New Business

Web Page: [vanebraskastatecouncil.org](http://vanebraskastatecouncil.org) – has been updated. Check it out Vietnam Maps and Paper Safes are available.

Upcoming Events; NVVR Aug.8-11 2024 at the Cornhusker in Lincoln also, VVA Leadership the summer of 2024 in Reno, Nevada

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

Motion to adjourn by Joe Mangiamelli and seconded by George Abbott. Motion approved.

Submitted be: Tom Halbkat, Secretary