

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

NEBRASKA STATE COUNCIL MINUTES

BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY VETERANS CENTER

January 18, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 0900 hours by Vice President Schissel, who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officer Attendance: President Brown – excused, Vice President Schissel, Secretary Halbkat -excused, and Treasurer Kjosa.

Chapter Delegates: Chapter 279 delegates Mangiamelli, Abbott and Quick were present, Chapters 455 and 727 had no delegates at the meeting.

Guest Speaker: None

Sick Call: Tom Brown, Tom Halbkat & William Duffield

Officer Reports:

President Brown was absent, Vice President Schissel shared below information on his behalf:

Handed out new brochures pertaining to the 50th Anniversary of the end of the war in Vietnam.

VVA call to action and press release on Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits and Improvements Act of December 16th 2024. This bill is a testament to VVAs unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of veterans.

Vice President Schissel:

The Nebraska Veterans Home Board convened in Norfolk, NE on October 25, 2024 with Dennis Schissel and Greg Holloway in attendance. The board considered 101 applications. All applications were approved.

John Hilgert, NDVA Director, reported on maintenance to keep Nebraska homes in safe condition. The Grand Island Veterans Cemetery has a tentative date of June 14th 2025 as the ribbon cutting event.

Next meeting January 24. 2025 at Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home in Bellevue.

The pickle fund started the quarter out at \$48,412.00 with an addition of \$10,121.59 for a total of \$58,533.59. We had expenses of \$4,469.82 for a balance of \$54,063.77.

The Nebraska Veterans Council met on November 18, 2024. Dennis Schissel and Greg Holloway in attendance. After agenda reports Jerry Cummings and Robert Ford gave reports on upcoming legislative sessions. Next Meeting will be held January 23, 2025.

Secretary's report: the minutes were emailed to all delegates and members. The reading of the minutes was waived. Greg Holloway moved and George Abbott seconded to accept the minutes as written. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Kjosa reports a balance of \$10,776.79. He also states there are no bills to be paid. Greg Holloway moved and George Abbott seconded to accept the report. Motion carried.

As an FYI – there will be no more money from the VVA National, no money for the state council presidents, and no money for delegates to attend conventions

AVVA report: no report

Nominations & Elections: April 20, 2026

Jim Kjosa is not seeking re-election

Old Business:

Lifetime membership remains the same at \$50.00. Still 539 chapters with a total of 92,429 members.

AVVA membership is 11,243

New Business:

Mike Jackman from the DAV shared the 100% disabled veterans need to check the homestead exemptions for income taxes. If not received contact his office, they must be filled by February 2, 2025.

Chapter 279: Joe Mangiamelli reports they had a very busy year.

Members participated in numerous activities that included many summer parades in surrounding communities. Members participated in the annual Veterans Shine On at Memorial Park, POW/MIA Remembrance Service at Memorial Park, Quilts of Honor ceremony to recognize minority Vietnam serve members at St. Johns Church in Omaha, wreath laying service at the Omaha National Cemetery, and our annual potluck dinner.

We averaged more than 30 members at our monthly meetings with more than 60 members and spouses attending the December potluck dinner.

The chapter also contributed \$4,000 in gift cards to four area Veteran Serve Officers for needy veterans in their counties and \$1000 to Bellevue University for the Veterans Backpack Program.

In addition, individual members continued service as Vietnam Veterans of America state council president, VVA district representative, mentors for Douglas county veteran treatment court and chapter Chaplin. These efforts continue to serve our members as we move into 2025 and we are proud of the connections we have made with the community and those we are blessed to interact with through our parades, golfing outing, and individual contacts.

Chapters 455 and 727: no reports

POW/MIA count is now at 1573.

Calendar of Events: Next NESC meeting will be April 5, 2025 at Bellevue University.

Motion to adjourn was made by Greg Holloway seconded by George Abbott. Motion carried.

Submitted by: Tom Halbkat, Secretary

