

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

NEBRASKA STATE COUNCIL MINUTES

BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY VETERANS CENTER

JANUARY 4, 2024

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

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

Roll call of Chapter delegates:

Chapter 279 – Jim Quick, Joe Mangiamelli

Chapter 455 – Stephen J. Schawang

Chapter 727 – Greg Holloway

Total members present: 9

Pres. Brown reports a new Chapter has been formed in Polk, Ne. with 12 members.

Guest Speaker: None

Sick Call: Treasurer Kjosa

President Tom Brown Report:

President Brown reviewed the 6 goals of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. He also reviewed the Membership-At-Large Report, which is 148. The NEVVA Memorial Foundation was discussed with all the work being completed at the Memorial site. He also read a letter from Bellevue University thanking the Council for our donation of \$1000.00 to the backpacks for homeless veterans.

Vice President Dennis Schissel Report:

The Home Board met on Oct.27, 2023 at the Norfolk Veterans Home with Schissel and Holloway in attendance. They had 97 applications and approved 95. Schissel's report was very lengthy and he had handouts made for all members present. The pickle report showed sales of \$8,345.60 with expenses of \$6,364.60 for a balance of \$40,604.58. He also discussed the Nebraska Veterans Council meeting held on Nov. 13, 2023 with he and Holloway in attendance. John Hilgert, Director of NDAV, was the main speaker and covered topics from Home Board meetings, legislative priorities, DAV matters.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes were emailed to all delegates and members. The reading of the minutes was waived. George Abbott moved and Joe Mangiamelli seconded to accept minutes the minutes as written. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report:

The report was presented for October through December 2023. Greg Holloway moved and Joe Mangiamelli seconded to accept the report as written. Motion carried.

AVVA Report: No Report

Nominations and Elections will be held at the April Meeting.

Old Business:

Still need copy of DD214 for VVA National for membership. On the National level, the budget for 2025 will be better. Lifetime membership fee still remains at \$50.00. All chapters need to check their rosters for deceased members. Questions are being raised about finances. For example, "What happens when the money runs out?" Some large contributors are dying off and we don't want the phrase "TBD" used because it means shutdown at any time. Lucky for us we will have a constant VVA presence because of our new Memorial. We have 587 chapters with 90,846 members with an AVVA membership of 10,563.

Nebraska Veteran Council will meet Jan. 16, 2024 and the Veterans Home Board will meet Jan. 26, 2024. There will be new Agent Orange pamphlets coming in April.

The latest POW/MIA count is 1,578.

Legislative Report:

Greg Holloway reports there is priority happening with VSO working rights and opposition towards new veteran license plates. There have been 900 bills submitted and most are lost in committees and only 60 days left of the session.

Chapter Reports:

Joe Mangiamelli reports Chapter 279 was represented at the Veterans Shine On ceremony at Memorial Park where the chapter wreath was presented; at Veterans Day ceremony at Memorial Park where the chapter wreath was presented; at Veterans Day ceremony at VFW Post 2503 where our President was the featured speaker; represented, with more than a dozen members participating, at St. John's African Methodist Church, a service to recognize area veterans hosted a quilt of honor ceremony for four minority Vietnam Veterans; and held our annual holiday potluck dinner. In addition, the chapter contributed \$1000.00 to Bellevue University for the annual "Backpacks for Vets" program. The Chapter looks forward to the new year in which officers will be elected and a host of communities visited for summer parades and serving veterans participating in the Douglas County Veterans Treatment Court.

Greg Holloway reports progress with a Veterans Treatment Court being set up in Seward County.

No report from Chapter 455.

New Business:

Vvanebraskastatecouncil.org web page has been updated. Please check it out. Vietnam maps and paper safes are still available.

Calendar of events:

NESC meeting dates—April 6, 2024

NVVR—Aug. 8-11, 2024 in Lincoln, Ne.

VVA Leadership – Summer of 2024, Reno, Nevada

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

Submitted by: Tom Halbkat, Secretary