

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER #423

MEETING MINUTES

DATE:07/09/2023 TIME START: 1400 TIME END: 1525 ATTENDANCE: 18

☒ G. DELOS SANTOS JR.-PRES. ☒ S. PENNINGTON-VP ☒ C. YOUNG-TREAS ☒ G.LACOMBE-SEC

☒ S. PENNINGTON-STATE DEL. CHAIR ☒ B. CORRELL-STATE DEL ☒ E. SHAFER-STATE DEL.

OFFICERS REPORT:

PRESIDENT REPORT-Greg Delos Santos Jr.

- Reminder to sign-in and check roster for correct e-mail information.
 - Roster e-mails are used to send information to members.
- Call to members for pin reimbursement.
 - Dennis Hoggarth-Not Present
 - Lauren Kieth-Not Present
 - Terry Smith-Not Present
- Facility Clean-up Sunday June 11th
 - Had 15 members present to conduct site clean-up, started 0900.
 - Pine needles from the back of building collected.
 - Hedges were trimmed.
 - Parking lot pressure washed.
 - 3 trailer loads of debris were removed.
 - Inside clean-up
 - The kitchen surfaces were washed down.
 - Floors were vacuumed.
 - Still question on what will be happening at the intersection of 230th and 56th.
 - Pizza was served for lunch to all still standing.
 - Bob Correll- requested any pictures and names of participants be provided.
- Old Business-Larry Fischer
 - Noted that a motion was made, seconded and approved to contribute funds to Michael Reagan for portraits being contributed to Heroes Café-Lynnwood,
 - Question what the status is.
 - Request made to make a written request to the president so that it can be discussed at the next board meeting.
 - Noted that Michael Reagan has an interest in looking in on this Chapter, Larry will persue.
- Old Business-Chris Young
 - Concern raised that when general meetings are missed because of other over riding events time sensitive items get missed. No general meeting was held for the June clean-up.
 - Suggested that a quick meeting should be conducted so any urgent items could be addressed.
 - The upcoming August BBQ is another event that could overshadow having our general meeting.
 - Greg Delos Santos noted a short meeting would be conducted.

- Old Business-Greg Delos Santos
 - Reference Clean-up of Virginia Nastiuk
 - Contact for Clean-up is Big Haul.com to be provide by Greg to Virginia
 - Virginia noted clean-up had already been completed and property is now in a manageable condition.

SECRETARY REPORT-Jerry LaCombe

- No Formal General Meeting in June due to site clean-up-No June minutes to approve.
- May meeting minutes were emailed for review to general membership. (Need correct emails)
 - Minutes were excepted without comment.
 - Question were minutes sent by e-mail or included on Web Page-**Sent by e-mail.**

TREASURES REPORT-Chris Young

- CHAPTER SUMMARY TOTALS
 - Beginning Balance 05-21-23 **\$17,904.51**
 - Donations & Membership Natl \$6,222.13
 - Chapter Expenses (\$459.72)
 - Chapter Donations to Vets (\$369.68)
 - Ending Balance **\$23,297.24**
- SPECIAL EVENTS SUB-TOTALS (May 19/20 & May 26-30)
 - Memorial Day Donations \$4,867.00
 - Floral Hills \$400.00
 - Cash Donations \$4,177.00
 - QR Code \$290.00
 - Expenses (QR Fee, Singers, ASL, Cookies) (\$328.83)
 - Net Profit \$4,538.30
 - Moses Lake Air Show June 17-18
 - Donations \$855.00
 - Cash Donation \$700.00
 - QR Code \$155.00
 - Expenses (QR Code Fee) (\$6.23)
 - Net Profit \$848.77
- ADDITIONAL RECEIPTS TO BE DEPOSITED AND NOT INCLUDED IN SUMMARY TOTALS ABOVE
 - Additional to be deposited \$1,218.00
 - Check receipts from P.O. Box \$918.00
 - Donations From Bianchin \$200.00
 - Donations From Fischer \$100.00

STATE DELEGATE CHAIRMAN-Steve Pennington

- REGION 8-9 CONFERENCE FOR VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA-Reno Nevada-1 day
 - 3 delagates attended- Earl Shafer, Steve Pennington, Bob Correll
 - 80 delegates attended-Largest Delegation to Date, John McManus-Natl President was in attendance.
 - Conference moderator-Dick Suther -Saami California
 - Copies of all proposed amendments along with the constitution of Vietnam Veterans of America are available, contact Steve. Also available on-line at VVA.org
 - VVA is considered a last man standing organization.

- Last 2 years been working on the National organization dissolution plan.
 - Working on plan for the distribution of accumulated assets.
 - VVA National is chartered in the State of New York
 - Individual VVA chapters are chartered in their respective state.
 - VVA National, upon dissolution, assets would currently go to the state of New York as currently structured.
 - The current resolutions are targeting for the equitable distribution of assets to remaining chapters.
 - Several obligations must be met before a final dissolution plan can be implemented.
 - Final plan must be complete NLT February 28, 2028.
 - When the National Organization is dissolved, State level Chapters will be regulated at the State level, and we will also be able to maintain regional affiliations.
 - Lots of rumors and allegations have persisted.
 - Previous President John Rowland had created a “shadow organization-Veteran Voices of America” transferring funds from VVA-National.
 - Rumor-Money from VVA would transfer to Vet Voices of America and VVA leaders would slide over to new organization-NOT HAPPENING.
 - Have maintained the charter for AVVA, a corporate entity, that may come into existence at the national dissolution for family members of Vietnam Veterans wanting to maintain contact with people of a common interest.
 - Question-Has money that was previously transferred from VVA to the shadow organization been transferred back.
 - Answer-Yes, less lawyer fees
 - Next Convention is in August in Orlando Florida
 - Lot of the history is contained in the VVA magazine, some copies are on the front desk.
 - Bob Correll- added he was a delegate at the 2019 National Convention in Spokane Wa, 2021 National Convention in Greensboro North Carolina.
 - Need to ensure we have representation at the upcoming Convention in Orlando Fla.
 - VVA has grown to ~ 90,000 members.
- WEB AND FACEBOOK-Bob Correll
- Advised of coming event-Welcome home Veterans in the 1st Saturday in August 5th located in Sedro Woolley at Andy Mitchell residence. New Members and all strongly encouraged to attend.
 - Address 6254 Fruit Dale Road, Sedro Wooley, WA

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- MEMBERSHIP Chris Young
- Streamlining Process for contacting new members with applications, contact cards and active recruiting efforts of all members.
 - GD-Advised members of Veteran Information sheets which provides contact information for various services to assist Veterans. Copies were made available.
 - New Members Introduction
 - Jim Cornwell (sp)-Army
 - Howard Sage-Army
 - Ron Sells-Army
 - Ken Christenson-Army
 - Projecting 15-17 people joining in the next couple of months.
 - LtCln RN expected to Join even with Sunday schedule conflict.

- VETERANS WITH HAMMERS Earl Shafer
 - Earl Shafer/Jerry LaCombe/Rich Bianchin
 - Rebuilt a new landing and steps. PROJECT COMPLETED
 - Earl Shafer
 - Picked up a motorized wheelchair (hardly used \$6,000 value)
 - Picked up a second wheelchair donated-delivered to MS Door and Closet Edmonds (run by a Vietnam Veteran-invited to join VVA).
 - B. Correll requesting pictures so that he can use on Web Page.
 - Earl Shafer
 - Trying to make contact with Veteran needing roof gutter repairs-On going effort.
 - Chris Young
 - Did yard clean-up for Evelyn Adkins, husband Dave is battling pneumonia along with Parkinsons Disease. Dave is also a VVA #423 member.
 - Earl Shafer/Ron Foster/Jerry LaCombe
 - 98 Yr Old WWII Vet (Navy)in Shoreline, Referred by Heroes Café Lynnwood, built a ~10 ft. wheel chair ramp complete with railing and non-skid decking. All material donated by Home Depot. PROJECT COMPLETED
- VETERANS CALL FOR HELP- from Heroes Café-Lynwood
 - Advised of a Navy Veteran, Carl Meyers in an assisted living duplex in Marysville Cedar Creek Manor needing contact.
 - His wife is in hospital, has suffered a stroke and is in coma and unlikely to recover. Veteran is not aware of wife's condition. MAKE NO MENTION OF WIFES CONDITION.
 - Greg Delos Santos and Jerry LaCombe contacted Veteran with the following comments.
 - Vet-Carl Myers, US Navy Radiomen, 67 years old. Suffered a stroke along with wife.
 - Has 1 living sister but no contact-all alone
 - Vets physical needs are being taken care of, has 3 care takers. The facility is clean and physical needs are handled.
 - Vet spends most of his day in bed staring at TV.
 - Limited verbal interaction, last for 15 to 20 minutes then drifts off.
 - Need to Contact Cedar Creek prior to visit, see Greg Delos Santos or Jerry LaCombe for contact information.
 - Is cognizant of what is being said, answers questions correctly but is diagnosed with early onset Alzheimers.
 - NEEDS PERSONAL CONTACT/DIALOG
- MOSES LAKE AIR SHOW-Terry Quick
 - 16, 17, 18 June, 2nd year VVA #423 attended.
 - Previous years suggestions were taken into account with improvements made.
 - 11 Members VVA #423 attended and manned booth- see financial report above, last year grossed \$263.00.
 - Attendance is just under 10,000, a 24% increase over 2022 attendance.
 - 3 additional veterans organization participated. Notable addition Disabled Veterans Seattle.
 - TQ-presented a poster to VVA#423 thanking for participation in the air show.
 - J. LaCombe noted the special rate accommodation made by Terry was excellent and the restaurant was also above and beyond.
 - Larry Fischer noted Bill Collier shared booth with us and is an accomplished author of 3 books covering his experiences as a Marine Helicopter pilot. Larry has a copy of all three that he is willing to loan out after he reads. Bill will be visiting Seattle giving a presentation at Heroes Café.
- COMMUNITY AFFAIRS-John Henderson
 - August 10th, 2023, BBQ

- Venue off site, Camp Patterson on Silver Lake had already been booked.
- BBQ will be held on site as in the past.
 - Hamburgers & Bratwurst will be provided.
 - Condiments will be provided.
 - Potluck to supplement
- August 2024 BBQ
 - Proposed booking at Camp Patterson on Silver Lake,
 - Reservations are being accepted August 2023 for 2024 bookings.
 - Two shelters are available.
 - The site will be available for the entire day.
 - Large grassy area for games, lounging,
 - Access to the lake for fishing, swimming
 - Rest rooms.
 - John Proposed booking early August 2023 for 2024
 - Bob Correll proposed a request with pricing information be developed and presented to the board for vote.
 - Voting could be voice or e-mail vote by members.
 - Terry Quick-had submitted a price proposal for booking at Remlinger Farms but was considered cost and distance prohibitive.
 - Tami Stokke made a motion to hold the August 2023 BBQ at her residence.
 - Residential Parking was a concern.
 - Vote of members was taken and determined 2023 BBQ will be held at the Fleet Reserve Center
- MUSTANG NW ROUND-UP
 - Held at Bellevue College
 - 16 July 2023
 - VVA #423 will be the Color Guard
 - VVA booth will be present.

OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS:

- Earl Shafer (Veterans with Hammers)-Provide pictures of any project improvement to Bob Correll for posting on Web Page along with brief detail of project.
- Site Clean-up, Tracy Bianchin provide pics and Greg Delos Santos provide names to Bob Correll for Web posting.
- Larry Fischer-provide a written request to the president regarding the previous motion to provide a contribution to Michael Reagan for portraits provided.
- John Henderson-provide pricing information on securing Camp Paterson on Silver Lake for 2024 VVA #423 picnic.
- Greg Delos Santos-Send out information on August 2023 BBQ to VVA #423 membership
- Chris Young-provide details of Mustang NW to Greg Delos Santos to distribute to membership.