

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER #423

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 03/12/2023

TIME START: 14:06

TIME END: 15:45

ATTENDANCE: 24

☒ G. DELOS SANTOS JR.-PRES.

☐ T. NASKY-VP

☒ C. YOUNG-TREAS

☒ G.LACOMBE-SEC

BOARD REPORTS:

PRESIDENT

1. Copies of ballots for board members nominations handed out to be voted on and would be tallied at our next membership meeting. (ACTION ITEM)
2. Advised the VP is in Tokyo and is unable to attend.
3. Appointment of Earl Shafer as our 3rd chapter state delegate
 - a. Comment from the floor that new chapter delegates were subject to final approval by the national organization.
4. New Meeting dates for Easter and Mother's day will be provided

SECRETARY

1. Read 02/12/2023 meeting minutes were accepted with some comment/clarifications provided i.e. one of the VVA checks received, number in attendance being reported vs total at the luncheon and Remlinger Farms clarification.

TREASURER

1. \$18,731.37 (\$18,737.32 - \$5.95) is currently in the account and are doing very well.

CHAPTER STATE DELEGATE (Steve Pennington)

1. Nothing New to Report

STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE (Francisco Ivarra)

1. All VSO Positions are currently full including Bellingham.
2. March 25th Washington State VVA Council Meeting in Toppenish Wa.
 - a. Make reservations now at the Legends Casino Hotel use Code 4054 when making reservations to get a veteran's discount.
 - b. Jack McMannus VVA President will be in attendance.
 - c. Connie Evans Viet Nam Nurse Keynote Speaker was also Key Note Speaker at 40th Anniversary at the Wall.
3. Announced that the Bellingham Chapter #165 President has been suspended with cause. A formal hearing will be held on the 24th of March before the disciplinary committee for final disposition.
4. Alfie Almarado-Ramos will be retiring as the State Director of Veterans Affairs and a new director, David Puente Jr. has been appointed by Governor Inslee.
5. Special thanks given to Chris Young for his tireless efforts to grow the organization and all the chapters are experiencing growth.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SUMMER BBQ (Terry Quick/John Henderson)- (ACTION ITEM)

1. Targeting for August 12th to be finalized
2. Potential show of children that would be present i.e. interest in theme park
3. Meal would be catered discounted, \$\$\$
4. Possible other chapters joining ?????
5. Use a figure of 100 attending to get some rough estimates of cost
6. Small Picnic area adjacent to a Theme Park

MEMBERSHIP (Chris Young) New Members introduced.

1. 105 members currently in the que
2. Lauren Kieth
 - a. 20 yrs USCG
 - b. Served from 1969 to 1989
3. Van Caryl
4. Dave Fresba
 - a. US Navy 2 Yrs Active and 4 Yrs Inactive
 - b. Resides in Samamish
5. Chris advised he has received several additional leads from members that will be pursued.

VVA VETS WITH HAMMERS (Earl Shafer)

1. Collecting and Donating Wheel Chairs to needy Vets
 - a. Use Donors Closet to repair Wheel Chairs.
2. WWII Navy Vet (Lead from Gary Walderman-Heroes Café) Build Access Ramp
 - a. Platform Railing is complete.
 - b. Access Ramp to be completed when Matl is available (Home Depot)
3. Stokke Residence -Weather Permitting
 - a. Repair / Replace Fencing
 - b. Pressure Wash / Clean Driveway
4. John Hossey-looking a lead to acquire a compact motorized type wheel chair either a "Zinger", "Zoomer" or "Journey" .

NEW BUSINESS:

PRESIDENT –Greg Delos Santos

- Special Certificates of Appreciation were presented to:
Bob Correll-Web Master, Chapter State Delegate
Steve Pennington-Chapter State Delegate
Earl Shafer-(New) Chapter State Delegate, Committee Chair VVA Vet W/Hammers
Chris Young & Deb-Chapter Treasurer, Membership Committee Chair, Hospitality member/planner
John Henderson & Kathleen-Chapter Well-being committee, Annual BBQ committee, Hospitality lead planner
Tammi Stokke-Hospitality committee member/planner
Chief Dane-To be presented at a subsequent meeting.
- Chapter Pins-pins handed out to member(s).
David Presba
- Spring Site Clean-up sch ~May, (ACTION ITEM)
 - John Henderson brought up potential citi issues that will need to be addressed.

TREASURER-Chris Young

- Noted special recognition of the ladies in the kitchen that not only support their spouses with their duties but also ladies that have lost their spouses that continue to prepare the luncheons and are willing to do whatever they can to support Veterans.

JOHN HENDERSON

- Provided a special thanks to Francisco for his active interest in attending our meetings and keeping us informed of activities taking place not only on the national level, but also at the state and local level, he has been the glue that makes this a true brotherhood.

SECRETARY-Jerry LaCombe

- Offered to loan out a digital scanner that can be used to copy old 35 mm slides to a SD disc so they can be viewed either on a computer or even a TV screen.

VFW 921

- They have access to an organization that can provide premade metal ADA access ramps for veterans on a as needed temporary basis.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Francisco-Advise when letter of understanding is finalized with Bergmann and Moore (Camp Liejeune).
- T. Quick/J. Henderson-Planning for the August BBQ
- G. Delos Santos-Reschedule Edwin Gonzalos (sp)-Tahoma Cemetery Honor Guard
- G. Delos Santos/C. Young-Coordinate Memorial Day Event W/Floral Hills Cemetery
- G. Delos Santos-May Site Clean-up
- G. Delos Santos-Tally and Announce votes for chapter board positions.