

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER #423

MEETING MINUTES

DATE:10/08/2023 TIME START: 14:05 TIME END: 15:35 ATTENDANCE: 24

☒ 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.

- Meeting called to order; Pledge of Allegiance cited.
- Introduced Perri DiMeritt-Home Depot and Jackie Hall-Donors Closet presented certificates of appreciation from VVA Chapter #423.
 - Earl Shafer gave personal appreciation to both Perri and Jackie for their support to Veterans with Hammers projects to improve veterans living conditions.

SECRETARY REPORT-Jerry LaCombe

- Provided outline of WA State “Combined Fund Drive” (CFD) which is program that allows WA State employees to contribute funds to a favorite Charity which would equate as another venue for our VVA Chapter to obtain donations. Requirements include the following:
 - Would need to be listed with the State as a Non-Profit “Charity”.
 - Has Tax Reporting Implications which are different than our current requirements.
 - Submit application to the State to be listed.

Action Item-Investigate Implications with State VVA and Francisco Ivarra if this would be acceptable.

- Introduced concept of a General written procedure titled “Capital Improvement Projects” to outline requirements with roles and responsibilities for evaluating, funding and reporting and approving projects for improving Veterans living conditions. Draw on lessons learned from current projects to provide accountability and expeditious implementation and minimal red tape.
- September Minutes were emailed to general membership. Noted if they hadn’t received to contact me to ensure email is up to date. Reminder to check email listing at the front desk for accuracy.
 - September Meeting Minutes were approved by voice vote.
- Update on a “Standdown Event” at the Carl Gibson Senior Center in Everett.
 - Several serve groups were present for Needy Veterans could access. Veterans were provided with a “passport” (check off list) which required they visit booths to talk with
 - Veteran assistance Representatives
 - Medical team members
 - Barbers
 - Housing representatives

After going through these representatives, they were able to receive various products including shoes, clothing, bedding, tents sleeping bags, back packs, etc.

- November 10th Veterans Day Parade is being held in Mill Creek WA and are looking for participants that have Vintage Cars. If Interested contact Gary Walderman and he will get you in contact with parade organizers.
- October 17th Heroes Café in Woodinville is sponsoring a Sock Drive. Anyone planning on attending should look at providing socks that will be distributed to needy Vets.

TREASURES REPORT-Chris Young

- Bank Account Balances
 - Checking Account
 - Beginning Balance **\$21,386.03**
 - Donations and Membership funds \$1,350.00
 - Chapter Expenses for month (\$0.00)
 - Chapter Donations to Vets (\$2,128.67)
 - Ending Balance **\$20,607.36**
 - Savings Account
 - Beginning Balance **\$1,219.02**
 - Deposits/Interest \$0.50
 - Ending Balance **\$1,219.52**
 - Debit Card Account-Vets with Hammers
 - Beginning Balance **\$1,000.00**
 - Expenditures (\$142.78)
 - Ending Balance **\$857.22**
 - **Action Item- Xfer Funds to bring 4th Qtr Bal. back to \$1,000.00.**
 - **TOTAL ASSETS **\$22,684.10****

Discussion of Debit Card balance vs individual project estimates concluded with a debit card balance would be maintained at \$1,000.00 updated quarterly from which approved individual projects would draw against. See also procedure for capital improvement projects above. **Action Item**

C Young summarized project involving Vet in need for assistance bill payments involving car breakdown as introduced by his church. Noted that through church all bills had been paid with VVA providing some of the funding, no cash transactions were conducted or given to the recipient. Noted that Ron Foster made a personal contribution of \$250.00 to the chapter. No additional funding is required.

STATE DELEGATE CHAIRMAN-Steve Pennington

- Bob Correll noted he would be attending the State Meeting on October 28th at Snoqualmie Pass representing our local chapter.
- Greg Delos Santos reported the meeting will be held from 10:00 to 13:00 with breakfast served from 09:00 to 10:00 at the local pancake house. Was noted that any members are welcome to attend and should arrive early for breakfast. No preregistration is required.
- Greg Delos Santos noted if you want to address the meeting, please advise Francisco Ivarra so you can be added to the agenda. Additionally, if you want anything addressed to the Veterans Magazine deadline is Oct. 30th, please advise Francisco with details so he can place it in the Region 8 report.
- Steve Pennington reported that copies of the Vietnam Veterans magazine are in the foyer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE-Chris Young

- Chapter #423 is currently reported at 111 members. Noted that national is having computer issues with registration. Noted in phone contact trying to resolve known applications still not showing on National register.
- Clarified poppy sales will be conducted at the Fred Meyer and Safeway locations on Friday and Saturday, November 3rd and 4th from 0800 to 1700. List of participants at each location are being managed. List for each location was distributed for sign-up.
- Greg Delos Santos awarded a chapter pin to new member Dennis Smith.
- Greg Delos Santos noted the following new members:
 - William Collier
 - George Kauffman
 - James Murdock
 - Scott Robinson
 - Jim Chambers
 - Dennis Smith
- VETS WITH HAMMERS-Earl Shafer
 - C. Young Suggested given the amount of activity that we start to number the various projects so we can manage and account for the progress of each project. Acknowledged as a good idea.
 - Earl Shafer summarized it's been a busy year with the current trailer home project being the largest to date. Home Depot has/is a MAJOR contributor to this project as well as Donors Closet.

Efforts included:

 - Furnace Repair
 - Cabinetry
 - Electrical Wiring
 - Plumbing
 - Ramp (s) Construction
 - Door Replacement
 - Introduced Home Depot – Perri Demeritt
 - Based out of Bitterlake Home Depot Store (95% time in field communicating)
 - Money comes from the Non-Profit portion of Home Depot. 3 areas of responsibility
 - Disaster Relief
 - Pathway to Pro-Connecting Vets with Trade schools and employment
 - Community Improvement (largest activity)-Safe living conditions for Vets.
 - \$1.4 million remains to be spent helping improve living conditions in the NW region, Alaska, Washington, and Oregon.
 - Home Depot is a \$4 billion company dedicated to helping the community.
 - Emphasized reach out if you find a family in need, we can get it done.
 - Some Home Depot Guideline they need to follow:
 - No Structural i.e., moving walls etc.
 - Environmental Constraints i.e., asbestos, mold, toxic materials present.
 - Interior of manufactured home
 - Can do landscaping and cleaning to make the site safe.
 - Painting outside of mobile home
 - Minimum Home Depot Grant \$1,500, Haven't reached a Max.
 - Largest grant to date \$37,000
 - Some Questions
 - Evaluating Vets needs vs ability to pay-reach out to Perri she will evaluate don't hesitate to ask for help.

- Who is considered a Veteran- A person who served. Related to a Veteran.
 - Perri will meet with the Vet, determine what is needed and she will write the grant.
 - Veterans out of Area-Can reach anywhere, will find local Home Depot, and facilitate getting the needed help.
- Introduced Donors Closet-Jackie Hall
 - Retired Occupational Therapist worked at Beacon Hill VA for 33 years.
 - VA responsibilities include:
 - Evaluating Veterans needs
 - Evaluating Home Environment needs
 - After Retirement in 2018 teamed with another lady to refurbish wheelchairs and other mobility equipment.
 - An additional area of expertise included evaluating and developing requirements for access ramps that are ADA compliant.
 - Teamed up with Donors Closet in Edmonds which deals with refurbished medical equipment. 99% of funds obtained go to MSHH Multiple Sclerosis Helping Hands.
 - Can bridge between Veteran receiving medical equipment from the VA and current needs.
 - Questions
 - J Henderson noted would be very helpful if we maintained a wheelchair on site for mobility impaired people to access our building. Noted excellent idea.
ACTION ITEM-Earl Shafer follow-up with Jackie Hall.
- WEB PAGE & FACE BOOK-Bob Correll
 - No new business to report.
- COMMUNITY AFFAIRS-John Henderson
 - Greg Delos Santos again reminded membership of the monthly memo asking if they are planning on attending the meeting. IT IS IMPERITIVE we get a response so the people preparing the lunch can plan accordingly. Additionally, it is very important that we have a correct email and phone number for each member. Please check the signup sheet and confirm the information we have on record is correct.
 - Greg Delos Santos asked if any updates on Chef Dane business.
 - C Young reported that ownership had transferred, and new owners will maintain the business name and carry on business.
 - S. Pennington noted the same location and will be stopping in to get a better idea of operations.
 - C Young reported
 - Ron Clyborne had 9 Hr surgery 2 weeks ago and is recovering.
 - Frank Martinez is still recovering from surgery, is doing better.
 - Dennis Gibb reported on his recent incident of falling off a ladder. Emphasized the caution we need to all heed as he had the unfortunate outcome of falling a ladder and spending the evening in the hospital emergency ward. With the coming holidays remember we're not as young as we feel, BE SAFE!!!
 - Greg Delos Santos reported that Muriel Fagan is having some issues and asked if John Henderson could reach out and get more information on how we can assist. **ACTION ITEM.**
 - John Henderson Report on Annual Year End Membership Dinner
 - Committee members
 - John Henderson and wife Kathleen

- Jerry LaCombe and wife Jann
- Chris Young and wife Deb
- Richie Richter
- Terry Quick
- Dinner will be on Jan 6th from 16:00 to 20:00 at the North Lake Christian Church (same as last year).
- Invitations are being sent and expect to get before thanksgiving. RSVP No later than end of business on Dec. 11th, (General Meeting).
- List for sign-up offered for attendance and can also indicate if can volunteer for clean-up etc. Will be available at the November and December General meeting and **can be used in Lieu of responding to the RSVP Invitation.**
- Menu and Entertainment are currently in the planning stages.
- The annual BBQ being planned for August 11th at Camp Patterson on NW end of Silver Lake. Reserved from 09:30 to 17:00. Start Planning to begin early next year-more to follow.
 - Large grassy area
 - Large shelter
 - Basketball court
 - Swimming & Fishing
- Calendar of upcoming Events-Suggested that each year we establish a calendar of events for the coming year. JH offered to help organize.

OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS:

OLD BUSINESS

- 08-13-23 meeting
 - ~~○ Earl Shafer Update on Home Depot projects~~
 - Chris Young-Investigate BECU funding assistance for 2024 BBQ
 - ~~○ J LaCombe Update on CFD requirements for VVA Listing as a Charitable Organization~~
- 09-10-23 meeting
 - J. LaCombe-Status update on Capital Improvement Procedure
 - ~~○ C. Young Status Update on Marine Vet Project~~
 - ~~○ C. Young Clarify Poppy Sales dates.~~
 - ~~○ G. Delos Santos Provide Cert. of Appreciation to support Poppy Sales Stores~~
 - ~~○ J. Henderson Update on VVA end of Year Dinner~~

NEW BUSINESS

- 10-08-23 meeting
 - C. Young-Update 4th Quarter Funding for Debit Card to \$1,000.00
 - J. LaCombe-Follow-up on Chapter Implications of VVA being listed as a Charitable Organization
 - E. Shafer – Follow-up with Donors Closet providing wheelchair/walker for VVA facility
 - J. Henderson-Follow up with Muriel Fagan for possible assist.