

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER #423

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 04/16/2023

TIME START: 14:10

TIME END: 15:20

ATTENDANCE: 23

- ☒ 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.
- ☒ J. HENDERSON-COMMUNITY AFFAIRS CHAIR. ☒ F. IVARRA- VVA WA STATE COUNCIL/PRESIDENT

SPECIAL PRESENTATION- Katherine "Katie" Lavergne-Dignity Memorial Services Purdy & Walters Floral Hills
A presentation was given to all members and guests regarding benefits provided to veterans. Topics included benefits for those seeking burial services at either a National Cemetery or a private cemetery. The major take away was to preplan/register the necessary paperwork and wishes of the parted veteran to avoid the undue stress and confusion on the surviving family members.

The following contact information was provided for assistance with planning:

Kathering "Katie" Lavergne-Family Service Advisor
4205-672-1800 Office 425-672-0202 Fax
Katherine. Lavergne@DignityMemorial.com

OFFICER REPORTS:

PRESIDENT REPORT-Greg Delos Santos Jr.

1. Emphasis/Reminder was again noted to check your roster information when signing in to ensure accuracy of information.
2. Make note of your email traffic requesting you acknowledge if you will be attending meeting to aid in preplanning of meals.
3. Ballots were passed out for the election of our chapter officers with instructions given for completion. Ballots were completed, collected and tallied with the following election results:
 - a. Chapter President- Greg Delos Santos
 - b. Chapter Vice President- Steve Pennington
 - c. Chapter Treasurer-Chris Young
 - d. Chapter Secretary-Jerry LaCombe
 - e. State Delegate/Chair-Steve Pennington
 - f. State Delegate-Bob Correll
 - g. State Delegate-Earl Shafer
 - h. Membership Committee Chairman-Chris Young
 - i. Community Affairs Committee Chairman-John Henderson
 - j. Webmaster Chairman-Bob Correll

Elected officers were sworn in by the VVA Washington State Delegate President Francisco Ivarra.

4. Membership chapter pins were presented to Van Caryl, Steve Barnes, Herb Johnson

SECRETARY REPORT-Jerry LaCombe

1. Minutes from the previous meeting dated 3-12-2023 were read and approved as written.

TREASURES REPORT-Chris Young

1. Account Balance \$18,611.17
2. Web page invoices had been submitted by Bob Correll and payment would be released.

STATE DELEGATE CHAIRMAN-Steve Pennington

1. Welcomed new member Earl Shafer and enjoyed meeting with him and Bob Correll at the State Convention in Toppenish this past week and invited Earl to give his perspective on the meeting.
2. Earl noted interesting round table with members providing some unique perspectives of events with the National President giving a good overview from the National Perspective.

VVA WA STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT-Francisco Ivarra

1. Thanks to our 3 State Delegates Steve Pennington, Bob Correll and Earl Shafer for their participation in our region 8 meeting.
2. Noted the National President was in attendance Jack McMannus who provided perspective from the national level.
3. Went to the Yakama Warriors Association Event which was well represented and included a Helo fly over.
 - a. 300 Jackets were presented to all Vietnam Veterans who were in attendance.
 - b. Jack McMannus and Connie Evans, Vietnam Nurse, were invited speakers at the event.
4. Previously met with region 9 (Calif) President to discuss upcoming Region 8 & 9 meeting to be held in Reno on June 27th, 28th and 29th. Forms have been sent to our chapter president for anyone who would like to attend.
 - a. Chance to hear members who are planning on running for a national office. The National Election Convention will be held in August in Orlando Florida.
5. Next Week will be attending a board meeting in Washington DC. Jack McMannus has dedicated a full day to discuss what will the future VVA look like, i.e. with the aging membership. What will our legacy/ future look like?
 - a. National Finance (Francisco on committee) we are doing well and will be discussing regional dollar allocations, i.e. flat rate per region or other method of allocations which would be considered more equitable. McMannus noted the flat rate is not equitable.
 - b. Question -Final Disposition of Bellingham President? Response-removed from office and VVA organization.
 - c. Question (C. Young) What ever happened with previous president syphoning off money for a shadow VVA organization? Response -Were not able to get very much money and whatever money they had left was returned to the National.
6. Explained the Alaska Delegation at length the disparity between the recognized March 29th, Vietnam Veterans Day and March 30th as represented on the back of his jacket. Explained the 29th is the Vietnam War Veterans Day as proclaimed by the president and the 30th is the welcome home Vietnam Veterans Day as proclaimed by our Governor.
7. Relayed event from visiting Lebanon Oregon State Council meeting and discussion with Santa Barbara California chapter president offering a Huey Helo. All though it was pieces and parts until they saw photos of what was being offered. Oregon is going to receive free of charge a complete intact and recently operated Huey Helo.
8. Misc. Questions from the Floor.
 - a. Question-Final Disposition of Bellingham President? Response-Removed from office and VVA organization.
 - b. Question (C. Young)- What ever happened with previous president syphoning off money for a shadow VVA organization? Response-They were not able to get very much money and whatever money they had left was returned to the National.

- c. Question (J. Henderson) What is going to happen with VVA assets after the last man standing is gone? Suggest assets could be directed to, like tunnels to towers org., payoff mortgages etc. Response-That is going to be the primary focus of the meeting will be. Likely after the National is dissolved remaining will be dispersed between the remaining local chapters who wish to continue to serve the community.
- d. Question (C. Young)- What is the best way to partition the National Organization for the reappropriation of funds for grants to cover projects? Response-Should address any such request to the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE-Chris Young

- 1. Currently have 103 members, 1 additional application had been returned with minor error which is being reprocessed which will bring the total to 104 members. Included tally includes one existing member transfer to another state.

VIETNAM VETERANS WITH HAMMERS-Earl Shafer

- 1. Chris Young Reported Financials on the Tammi Stokke project.
 - a. Neighbor had contributed \$250.00 toward the fence portion of the project.
 - b. Tammi Stokke also contributed \$250.00 toward the project plus \$20.00 for luncheon.
 - c. Noted that money from the total would be deducted to cover fuel and luncheon with the remainder be added as a donation to the chapter funds.
 - d. Questioned raised on the value of materials donated by Home Depot-Earl Estimated it to be ~\$470.00+
 - e. Award was given to Earl Shafer to present to Home Depot Perri McDermot for their support and contribution to Veterans.
- 2. Earl Shafer-Having completed the Stokke project this week gave a special thanks to contributors, Chris Young, Ron Foster, Richard Bianchin, and Jerry LaCombe.
 - a. Repair and Replacement of Fence Boards and Posts
 - b. Removal of Brush, Branches and roots infringing on Fence.
 - c. Scraping and Removal of Moss from Drive, Walkway and Patio.
 - d. Pressure Washing Drive, Walkway, Roof Flashing, Roof Eaves and House Exterior

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES-ACTION ITEM

- 1. Noted we are in the early stages of planning with additional meeting and feedback to come.
 - a. Noted that Chris' daughter would be participating with songs and his grandson would be providing sign.
 - b. Floral Hills also has a person that will also be performing some of the songs.
 - c. Greg has a VSO speaker for the event.
- 2. Chris extended a special invitation to Francisco and his wife to the Memorial Day services at Floral Hill Cemetery.
- 3. Jerry Mathison noted he had volunteered to build some "flag pushers" and wanted to know if anyone had any raw material they could offer, 3/16" roundbar and 3/4" x 1/8" flat bar. He noted he would do the fab but would appreciate any help with the raw material.
- 4. Question (John Henderson) if there was going to be an onsite BBQ and currently the Cemetery did not allow. Alternative arrangements included:
 - a. John Henderson offered to hold it at his house.
 - b. Other sites possible?
- 5. Meeting with Floral Hill scheduled for next Tuesday 4/18/23 to discuss issues-More to follow.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

1. John Hosey- Offered a special thanks to Jerry LaCombe, Chris Young and John Henderson for all the assistance and support they have provided to him and his wife with any assistance they may need.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. J. Henderson- August BBQ comparative analysis
 - a. T. Quick- Remlinger Farms Summary of Facility, costs
 - b. J. Henderson- Silver Lake, Summary of Facility, costs
2. G. Delos Santos- Reschedule Edwin Gonzalos (sp) Tahoma Cemetery honor guard.
3. C. Young- Memorial Day Event
4. G. Delos Santos- Fleet Reserve Site May Clean-Up