

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER #423

MEETING MINUTES

DATE:08/13/2023

TIME START: 14:10 TIME END:

ATTENDANCE: 20

☒ 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.

- Greeting membership and thank you to all who contributed to BBQ Pot Luck.
 - Notified membership that next year's BBQ 2024 will be held at Camp Paterson on Silver Lake. Information will be provided as it develops. **Action Item**
- Announced recognition of Purple Heart Recipient's
 - John Hosey
 - Dennis Gibb
 - Richie Richter
 - Frank Martinez
 - Ken Christianson
- Update on the annual August "Welcome Home" festival and Andes place in Sedro Wooley. **STRONGLY** encourage everyone to try to attend.
- Announced donation to Michael Regan was approved for \$650.00.
- The announced deadline for making application for PACT Act benefits was extended to tomorrow August 14. Get your paperwork submitted, contact your VSO if you need help. NOTE: e-mail was sent to all VVA members on VSO contact information.
- Authorized reimbursement of application fee to John Henderson for 2024 Camp Patterson BBQ reservation.

SECRETARY REPORT-Jerry LaCombe

- Action items from July 07-09-2023 meeting minutes were read.
- Motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept July meeting minutes as posted.
- Jerry LaCombe will be on Vacation for the September General Meeting. Chris Young has offered to record event.

TREASURES REPORT-Chris Young

- General Account Beginning Balance: \$23,297.24
 - Car Show Cash Donations \$482
 - Car Show QR Code Donations \$35.00
 - Car Show QR Code Fees (\$1.53)
 - Chapter Expenses (\$227.42)
- General Account Ending Balance **\$23,585.29**
- Saving Account Beginning Balance \$0000.00
 - Deposits \$1,218.00
 - Interest Earned \$0.50

- Saving Account Ending Balance \$1,218.50

STATE DELEGATE CHAIRMAN-Steve Pennington

- Inputs on pending resolutions were collected from Board Members Earl Shafer and delivered to our regional president, Francisco Ivarro to be presented at the National Convention in Florida.
- Tom Nasky noted that Francisco has gone above and beyond representing our region, often making personal sacrifices. Suggested contact with Francisco to pursue how we can assist to lessen any personal burden he is taking on our behalf. **Action Item**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- MEMBERSHIP-Chris Young
 - Current Membership is 106 members.
 - Two new members were introduced.
 - Dennis Smith
 - Rick Tartar
 - Projecting ~120 members based on current activities/interested members.
 - Steve Pennington offered special recognition to Sgt Major Young for his enthusiastic participation to grow the organization at a record pace. President Delos Santos endorsed and amplified on Chris's efforts that are not unnoticed by all and is considered a corner stone to the organization's growth. Ron Foster added Chris's participation in the Car Show, acting as a key awards presenter, was truly an entertaining hit for all.
- WEB PAGE & FACEBOOK DEVELOPER-Bob Correll
 - Greg Delos Santos Jr. Reported that Bob had suffered a nasty fall accident and is currently recovering.
- COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COORDINATOR-John Henderson
 - Special Cards were delivered to Purple Heart Recipients. Chris Young-Spcl. recognition given to John and wife Kathleen for their efforts to support Veterans.
 - Next years annual BBQ will be held at Camp Patterson Park on Silver Lake (reservation fee has been paid) **Action Item**
 - Large facility
 - Basketball
 - Swimming
 - Docks for Fishing
 - Covered Pavilion
 - Large parking area within a short walking distance.
 - Will be available from 0900 to 1700.
 - There are some restrictions associated with the events such no alcohol etc.
 - Jerry LaCombe was added to assist John Henderson with the planning of next year's event.
 - John H. made a motion and unanimously endorsed that the BBQ event be dedicated to and titled the "Purple Heart Recipient's Celebration".
 - Terry Quick-noted that BECU has funding up to \$500.00 to support community events and we should investigate. **Action Item**
 - Steve Pennington Reported-Contacted by Monica McNiel-Gold Star Family Organization (GSFO).
 - Gifted two cemetery Plots at Floral Hills (estimated value \$8,000 each). Plots are adjacent in the Camilia Gardens area of the cemetery.
 - GSFO would like too either:
 - Gift the plots to a needy Veteran.

- Offer at a significant discounted price to a Veteran in need.
- **SEE STEVE PENNINGTON FOR CONTACT INFORMATION**
- Steve Pennington Reported-We are eligible for obtaining Honor Flight consideration. Ted Elger, Grape View WA, if interested in applying **SEE STEVE PENNINGTON**.
- Jerry LaCombe Reported-Heroes Café is pursuing a business designation as a “Charitable Organization”, which would allow them to be registered under the state of Washington’s “Charitable Fund Drive” (CFD). This provides that all/any state employee can designate VVA #423 for an automatic employee contribution.
 - **It should be noted there are tax implications associated with being a non-profit charitable organization.**
 - Approved by voice vote to investigate and report on requirements for becoming a Charitable Organization designation. **Action Item**
- Chris Young Reported-Looking for volunteers to help our aging veterans with support activities such as delivering meals, transporting to medical appointments. Contact Chris with information and interest in participating with these types of activities.
- Greg Delos Santos Reported-Tami Stokke will be hosting the next, September, General Meeting Luncheon. Kathleen Henderson, who normally coordinates the event, will be on vacation and unavailable. Contact Greg if you can assist and he will put you in contact with Tami to coordinate/assist with the event.
- Larry Fisher asked who provided the entertainment for the July BBQ.
 - Terry Quick advised it was at his expense that the entertainment was provided in recognition for the VVA membership who attended the last two air shows in Moses Lake.
 - Veteran Timothy Michaels was the multifaceted artist who provided instrumental and vocal entertainment. He can be reached at his web site for booking at TimothyMichaels.com.
 - Chris Young offered special recognition with all the efforts Terry has and can provide to support organizations like ours.
- **VETS WITH HAMMERS-Earl Shafer**
 - Large Project-Army Vet w/PTSD and suffered recent stroke and is bed ridden and is in dire need of assistance. **Action Item**
 - Living in a dilapidated trailer that is falling apart.
 - Needs electrical repairs. Repairs underway.
 - Needs plumbing repairs. Repairs underway.
 - The roof is in a very rough shape.
 - The wife is struggling to take care of his everyday needs.
 - Needs wheelchair access ramp(s) and rails. MAJOR ACTIVITY TO ACCOMPLISH.
 - Work schedule Thursday and Saturdays-weather permitting.
 - Schedule all activities through Earl-**NO UNAUTHORIZED VISITS.**
 - **Asking for People willing to help, send contact info to Earl.**
 - **WIFE IS VERY STRESSED OVER RECENT EVENTS.**
 - Funding is quite complicated and being coordinated/shared between Home Depot, Vet Counselor and VVA is looking to contribute.
 - Home Depot is anticipating additional projects going forward. Will advise. **Action Item**
 - Projects total cost and tools provided by Home Depot.

OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS:

Status 07-09-2023 Action Items

- ~~Earl Shafer- Provide pictures to Bob Correll of "Vets with Hammers" projects- Complete.~~
- ~~Site Clean-up-Complete.~~
- ~~Larry Fisher- Provide follow up written request for contribution to Michael Reagan- Complete \$650.00 check delivered.~~
- ~~John Henderson- Provide pricing information for reserving Camp Paterson on Silver Lake for the 2024 VVA BBQ-Complete reservation secured for \$250.00.~~
- ~~Greg Delos Santos- Send out information to General Membership on August BBQ- Complete.~~
- ~~Chris Young provided information on the upcoming Mustang NW to Greg Delos Santos for distribution- Complete.~~

08-13-2023 Action Items

- Greg Delos Santos-contact Francisco and discuss how we can assist and lessen the personal burden he has taken on our behalf.
- Earl Shafer- write up proposal on costs / activities for Vet Trailer improvements.
- Earl Shafer- Report on tentative future projects with Home Depot as sponsor.
- Chris Young-Reimburse John Henderson for Camp Patterson Application fee.
- John Henderson-begin planning for next year's (2024) annual BBQ.
- Chris Young/John Henderson-investigate BECU possible funding to support the Purple Heart Recipients BBQ.
- Jerry LaCombe-Report on requirement associated with being listed as a Charitable Organization.