

# VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER

## #423

### MEETING MINUTES

*FLEET RESERVE CENTER BRANCH #16*  
*23003 56<sup>TH</sup> Ave West Montlake Terrace WA*  
*Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday ea Month 13:00*

DATE:12/10/2023    TIME START: 14:00    TIME END: 15:47    ATTENDANCE: 26

☒ G. DELOS SANTOS JR.-PRES.(GD)                      ☒ S. PENNINGTON-VP(SP)                      ☒ C. YOUNG-TREAS(CY)  
☒ G. LACOMBE-SEC (GL)                      ☒ S. PENNINGTON-STATE DEL. CHAIR                      ☒ B. CORRELL-STATE DEL  
☒ E. SHAFER-STATE DEL.    ☐ F. IVARRA REGION 8 PRESIDENT

#### OFFICERS REPORT:

##### PRESIDENT REPORT-Greg Delos Santos Jr.

- Meeting called to order @ 14:00, Sgt at arms lead group with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- President welcomed all noting some new/prospect members in attendance.
- Reminded all to make sure they sign in.
- Discussed Action Item for contribution to Ande Mitchel's 2023 "Welcome Home BBQ", reference 12 November 2023 minutes.
  - Chapter Delegates agreed to consider contributing \$1,000.00 to the 2023 event but would need to present it to the membership for approval.
  - GD and GL reviewed previous minutes and concluded request was never presented to the membership for a vote.
  - Conclusion-request would be tabled until next year's, 2024 event for consideration if requested. **ACTION ITEM CLOSED.**
- GD-called James Murdock and Scott Robinson to present chapter 423 pins in recognition of being new members.
- GD-Noted had received a Christmas Card from Ron Fox's wife Minda and was read to the membership.

##### VICE PRESIDENT REPORT-Steve Pennington

- Bob Correll was invited to speak on his experience delivering Thanksgiving meals to Sebastian House. Noted how grateful veterans were with the offering from Chef Dane. Pictures were taken and will be posted on the Web Site.
  - VVA #423 members involved with transport and delivery of meals were Bob Correll, Dennis Gibb, Dave McFeron, and Steve Pennington.
  - A similar event is scheduled for Christmas dinner for Sebastian House.
- Subject of "Claire's House" was brought up and possible contributions. Noted that currently is shut down for clearing out an infestation issue.

#### SECRETARY REPORT-Jerry LaCombe

- Update provided on getting listed for Washingtons "Combined Fund Drive" (CFD).
  - Need to submit paperwork to be listed as a "Charitable" Non-Profit. Currently listed as Non-Profit. Requires most of our funding to go towards our cause.
  - Next, submit paperwork to the state requesting to be listed as a CFD organization.
    - Allows state agencies to make payroll deductions and contribute directly into our account.
- Update on submitting application to be listed as a "Purple Heart Entity."
  - Proclamation was signed by our President and Vice President.
  - Paperwork has been submitted to the national organization.
  - Pending acceptance of our proclamation will then be listed on the National Register as an organization (entity) recognizing the contributions made by Purple Heart Recipients.
- GD -Noted questions in November minutes on AVVA membership.
  - AVVA stands for "Associative Vietnam Veterans of America" .
    - They will not be assuming the VVA role should they dissolve.
    - Currently our Chapter has 7 members listed as AVVA members. Membership in the AVVA is made by separate application.
- Updates -invite comments on any changes to improve reporting to membership.
  - A section has been added to include "Up Coming Events" to help members track/plan activities.
  - The Minutes heading has been amended listing the location and time for our general meetings.
- November meeting minutes-Motion made for approval as posted, seconded, approval carried by voice vote.

#### TREASURES REPORT-Chris Young

- **CHECKING**

▪ <b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$32,981.76</b>
▪ Donations	\$0.00	
▪ Chapter Expenses (Clover Charge)		(\$99.00) *
▪ Veteran Donations	(\$500.00) **	
▪ <b>Ending Balance</b>		<b><u>\$32,382.76</u></b>

\* CY-Noted the Clover Charge is to be removed from future charges, not applicable to our account.

\*\* CY-Noted that un-named donor had contributed \$500.00 last month indicating was to be used for Vet Tartar for expenses other than rent.

\*\*\*Question raised on the total amount received from the November Poppy Sales. CY advised was \$12,515.00 as reported in November minutes and is include the Beginning Balance.

- **SAVINGS**

▪ <b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$1,220.04</b>
▪ Deposits	\$1,710	
▪ Interest earned	\$0.60	
▪ <b>Ending Balance</b>		<b><u>\$2,930.64</u></b>

- **VETS W/HAMMERS (Debit Card)**

▪	Beginning Balance	\$948.28
▪	Funds Used	(\$134.02)
▪	Quarterly Transfer	(TBD Jan)
▪	Interest Earned	\$0.07
▪	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b><u>\$814.33</u></b>
- **TOTAL ASSETS** **\$36,127.73**

STATE DELEGATE CHAIRMAN-Steve Pennington

- No new report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE-Chris Young
  - Current Membership is 114 VVA and 7 AVVA members with a total of 121 active members.
  - Introduced new prospective member **Richard Gross**, Vietnam 1970 to 1971. 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Air Calvary.
  - Introduced member **Jim Murdock**, current member but 1<sup>st</sup> meeting attendee.
    - US Army, Vietnam Service 1970 to 1974.
  - Introduced member **Scott Robinson**, was a “member at large” now included Chpt. 423. Noted as past president of “Mustang Northwest” which our VVA Chpt. has been an active supporter as an honor guard.
  - Introduced member **Brian Sequim** also an active member and is also a member of American Legion Post 37.
    - Active supporter/participant in our Poppy Fundraising Drive.
    - Talked about his involvement in the “Honor Flight”.
      - Started, along with others, a Hub Organization back in 2013.
      - Support 4 flights/Year transport 1,500 Veterans
        - Waiting list- If no. <200 expect call for April Flight.
        - Applications are available online @ “Puget sound honor flight.org”
        - Flights in 13-15 April, 18-20 May and 14-16 September, and 5-7 October.
      - Provided itinerary of the 3-day event.
  - New Transfer members **David Powell**-Chpt. 102,
  - Member **Tim Miller**.
  - Jerry Mathison noted he had recently purchased a golf shirt that had Vietnam Veteran Logo along with Branch of Military and thought it would be nice/consistent look for our membership to consider. **ACTION ITEM**
- VETS WITH HAMMERS-Earl Shafer
  - Year End Summary
    - November was a little slower W/ holiday and inclement weather.
    - Tami Stokke (AVVA member)
      - Fence Repairs
      - Cleaned Rain Gutters
      - Power Washed Porch, Deck, and Walkway
      - Home Depot covered all expenses and VVA provided Labor.
    - Edward Chavalier (WWII Veteran)
      - Fabricated Wheelchair Ramp.
      - Recent Contact-Installed Grab bar in Bathroom.

- Richard Bianchin (VVA Member)
  - Rebuilt Back Deck and Stairs
  - Richard provided Matl + Donation to VVA
  - Richard + VVA provided Labor.
- Vietnam Vet Miles Mathiesen is struggling with PTSTD, MS, Multiple Strokes. He is Wheelchair-disabled, living in a Mfg Home in serious disrepair.
  - Numerous Exterior Lot repairs, landscaping and many material costs were offered to be covered by Home Depot, but this has not happened yet.
  - Our VVA post has provided most of the overall labor doing repairs inside and outside including some miscellaneous materials and costs.
  - Numerous Interior Repairs.
    - Material Costs were covered by Jackie Hall.
    - VVA and others covered interior labor.
  - VVA installed wheelchair lift – donated by Bothell Bus Company
  - Roof Repairs were completed by a former roofer who volunteered services.
- Chris Young (VVA Member)
  - Construction of Lawn Shed
    - Chris provided all material cost.
    - VVA and Chris provided labor to complete.
- Earl noted we have a variety of resources available to make life a little easier/better for our Veterans. Don't be too proud to ask for help.
- Special thanks given to many of our members who have helped including Ron Foster, Richard Bianchin, Chris Young, Jerry LaCombe, Jim Cornwell, Richard (Jerry) Mathison.
- Additional help is always welcomed, contact Earl Shafer. We have resources for material, but labor is our only limitation.
- New projects are being identified and planned.
  - Heroes Café-Lynnwood has identified two new projects, we are working with Heroes Café to coordinate.
- VVA has expended ~300-400 labor hours supporting Veteran projects and Home Depot has contributed materials at no cost for most of the Material Costs.
  - **Steve Pennington noted that you can take a tax deduction for our labor contribution and suggested contacting a tax consultant.**
  - Terry Quick suggested we consider contacting a tax consultant on behalf of the VVA regarding tax deductions for our services. Additionally, was suggested we obtain insurance coverage for our volunteer labor which he thought would be minimal.
    - Motion was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.
    - Terry accepted an action item to contact and report on required coverages. **ACTION ITEM**
- VETS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE-TBD
  - Richard Tartar (VVA member)
    - CY-previously reported (November Minutes) December rent was \$2,400.00.
      - Tartar was able to handle December's rent from sales of various items.
    - GD/CY noted donations received to date totaling \$1,400.00 leaving \$1,000.00 still due. Contributions received to date and deposited in the VVA savings account included:
      - Heroes Café-\$300.00

- American Legion Post 66-\$300.00
  - VFW Post 1040-\$300.00
  - American Legion Post 227-\$500
- Brian Sequin noted that he would contact American Legion Post 37 to see if they would be willing to defray some/all the remaining \$1000.00 rent cost. **ACTION ITEM.**
  - **Motion made, seconded, and approved by voice vote- The VVA would support funding for the January Rent up to \$1000.00 LESS whatever contribution received from AML post 37.**
- CY-Reported the following:
  - The Church was putting together a package to assist with pending bills.
  - Trash service was able to be renegotiated at no cost.
  - Other bills, PUD etc. working at being renegotiated.
  - Current monthly bills: Rent, PUD, water, garbage etc estimated at \$3,400.00/month.
  - Brian Sequin asked should AML check be made payable to Veteran directly or to the VVA. CY noted others had made check payable to VVA, Brian noted he would do the same.
  - CY requested direction should one check be made payable to Tartar directly or to the rental agency. **Response-check should be made payable to the rental agency.**
- CY Noted-We need to setup how we can collectively, working with Heroes Café, VFW posts, American Legion Posts, help these needy veterans.
  - Noted- we don't have the resource for ongoing continual support. The Vet needs to realize this is a one-time event and they, the Veteran, will need to pursue additional long-term assistance.
- WEB PAGE & FACE BOOK-Bob Correll
  - G.D. reported that Bob is still seeking an individual to help/take over duties of our Web Page and Facebook. Contact either Greg at [gregngerri@comcast.net](mailto:gregngerri@comcast.net), or Bob at [bcorre2@gmail.com](mailto:bcorre2@gmail.com).
  - BC- Jan 1<sup>st</sup> he will need to start scaling back activity.
  - GD-Prefer a current member but would entertain an outside individual to take over.
  - CY-noted he had received a bill for \$289 for web page and questioned if it should be paid. BC noted would investigate and advise. **ACTION ITEM**
- COMMUNITY AFFAIRS-John Henderson (JH)
  - JH-Update on Annual End of Year Dinner
    - Dinner Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 16:00 to 20:00
    - NorthLake Christian Church
    - Catered by Erwin Brecher, Exec Chef-Mario Andreotti race team, Everett Yacht Club, Des Moines Yacht Club
      - Hors d'oeuvres -Stuffed Mushrooms, Shrimp Cocktail
      - Ceasar Salad
      - Main Course
        - Beef Tenderloin
        - Chicken Piccata
        - Au gratin Potatoes
        - Asparagus
      - Desert-Terry Quick provide (Surprise)

- Cost by VVA Chpt #423
  - Food and supplies will be at Cost.
  - Labor fixed fee \$600
- Attendance (RSVP) current 95 has signed up.
  - **ANY ADD'L CONTACT JOHN ASAP.**
- Noted Elizabeth Devine-American Heritage Girls has offered her girls to support our event. Girls 12-18 doing service as needed, serving, pick-up etc.
- JH recommendation for VVA Chpt 423 make donations along with certificates of appreciation to the following:
  - \$250.00 Northlake Christian Church – Helping Hands
  - \$250.00 American Heritage Girls Group
- Motion made, seconded and unanimous appvl voice vote.
- GL noted will provide Reservation Markers for groups of 4 and over.
- GD noted service elevators are available to the second floor for mobility impaired.
- CY noted that last year \$50.00 gift certificates were provided to two of the dishwashers that cleaned all the dishes and recommended we do the same this year.
- **GD ACTION ITEM**-Provide and present Cert of Appreciation
- John Henderson noted if anyone has not received an invitation, he has copies in hand.
- GD -noted that previously US bank had expressed an interest in participating in our annual dinner to get a better understanding of how they could support our group. Reported he had not heard anything to date.
  - JH suggested in lieu of the January Dinner, given the late date, we consider inviting US bank to our summer “Purple Heart BBQ” in August. Accepted as an acceptable alternative.
- **UPCOMING EVENTS**
  - **12-12-2023 Heroes Café-Shoreline Luncheon**  
 John Hosey (VVA Member & Korean War Veteran) will be presenting presentation on his “Military Experience”.  
  
 Meet on the 2nd Tuesday each month.  
 From 09:00 to 13:00  
 Seattle Scottish Rite Center  
 1207N 152nd Street, Shoreline WA
  - **1/6/2024 VVA Chpt. 423 Annual Year End Dinner (RSVP)**  
 Northlake Christian Church  
 19029 North Road  
 Bothell WA 98012  
 16:00 to 20:00
  - **1-10-2024 Pacific Northwest Veteran Assistance Art Reception**  
 Michael Regan and Jake Powell-Artists  
 Lynnwood City Hall  
 19100 44 Ave W  
 Lynnwood WA 98036  
 17:30 to 19:00

- **1-14-2024 VVA Chpt. 423 General Meeting**  
FLEET RESERVE CENTER BRANCH #16  
23003 56TH Ave West Montlake Terrace WA  
13:00 to 15:00
- **4-tbd-2024 VVA WA State Council Meeting**  
Toppenish WA,  
Yakima Warriors Assoc.  
Legends Casino Hotel
- **5-tbd-2024 VVA Chpt. 423 Memorial Day Weekend Event**  
Purdy & Walters at Floral Hills  
409 Filbert Rd , Lynnwood WA
- **8-03-2024 VIETNAM VETS "Welcome Home BBQ"**  
Ande Mitchell's Place (360)-708-3268  
6254 Fruitdale North  
Sedro Wooley, WA 98204  
11:00 to 15:00
- **08-11-2024 VVA Chpt. 423 Annual BBQ Pot Luck**  
Camp Paterson Picnic Shelter  
Silver Lake -Sullivan Park  
Everett Wa
- **11-tbd-2024 VVA Chpt. 423 Annual Poppy Fund Raiser**  
Multiple Fred Meyer Locations  
Everett WA
- **11-tbd-2024 Mill Creek Veterans Day Parade**  
Mill Creek, WA

## **OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS:**

### **12-10-2023**

- Chris Young/Bob Correll-Review bill of \$289.00 for Web Page payment.
- Greg Delos Santos-Make presentation of Certificates of appreciation to Northlake Christian Church and American Heritage Girls organization at Annual VVA Dinner.
- Terry Quick-Investigate and Report on obtaining a chapter tax accountant and obtaining insurance coverage for Volunteer Labor.
- Brian Sequin/Chris Young-report on funding available from American Legion Post 37 for Tartar January rent.
- Membership Committee-Consider investigating acquiring a VVA Chpt 423 shirt for our membership.

### **11-16-23**

- ~~Greg Delos Santos/Jerry LaCombe- Investigate previous meeting minutes if a motion had been made to endorse payment of \$1,000.00 to the 2023 Ande Mitchell BBQ.~~
- ~~Greg Delos Santo-Follow up with Lake Steven US Bank Manager on offer to support our efforts.~~
- Chris Young-help develop a card size information guide describing the Vietnam Poppy color scheme along with contact information for our VVA chapter.

- ~~• Dinner Planning Committee Discuss inviting US Bank to end of year dinner.~~
- ~~• Steve Pennington Coordinate holiday dinner, Thanksgiving and Christmas, between Chef Dane and Sebastian House.~~
- Greg Delos Santos-Provide lists of members to be contacted for updates on status, phone numbers, emails, addresses and welfare.

09-10-23 Meeting

- J LaCombe Status update on “Capital Improvement Procedure”

08-13-23 Meeting

- Chris Young follow-up on BECU funding assist for 2024 BBQ

09-10-23 Meeting

- J LaCombe Status update on “Capital Improvement Procedure”