

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER #423

MEETING MINUTES

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

DATE:03/10/2024 TIME START: 14:05 TIME END: 16:15 ATTENDANCE: 34

- 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.
- F. IVARRA REGION 8 PRESIDENT

OFFICERS REPORT:

PRESIDENT REPORT-Greg Delos Santos Jr.

- Meeting was called to order by the President who called for the Sargent at Arms to lead the membership in reciting the pledge of allegiance.
- President reminded all members the decorum when someone is speaking to refrain from side bars and other distracting dialog.
- Reminded everyone to ensure they had signed in and validated the contact information, i.e. email address, phone number etc. Anyone that has not signed in to acknowledge same and asked to do so.
 - John Henderson added that if anyone wanted their birthdate added they should note same on sign-in sheet which will allows him to provide birthday wishes.
 - Greg noted that the only names not on the sign-in sheet are those that do not have emails or bad emails.
 - Response from membership when you respond DO NOT reply ALL.
- Greg noted that when he sends out notices of upcoming meetings and the responses provides a good number of how many people can be expected. Please respond it is a great help in preparing for the luncheon. Note that for today's meeting he only received a response indicating 26 would be attending, however 37 people showed up. PLEASE RESPOND IF EXPECTING TO ATTEND and add if you are bringing any additional people, guest, or spouse etc.

VICE PRESIDENT-Steve Pennington

- Nothing new to report.

SECRETARY REPORT-Jerry LaCombe

- GL noted that he sends out the meeting minutes so if you did not receive a copy of the minutes there is an issue with your listed email address. Please verify that your email is up to date.
- GL The minutes are sent out using the mass mailing list and is sent out as a "Blind Carbon Copy" (bcc). Using this method only individuals receive a copy of the mailing and when you respond it only goes back to the person sending the email, this eliminates the issue of REPLY ALL.
- GL noted at the end of the minutes there is a yearly calendar of upcoming events. If you want to add any item that might be of interest to the membership, drop me an email and I will add it to the calendar.

- GL provided update on ACTION ITEM regarding Directors and Officers Insurance (D&O). Advised when checking with the VVA Inc. National Insurance they provide D&O insurance only for the National and State Officers. The Chapter would have to secure their own D&O insurance. Received a quote for the Insurance which is \$1,241.00/year, was presented to the Board of Directors, approved and is now in place.
- Jerry Mathison noted he has a friend Wayne Rikerd who is not receiving emails. Noted possibly hasn't made the National Roster Yet. GL checked the National Roster, and he is listed but has an annotation to "NOT MAIL". GL and Jerry M. to follow-up.
- Question raised, Ron Foster, on Status of Insurance for Veterans with Hammers, Noted Terry Quick would address.
- Chris Young asked raise of hands of anyone in attendance who did not receive a copy of minutes. Indication all received copy (no raise of hands)
- No corrections to January Minutes.

TREASURES REPORT-Chris Young

- CY provided a reimbursement form for receipts. Get the expenditure pre-cleared through board before making the expenditure.
- CY clarified are tax classification is based on total earnings of \$50,000.00 / year not \$50,000.00 in our account.
- CY provided updates on teaming up with various Veteran support organizations such as Heroes Café or VFW etc. so no one organization needs to carry the whole burden of support for an individual veteran. Bob Correll asked if we could get the names of the agencies that we are teaming with provided. JL taken as ACTION ITEM-UPDATE-Heroes Café-Lynwood, Heroes Café-Woodinville, American Legion Post 66, VFW post 8850, American Legion Post 37.
- Question raised if we are cutting down on the number of stores we will be doing "Poppy Sales" should we consider manning additional entrances? Response typically the additional entrances are seldom used and wouldn't warrant having those covered. Consideration is being given to how we can use our volunteers at the stores, possibly more shifts. Warrants further discussion / Planning. Poppy Sales are planned for May 17th and 18th at 3 store locations: Safeway near Lake Stevens, and at two Fred Meyer Stores, one 164th and the other on 196th. The paperwork has been submitted and approved.
 - Ron Foster suggested that a sign-up sheet be set out for new members. Greg noted that any interested people should contact Chris Young to coordinate their participation.
- CY provided a written detailed treasurer's report for February- (no general meeting was held in February)- and March to the President and Secretary and is summarized as follows:

February 11, 2024

CHECKING

Beginning Balance		\$25,560.84
Deposits	\$35.00	
Expenses	*((\$868.23)	
	*Details Provided	
Ending Balance		\$24,727.61

SAVINGS

Beginning Balance		\$3,731.96
Deposits/Interest	\$1.58	
Ending Balance		\$3,733.54

DEBIT CARD -VETS W/HAMMERS

Beginning Balance		\$1,000.00
Expenditures	(\$0.00)	
Deposits (Transfers)	\$0.00	

Interest earned	\$0.08	
Ending Balance		\$1,000.08
TOTAL ASSETS		\$29,461.23

March 10,2024

CHECKING

Beginning Balance		\$24,727.61
Deposit	\$0.00	
Expenses ** Details Provided	(\$2,417.67)	
Expenses *** Details Provided	(\$738.77)	
Ending Balance		\$21,571.17

SAVINGS

Beginning Balance		\$3,733.54
Deposits/Interest	\$1.48	
Current Balance		\$3,735.02

DEBIT CARD -VETS W/HAMMERS

Beginning Balance		\$1,000.08
Expenditures	(\$0.00)	
Deposits (Transfers)	\$0.00	
Interest earned	\$0.08	
Ending Balance		\$1,000.16
TOTAL ASSETS		\$26,306.35

DETAILED EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTING

***February Detailed Accounting**

Jan 6,2024 Annual Dinner		
J-LaCombe-Table Cloths		(\$158.20)
C. Young-Sodas, Ice, Name Tags, Printer Ink, Kitchen consumables		(\$352.66)
T. Quick- Blueberry Crisp Desert		(\$86.62)
Helping Hands		(\$250.00)
G. Delos Santos-Checks order		(\$20.75)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		(\$868.23)

March Detailed Accounting

D&O Insurance		(\$1241.00)
American Heritage Girls		(\$250.00)
C.Young-2023 Annual Dinner Latent Expenses		(\$876.16)
E. Shafer-Vets W/Hammers (Pre-Debit Card)		(\$50.51)
**Sub Total		(\$2417.67)
Wreath Linda Daniels Memorial		(\$313.83)
Herbert Johnson (American Cancer Society-memorial)		(\$100.00)
J. LaCombe reimburse.		
Ensure Food Supplement for Vet		(\$130.56)
Flags for Vets going into Hospice		(\$194.38)
***SubTotal		(\$738.77)

STATE DELEGATE CHAIRMAN-Steve Pennington

- No New Activity to Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE-Chris Young
 - CY-Noted that he is in the process of collecting copies of DD214's for all members. Emails have been sent out to all members that the membership committee **does not** have a copy of your DD214 on file. We are using it to identify purple heart recipients. Additionally, ensure you black out any personal data such as **Social Security Numbers**.
 - CY-Update on Richard Tartar-he is no longer a member in VVA as he did not serve the requisite period of time in the armed service.
 - CY-In the process of developing a remembrance board for members that have passed. Consideration is being given to adding Bryce Lilly (SP) as an honorary member. He was known as a WWII Veteran that was part of the Batan Death March. Will be discussed at the next board meeting.
 - Members noted having difficulty getting reimbursed for travel to the VA. Dennis Gibb advised that when you visit your doctor at the VA have them send confirmation to the VA of the appointment which should greatly increase your success in getting reimbursed.
 - CY-New members recognized.
 - Jim Chambers-Air Force Vet, Defense Language instructor, stationed around Saigon.
 - Tom Stiller was present earlier but had to leave.
 - CY-Noted currently at 113 members with several in the que who have shown strong interest in joining.
 - Several members relayed stories of difficulty getting through the VA system to get their issues resolved. Albeit reimbursement for expenses to getting the necessary services to treat issues they may have. Don't hesitate to contact your VSO, Jeane Ebert, for needed help. GL noted don't be discouraged with issues that have happened in the past several years. He noted that recent discussions with a physician noted that the system has changed and had a big shake-up for the better. Don't give up.
- VETS WITH HAMMERS-Earl Shafer
 - ES-Announced that the Red Cross provides Smoke Detectors for Veterans. They will provide and install smoke detectors for Veterans for free. They will survey a individual or a complex asses the need and provide and install. Contact Information-Cheryl Provorse email cheryl.provorse@redcross.org
 - ES-If you are planning a painting project, contact Sherwin Williams-Bothell and they will give you a 30% discount on your painting supplies. Contact Information Store Manager Gary True 425-486-9116. Address 10042 Main Street #A Bothell WA.
 - Ron Foster noted that many facilities will not except used latex paint however Sherwin Williams in Mukilteo will except in any condition.
 - ES-Hammer projects are still on hold until we get clarification on insurance needs. Terry Quick noted that in checking with our National Organization we as members of the VVA are covered if we get injured on a project. However, if there is a mishap and the person who received our help gets hurt or injured, they could sue the individuals that worked on the project and our National Insurance does not cover that circumstance. Noted that Terry has made contact with Brown & Brown (Insurance Broker) and they are in contact with our National Organization to see if they can get that as a rider-more to follow. Additionally, Washington State requires that if you are doing work, you must be registered as a contractor if not you could be subject to a \$10,000.00 fine per cited incident. Additionally, to register we need to post a low-level bond. The hinge pin

on the whole thing is the liability insurance either provided by the National or we could request the carrier that provided our D&O insurance add coverage for Vets for Hammers.

- ES-Emphasized that if we as a member need assistance with a project do not hesitate to ask for help. We can and will help our membership.
- ES-Noted we are still collecting used wheelchairs and walkers and providing Donors Closet for repairs. Advise Earl if you have any of these items to donate.
- WEB PAGE & FACE BOOK-Bob Correll
 - BC-Face Book- reports making progress have received 7 new member sign-ups. Advantages of being a member include making comments, communicating with other members, and placing pictures on the site-subject to review naturally. When signing up will need to provide your affiliation/relationship with VVA Chapter 423.
 - BC-Web Page- reports continues to maintain, service is paid through 2026. At the upcoming board meeting will discuss if we want to continue beyond 2026.
 - Greg Delos Santos- again noted that Bob is still looking for someone who may have an interest in taking over or helping.
- COMMUNITY AFFAIRS-John Henderson
 - JH-August BBQ-Will be held at Silver Lake, Camp Patterson, any Purple Heart Recipients are to let John Henderson or Deb Young know. It's IMPORTANT that you attend the BBQ. Terry Quick was to investigate providing entertainment at the BBQ and make a presentation to the Board for consideration.
 - JH-Proposing establishing a memorial plaque celebrating all VVA 423 members that have since passed on. Proposing getting the board to consider funding the plaque with an initial completion for this coming Memorial Day. Target displaying at our Memorial Day service, annual dinner event. Motion was Made, seconded, and approved by voice vote to proceed with the memorial plaque that would accommodate 60 names. Still pending is finalizing the names to be included on the plaque. Consideration to be discussed is including spouses of deceased members being included on the plaque.
 - Deb Young is working on a project organizing information/records from various sources so that the chapter will have a binder of members that may no longer be with us as a remembrance of the "Not Forgotten". Included would be pictures, obituaries, their history and other remembrance items that will live on after their passing.
- OLD BUSINESS
 - GD advised the Washington State Council Meeting in Toppenish WA on April 27th. Items to be brought up to be discussed at the pending board meeting.
- NEW BUSINESS
 - GD Restructuring of our bylaws and organization chart is underway at our board meeting.
 - GD noted that Nominations for upcoming elections are underway. Copies of the Ballots were distributed with current officers listed along with space for those wishing to be considered for the election that will take place at our next General Meeting. All positions are open and need to be a member in good standing to be eligible.
 - Will the Ballots be sent out for nominations-GD response the nominations would be kept to members in attendance as been the past practice.
 - GD noted if you have no write in names for the ballot just indicate NC (no change).
 - When Complete Sign your ballot and return to President
 - GL suggest that before you nominate someone get the concurrence from the nominee before you nominate them.
 - Question raised could proxy ballots be used for the final election. Advised past practice has always been you need to be present to vote. Latter confirmed the Chapter Bylaws requires you need to be present to vote.

- GL noted that VVA Chapter 423 had submitted a proclamation requesting we be recognized as a “PURPLE HEART ENTITY” and we have now been accepted and have been added to the National Purple Heart Registry as a Purple Heart Entity.
- GD noted that we have also received a plaque from the VVA National celebrating our being in existence as a VVA Chapter for 35 Years.
- GD gave recognition to the VVA members that attended the services of Linda Daniels
 - Rob and Deb Hitchings
 - Chris and Deb Young
 - Greg and Patti Olson
 - Bob Weslander
 - Bob Correll
 - Jann and Jerry LaCombe
 - Kathleen and John Henderson
 - Karen Glaze
 - Cheryl and Jeremy Brown
 - Francisco Ivarra
 - Dave McFeron
 - Tami Stokke
 - Gerri and Greg Delos Santos
- Dennis Gibb advised that he has been provided with services being provided for Disabled Veterans Senior Citizens and their Care Givers in the Puget Sound Region. Advised any that would want a copy is to give him your email address and he will send you a copy.
- Dennis Gibb advised Northwest Veterans Museum in Lynnwood is experiencing some financial difficulty and has requested the VVA to provide \$500.00. Motion was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.
- Jerry Mathison raised the question about what the consensus of the members about getting VVA shirt, **REFERENCE ACTION ITEM DTD 12-10-2023**. Price varies depending on what is required. Looking at getting polo shirts. Guidance is still needed on what is desired. Caution was expressed about some online services that are scams. Use a reputable service, such as those advertised in the VVA magazine. JM to bring back cost price break by qty for short sleeve polo style shirts.
 - Terry Quick suggested doing a bulk buy of 100 shirts. Noted also buying to many you could end up with eating the cost.
 - Conclusion wait until we get the cost and particulars before deciding.
- FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER
 - Virginia Nastiuk relayed a story from long ago about an elderly lady boarding a bus carrying a bag full of oranges. As she boarded, she couldn't help noticing the bus driver and for a moment lost her balance, spilling her bag of oranges all over the bus floor. As she bent over trying to retrieve the oranges she heard passing wind. First the bus driver, being the closest, started to chuckle then the rest of the riders chimed in with laughter. Finally a drunken bum seated in the back of the bus yells out. THAT'S OKAY LADY IF YOU CAN'T CATCH UM SHOOT UM!!

OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS:

03-10-2024

- GL & Jerry Mathison follow-up on email for Wayne Rikerd. 3-27-24 email confirmed okay to mail.
- Earl Shafer & Terry Quick update on Insurance coverage for Vets with Hammers.
- Terry Quick- investigate cost and availability for entertainment at the annual BBQ and make presentation to the Board of Directors for consideration.

- John Henderson to provide a rough estimate for a memorial plaque ready for the board to consider at the upcoming April 7th Board meeting.
- ~~Chris Young provided Dennis Gibb with a check for \$500.00 in support of the Northwest Veterans Museum.~~

01-14-2024

- Chris Young- Present certificates of appreciation to organizations that contributed to the need Veteran Housing.
- Chris Young- Set up a meeting with similar Veteran Assistance Organizations to discuss common goals and how we can support each other to provide needy veterans with assistance.
- ~~Jerry LaCombe- Provide final findings on acquiring Directors and Officers Insurance for our Chapter.~~

12-10-2023

- Terry Quick- Investigate and Report on obtaining a chapter tax accountant and obtaining insurance coverage for Volunteer Labor, UPDATE 1-14-2024.
- Membership Committee- Consider investigating acquiring a VVA Chpt 423 shirt for our membership.

11-16-23

- Chris Young- help develop a card size information guide describing the Vietnam Poppy color scheme along with contact information for our VVA chapter.
- Greg Delos Santos- Provide lists of members to be contacted for updates on status, phone numbers, emails, addresses and welfare.
- 08-13-23 Meeting
- Chris Young follow-up on BECU funding assist for 2024 BBQ. Tabled Pending Picnic Planning

UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

- **03-10-2024 VVA Chpt 423 General Meeting**
Officer Nominations 2020/2025
 Fleet Reserve Center Branch 18
 23003 56th Ave W
 Montlake Terrace WA
 13:00 to 15:00
- **3-12-2024 Heroes Café Shoreline**
 Seattle Scottish Rite Center
 1207N 152nd Street, Shoreline WA 98133
 From 09:00 to 13:00
- **3-19-2024 Heroes Café Woodinville**
 American Legion Post 127
 21920 State Rt. 99 SE
 Woodinville, WA 98072
 11:00
- **3-22-2024 Red Cross Blood Drive**
 American Legion Post 227, Starr Sutherland
 14521 17th Ave NE
 Shoreline WA 98155
 11:00 to 16:00
- **3-26-2024 Heroes Café Lynnwood**
 New Life Church

6519 188th St SW
Lynnwood WA 98037
09:00 to 13:00

- **4-tbd-2024 VVA WA State Council Meeting**

Toppenish WA,
Yakima Warriors Assoc.
Legends Casino Hotel

- **04-07-2024 VVA Chpt 423 Board Meeting**

Fleet Reserve Center Branch 18
23003 56th Ave W
Montlake Terrace WA
Time to be determined

- **4-9-2024 Heroes Café-Shoreline Luncheon**

Steve Pennington-USAF, Vietnam Veteran

Seattle Scottish Rite Center
1207N 152nd Street, Shoreline WA 98133
From 09:00 to 13:00

- **04-14-2024 VVA Chpt 423 General Meeting**

Officer Elections 2024/2025
Fleet Reserve Center Branch 18
23003 56th Ave W
Montlake Terrace WA
13:00 to 15:00

- **4-16-2024 Heroes Café Woodinville**

American Legion Post 127
21920 State Rt. 99 SE
Woodinville, WA 98072
11:00

- **4-23-2024 Heroes Café Lynnwood**

New Life Church
6519 188th St SW
Lynnwood WA 98037
09:00 to 13:00

- **5-tbd-2024 VVA Chpt. 423 Memorial Day Weekend Event**

Purdy & Walters at Floral Hills
409 Filbert Rd, Lynnwood WA

- **05-12-2024 VVA Chpt 423 General Meeting**

Fleet Reserve Center Branch 18
23003 56th Ave W
Montlake Terrace WA
13:00 to 15:00

- **5-14-2024 Heroes Café Shoreline**

Speaker Carl Kurfess

Seattle Scottish Rite Center
1207N 152nd Street, Shoreline WA 98133
From 09:00 to 13:00

- **5-17-2024 Red Cross Blood Drive**

American Legion Post 227, Starr Sutherland
14521 17th Ave NE

Shoreline WA 98155
11:00 to 16:00

- **5-17&18-2024 VVA Chpt. 423 Annual Poppy Fund Raiser**

Fred Meyer Locations 164th & 196th
Everett WA
Safeway, Lake Stevens

- **5-21-2024 Heroes Café Woodinville**

American Legion Post 127
21920 State Rt. 99 SE
Woodinville, WA 98072
11:00

- **5-28-2024 Heroes Café Lynnwood**

New Life Church
6519 188th St SW
Lynnwood WA 98037
09:00 to 13:00

- **06-09-2024 VVA Chpt 423 General Meeting**

Fleet Reserve Center Branch 18
23003 56th Ave W
Montlake Terrace WA
13:00 to 15:00

- **6-11-2024 Heroes Café Shoreline**

Speaker Dennis Gibb

Seattle Scottish Rite Center
1207N 152nd Street, Shoreline WA 98133
From 09:00 to 13:00

- **6-15&16-2024 Moses Lake Air Show**

Grant County International Airport
7810 Andrews St. NE
Moses Lake WA 98837

- **6-18-2024 Heroes Café Woodinville**

American Legion Post 127
21920 State Rt. 99 SE
Woodinville, WA 98072
11:00

- **6-25-2024 Heroes Café Lynnwood**

New Life Church
6519 188th St SW
Lynnwood WA 98037
09:00 to 13:00

- **7-9-2024 Heroes Café Shoreline**

Speaker Open Mike

Seattle Scottish Rite Center
1207N 152nd Street, Shoreline WA 98133
From 09:00 to 13:00

- **07-14-2024 VVA Chpt 423 General Meeting**

Fleet Reserve Center Branch 18
23003 56th Ave W
Montlake Terrace WA

13:00 to 15:00

- **7-16-2024 Heroes Café Woodinville**
American Legion Post 127
21920 State Rt. 99 SE
Woodinville, WA 98072
11:00
- **7-23-2024 Heroes Café Lynnwood**
New Life Church
6519 188th St SW
Lynnwood WA 98037
09:00 to 13:00
- **7-26-2024 Red Cross Blood Drive**
American Legion Post 227, Starr Sutherland
14521 17th Ave NE
Shoreline WA 98155
11:00 to 16:00
- **8-03-2024 VIETNAM VETS “Welcome Home BBQ”**
Ade 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 Potluck**
Camp Paterson Picnic Shelter
Silver Lake -Sullivan Park
Everett Wa
- **8-13-2024 Heroes Café Shoreline**
Speaker Open Mike
Seattle Scottish Rite Center
1207N 152nd Street, Shoreline WA 98133
From 09:00 to 13:00
- **8-20-2024 Heroes Café Woodinville**
American Legion Post 127
21920 State Rt. 99 SE
Woodinville, WA 98072
11:00
- **8-27-2024 Heroes Café Lynnwood**
New Life Church
6519 188th St SW
Lynnwood WA 98037
09:00 to 13:00
- **09-08-2024 VVA Chpt 423 General Meeting**
Fleet Reserve Center Branch 18
23003 56th Ave W
Montlake Terrace WA
13:00 to 15:00
- **9-10-2024 Heroes Café Shoreline**
Speaker Open Mike
Seattle Scottish Rite Center
1207N 152nd Street, Shoreline WA 98133

From 09:00 to 13:00

- **9-17-2024 Heroes Café Woodinville**
American Legion Post 127
21920 State Rt. 99 SE
Woodinville, WA 98072
11:00
- **9-24-2024 Heroes Café Lynnwood**
New Life Church
6519 188th St SW
Lynnwood WA 98037
09:00 to 13:00
- **10-8-2024 Heroes Café Shoreline**
Speaker Open Mike
Seattle Scottish Rite Center
1207N 152nd Street, Shoreline WA 98133
From 09:00 to 13:00
- **10-13-2024 VVA Chpt 423 General Meeting**
Fleet Reserve Center Branch 18
23003 56th Ave W
Montlake Terrace WA
13:00 to 15:00
- **10-15-2024 Heroes Café Woodinville**
American Legion Post 127
21920 State Rt. 99 SE
Woodinville, WA 98072
11:00
- **10-22-2024 Heroes Café Lynnwood**
New Life Church
6519 188th St SW
Lynnwood WA 98037
09:00 to 13:00
- **11-TBD-2024 VVA Chpt. 423 Annual Poppy Fund Raiser**
Fred Meyer Locations 164th & 196th
Everett WA
Safeway, Lake Stevens
- **11-10-2024 VVA Chpt 423 General Meeting**
Fleet Reserve Center Branch 18
23003 56th Ave W
Montlake Terrace WA
13:00 to 15:00
- **11-12-2024 Heroes Café Shoreline**
Speaker Open Mike
Seattle Scottish Rite Center
1207N 152nd Street, Shoreline WA 98133
From 09:00 to 13:00
- **11-19-2024 Heroes Café Woodinville**

American Legion Post 127
21920 State Rt. 99 SE
Woodinville, WA 98072
11:00

- **11-26-2024 Heroes Café Lynnwood**

New Life Church
6519 188th St SW
Lynnwood WA 98037
09:00 to 13:00

- **11-tbd-2024 Mill Creek Veterans Day Parade**

Mill Creek, WA