

# VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER #423

## MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 05/21/2023

TIME START: 1400

TIME END: 1503

ATTENDANCE: 21

☐ 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.

- President was out sick; meeting was gavelled to order by the Vice President Steve Pennington
- Sargent at Arms led in the Pledge of Allegiance
  - Noted it is proper when citing the Pledge of Allegiance there should not be a pause when saying "one nation under god" as was in the past sternly corrected by Mike Carr Master Sargent of the Special Forces
- Reminded everyone to sign-in on the sign-in sheet that is kept at the front table and check to ensure their email address is up to date.

#### SECRETARY REPORT-Jerry LaCombe

- April minutes were read and accepted by a voice vote without any changes.
- Introduced that in the future a copy of the meeting minutes be mailed in advance to the membership then they could be voted on in lieu of reading the minutes. The purpose of this proposal was twofold:
  - Provide members that are not able to attend the meeting are kept informed of what is transpiring.
  - Shorten the time frame allowing more time for conducting business.
    - Comment from the floor about members who do not have email.
    - Response-A hard copy of the minutes will be made available at the meeting.
  - The motion was made and accepted to mail to all members a copy of the minutes prior to meeting which would be voted on either as written or with corrections.
  - Bob Correll noted that he could also post a copy of the minutes on our website for anyone to read.

#### TREASURES REPORT-Chris Young

- Reported that Deb Young has developed a financial ledger/ spreadsheet showing a detailed accounting of expenditures and credits for the organization both past and present. Hard copies of would be provided to the board.
  - **ACTION ITEM**-provide copies of financial statements to board members. **ACTION COMPLETED** 5-29-2023.
- The current balance reported as \$17,904.51 does not include recent poppy sales.
  - Exception noted that the national VVA had sent two checks of \$918.00 each and both were deposited and neither one cleared. Can expect further clarification.
  - Poppy sales were reported as follows:
    - Fred Meyers 164<sup>th</sup> St
      - \$1,435.83 May 19<sup>th</sup>

- \$1,378.96 May 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Safeway Marysville
    - \$536.00
  - QR Code Donations
    - \$175.00 May 19<sup>th</sup>
    - \$115.00 May 20<sup>th</sup>
- Topic raised (J LaCombe) on future expenditures and possible teaming with Heroes Café (Gary Walderman) helping Vets in immediate need.
  - Concern raised (S. Pennington) that the vetting process may not be taking advantage of the current network that exists for assistance for Veterans.
  - DAV Service Officer Susan Aufderhaar commented on the services they provide for Veterans.
  - Amplified, there needs to be development of a resource guide listing the various outlets/resources available for Veterans in need.
    - Considerable discussion on the topic with no clear direction going forward.
  - **ACTION ITEM**-(LaCombe/Pennington) Setup meeting with executive committee and Heroes Café to discuss way forward.
- Jerry Mathison-Provided receipts for materials to construct “Flag Pushers” for reimbursement.

#### STATE DELEGATE CHAIRMAN-Steve Pennington

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Membership Committee-Chris Young
  - Noted that new member applications were sent and had been returned only to find the address had been changed without notification. This has since been resolved and applications will be sent again for processing.
  - Current membership stands at 103 with one in the que which would bring the total number of members to 104.
    - Noted that one member will be transferring which will bring the total number of members back to 103 (allows for 3 state delegates).
  - Note there are several interested candidates, so we are targeting ~110 members.
    - 150 members are what is needed for additional delegates.
- Awards Presentations
  - Maysville Pilchuck ROTC- (J LaCombe)
    - Outlined ceremony proceedings:
      - 1<sup>st</sup> half of ceremony noted individual graduates and plans and scholarships that were awarded.
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> half of ceremony noted individual certificates being awarded to graduates by various organizations noting significant contributions and or attributes. Most organizations presented certificates of recognition.
        - VVA Chapter #423 (Greg Delos Santos) presented a plaque and \$250.00 check to Shawn Lee “Most Enthusiastic Cadet”.
      - Bob Correll noted that VVA #423 had made numerous awards and someone from the VVA had been present for photos. However, he was not aware of this event. Noted this oversight was inadvertent and he would be so notified of future awards.
        - S. Pennington noted that the Arlington ROTC Awards would be providing photos for use/display.

- S. Pennington outlined the support the Arlington ROTC candidates received from family and community and how each member from 1<sup>st</sup> year to 4th year cadet was recognized for their hard work and dedication to the program.
    - Suggested was all VVA membership should plan to attend these awards events to see firsthand and be impressed by these future leaders.
- Vets With Hammers-Earl Shafer
  - Project Tami Stokke-Initiated through Habitat for Humanity but were overwhelmed so the VVA took over the project. All the materials were provided by Home Depot at no charge and VVA #423 provided all the labor.
    - Repaired Fence
    - Power washed the entire house exterior.
    - Power washed driveway which had accumulated a substantial amount of Moss.
  - Project WWII Navy Vet Edward Chevalier-Teamed Home Depot who provided all materials for the project and VVA #423 provided all the labor. The materials were either cedar or exterior grade lumber. All exposed Cedar decking was also coated with exterior grade stain. The project was broken down into three phases.
    - Phase I constructed a handrail and posts around his front landing.
    - Phase II pre-construct and installation of an ADA ramp leading from his front landing to ground level, approximately 10 feet.
    - Phase III final installation of a slip resistant mat to cover the ramp. Pending receipt of Mat.
  - Noted Habitat for Humanity seems to be focusing on the larger projects leaving a void for many of these smaller labor projects to help Veterans in need. Welcoming anyone wanting to volunteer contact Earl, hours are flexible.
  - Potential Driveway Project Tami Stokke.
    - Team with contractor to investigate helping reduce the cost of a new driveway by providing labor to construction of the forms????
    - Possible Home Depot provide materials for the Forms.
- Memorial Day Floral Hills (Young/Pennington)-Discussion of upcoming event at Floral Hills
  - Saturday ~08:00 Floral Hill will erect the tent for the VVA, and C. Young will lead the outfitting of the tent with tables, banners, cookies and coffee. Boy and Girl Scouts arrive for placement of Flags on Veterans grave sites.
  - Sunday ~ 08:00 meet and greet the public.
  - Monday ~08:00 meet and greet the public followed by program starting at ~10:30.
    - ~14:00 attend closing BBQ with Floral Hill Staff.
- Coming Events
  - Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup>-Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans BBQ-Andy Mitchell Sedro Wooley
  - Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> – Seattle Fleet Reserve Branch #18, 09:00 site clean-up prior to Organization meeting.
    - Needed pressure washers, wheel borrows, rakes, clean-up tools.

### **OUTSTANDING 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. C. Young Memorial Day Event~~
- ~~3. G. Delos Santos Fleet Reserve Site May Clean Up~~