

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #423

General Meeting Minutes

Date	Time	Location
5/19/2024	1:00 PM Lunch	Fleet Reserve Center #16
	2:00 PM Meeting	Mountlake Terrace, WA

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jerry Mathison – President	Terry Quick – Vice President
Chris Young – Treasurer	Jim Cornwell - Secretary
Steve Pennington – State Delegate Chair	Bob Correll – State Delegate
Earl Shafer – State Delegate	Greg DeLos Santos – Past President

Jerry opened the meeting at 2:10 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Steve Pennington reported on the upcoming presentation of our award to the Arlington High School Air Force ROTC Cadet which will occur on Friday, May 24th at 6 PM. Steve gave a short Bio on the selected Cadet, Kyleigh Abbey-Zanni .

Greg and Jerry reported on the Marysville High School NJROTC Most Inspirational Cadet, Hanna Willard.

Jerry introduced Robert Olivarez, the Senior Vice Commander of The Military Order of the Purple Heart Organization. Robert was responding to our request for him to come and speak at a meeting.

There was nothing for the Vice President to report.

Minutes from previous meeting were approved with a correction by the membership.

Correction was regarding Ron Foster’s recommendation for a contribution to the Pacific Northwest Aviation Museum Fund.

Jim brought up the recent Board action approving the music at the Annual BBQ in August.

John Henderson reported he contacted the Park and everyone felt it would not be a problem.

Cost of the music is \$500.

John requested that Robert Olivarez attend a Purple Heart Presentation at the BBQ on Aug 11.

Robert indicated he would be available.

Greg brought up the vote regarding the music at the BBQ

The point of Greg's discussion was that there may have been 4 yes votes, there were also 4 no votes.

The President, Treasurer & Secretary indicated that there were only 7 voting Board members. (current officers & State Delegates). The question of the Past President having a vote is now going to be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

Robert Olivarez stood and stated a chapter should never have an even number of votes on a Board of Directors. If for some reason a tie does occur, the Chair's (President) vote will decide the issue.

It was brought up that the final vote was never transmitted to the Board.

Bob Olivarez stated it is never proper to expose how each member voted.

Greg brought up that we already had this discussion and decided against having music.

Jerry Lacombe stood and stated he didn't recollect this being brought up at the last Board Meeting he attended.

Jerry tabled this to the next Board Meeting.

Terry Quick moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Jerry Lacombe seconded.

Motion carried.

Chris reported on our financial accounts:

Checking, Starting balance of \$21,017.17. Deposits were \$0.00. Expenses were \$970.74.
Balance is \$20,100.23

Savings, Starting balance of \$3,746.60. Deposits were \$26.54. Expenses were \$0.00. Balance is \$3,773.14

Hammers, Starting balance of \$1,000.24. Deposits were \$0.08. Expenses were \$0.00. Balance is \$1,000.32.

Total Deposited Assets 24,873.69.

Treasury Report approval motion was made by Jerry LaCombe, Michael (?) seconded and Treasury Report was approved.

Chris reported on the weekend poppy fundraising event.

Approximately \$10,100.00, plus Clover Fund was collected. (to be deposited on Monday, therefore not yet reflected in our asset total.)

Chris reported a \$600 expense for shirts, \$307.47 for plaques, and \$63.47 for a canopy.

Larry Fischer requested additional information on the shirts. Jerry and Chris complied.

As the shirts come in, each member will pay for their own.

Earl Shafer asked about how to obtain Chapter Coins.

Greg DeLos Santos explained the chapter coins were \$15 each to be purchased from him directly.

Chris Young asked Greg how many he had left.

Greg responded he had “probably 30 something”.

Earl indicated that may be enough for the air show.

Greg went on to provide some explanation regarding the Chapter Coins.

The Chapter Coins were obtained to sell to the membership.

If you want to distribute these coins you will need to purchase the coins for \$15 a piece from Greg.

Chris Young asked if the 8 coins Greg distributed to the Democratic National Committee were purchased. Greg responded the Chapter paid for those coins.

Question from the floor was who paid for the coins we currently have. Greg’s response was the Chapter paid for those coins.

Greg stated “let me know if you want those coins and I will bring them”.

A statement from the floor was that those coins are the property of the VVA and an officer, or maybe the President should be in charge of them.

Chris Young stated the coins should go to Jerry (President).

Dennis Gibb brought a “point of Order” that this discussion should be brought up under new business and it also should be handled at the Board Meeting level.

Jerry brought up Greg now having the position as Chair of the Community Affairs Committee and he needs an assistant to aide him in those duties.

Greg outlined some of the actions of Community affairs and asked the floor if there was anyone that has an interest in community affairs. There was no immediate response so Greg put it out to get in touch with him if anyone is interested.

Jerry Lacombe brought up that because of the need to update the by-laws, the committees may be somewhat adjusted as a result of that.

Earl Shafer reported on the business of our “Hammers” group.

The group got the fence finished for Chris

Earl Shafer reported that he and Richard Bianchin did a project with the Home Depot group for a Purple Heart recipient in Marysville. The work included a fence and deck. Materials and lunch was all provided by Home Depot. There was also a Purple Heart Recipient on the work crew.

The planter box was replaced by Earl Shafer, Richard Bianchin, and Ron Foster at the Trailer project.

Earl brought up that the question of insurance is still hanging over our heads. Working projects under Home Depot doesn't completely absolve us of every liability.

Earl and Terry are working with Brown & Brown to fully understand the requirements. It's apparent we will need a Bond for our construction activities and there will be a cost for that bond. Terry will work within the Chapter to move this issue forward.

Chris Young reported on Membership.

Our Chapter is currently at 113 members after some recent adjustments.

Bob Correll reported on the webpage.

Bob provided some background on himself along with the development of the webpage.

Bob discussed the maintenance of the webpage and the Facebook page, how that is progressing.

The Facebook page is protected for members only. A member would have to join the Facebook page in order to add content (pending admin approval).

Jerry asked if we had a by-laws committee.

Steve, Earl, & Chris were identified as the committee.

Jim requested inclusion on that committee in order to maintain records of the progress.

Terry Quick was also mentioned as a member of the committee.

This will be a Board action.

Bob Correll discussed the Chapter to consider sending delegates to the National conferences.

Bob requested the Chapter consider reimbursing members that attend for some of their expenses.

Bob talked about members wanting to participate in these conferences also be willing to participate in the future administration of the chapter business, such as a Board Member.

Bob identified the upcoming National Leadership Conference in Sparks, Nevada as being very important for our Chapter to be represented at that conference.

Bob discussed the upcoming 2025 Pre-Convention meetings. Bob stressed the importance of representation at these meetings along with the Conferences themselves.

Bob suggested the Board identify someone that wants to go to these meetings and can we cover some of their expenses. Bob referenced members from Bellingham receiving \$1000 from their chapter to assist in expenses.

Chris pointed out that the Chapter does support these things.

Bob pointed out any standing member can attend these events.

Bob reminded us when at the time he started with VVA, there was 36 members and \$1,200 in the treasury, that we've come a long way and he would like to see us keep going.

Steve gave a brief on the Memorial Weekend Event at Floral Hills.

Saturday morning events will start at 9:00 with a briefing to the Scouts on flag placement.

We are expecting to place about 4,200 flags in the ground.

Sunday will have VVA members at the cemetery with no formal events scheduled.

Monday, Steve will be the emcee. Dennis Gibb will be the distinguished speaker, giving a short presentation.

Chris asked if there were going to be any gun salute on Saturday. The response was no.

Monday will be a 7 gun, 3 volley salute.

Dave McFeron spoke about the grave location lists and all the work going into maintaining the accuracy of those lists. Dave specifically pointed out Debra Young's work on this.

Dave discussed the scenarios that may occur when we pick the flags up following the Weekend event. Wet flags need special handling to prepare for storage.

Greg indicated Floral Hills will assist in the flag retrieval process.

Chris informed the body that we need at least 6 or 8 people to be there Saturday morning.

Members can sign up with Chris to attend on Saturday.

Dave suggested we wear uniforms if we have them.

Jerry mentioned there will be a "trainer" available for the gun salute personnel.

Greg said he spoke to Brenda regarding the hanging of our photo's at the event.

Greg mentioned Virginia's passing. Her grave site service will be on Tuesday at 10:30 AM.

Greg also expressed the possibility of LaDene Johnson passing on.

Chris reported The Heritage Girls asked if they could do a flag ceremony for credit during the Memorial Event on Saturday. It would be independent of the scheduled events.

Jerry Lacombe stated he had a printer available if anyone needed one.

Brian Seguin expressed his appreciation for the get well card sent to his wife.

Greg DeLos Santos talked about the way lunches have been funded adjacent to our General Meetings

Greg acknowledged he turned over the related funds to the Chapter.

Greg then made a motion to have the lunch fund money have a separate line item account in the treasury. Jim Chambers seconded.

Greg made a second motion out of sequence

Chris requested Greg's initial motion be tabled.

Robert Olivarez stood to give some clarification. He acknowledged that all money can be in a single account while still having a line item to show activity of a specific function.

Robert also informed the Chapter that any vote of the Membership overrides the actions of the Board because the Membership controls the actions of the Board.

The motion was reviewed, voted on, and passed.

Greg submitted a second motion that any money needed for the food at the BBQ be taken from the "lunch fund". The motion was seconded from the floor.

Jim reviewed the motion on the floor to get clarification.

Jerry Lacombe suggested we check our Constitution at the National Level for banking specifics.

Chris Young brought up points regarding this motion being unnecessary as nothing will change as a result of this motion passing.

The motion was voted on and passed.

Meeting Adjourned.

After the adjournment of the General Meeting, Robert Olivarez of The Military Order of the Purple Heart said a few words about our partnership to the General Membership.

Robert stated The Military Order of the Purple Heart did have a partnership with the VVA at the national level. He will be meeting with our National President, Mr. McManus next Sunday (5/26).

There is a gathering planned between Our National Corporation and The Military Order of the Purple Heart on the day following Memorial Day (5/28).

Robert informed us the purpose of our partnership is to create a legacy for Vietnam Veterans.

In leading up to our Last Man Standing, we can have the assurance that the Military Order of the Purple Heart will be there to carry our torch beyond.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart doesn't know when they will have their last man standing as there is a feeling there are a few new conflicts possibly starting up.

Robert did take some pictures while he was here and he will be sharing those on their social media pages.

Robert Olivarez

Military Order of the Purple Heart

360-333-3163

Sgtolliemoph12@gmail.com

robertolivarezjr@gmail.com

https://lincapp.com/_juuhxfd2ivv?source=vcard

OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS:

04-14-2024

- **REV. A-Board of Directors-Review and vote on Ron Foster request for a donation to support Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum in Oak Harbor building project.**

03-10-2024

- Earl Shafer & Terry Quick update on Insurance coverage for Vets with Hammers.

01-14-2024

- 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.
- **5-27-2024 VVA Chpt. 423 Memorial Day Weekend Event**
Purdy & Walters at Floral Hills
409 Filbert Rd, Lynnwood WA
- **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”**
Ande Mitchell's Place (360)-708-3268
6254 Fruitdale North
Sedro Wooley, WA 98204
11:00 to 15:00
- **8-05,09-2024 VVA National Conference**
New Orleans LA
- **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

- **8-20,24-2024 VVA National Leadership Conference**

Reno Nevada

- **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

- **11-10-2024 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 VVA Chpt. 423 Annual Poppy Fund Raiser**

Multiple Fred Meyer Locations
Everett WA

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

Mill Creek, WA