

Minutes for the August 10, 2022 Vietnam Veterans Chapter 279 meeting:

The regular meeting of VVA Chapter 279 was called to order by President Hester at 1830 hours.

President Hester led the Chapter in the Pledge of Allegiance. Officers present were President Hester, Vice President Mangiamelli, Treasurer Haase, and Secretary Halbkat.

There were 20 members, 4 officers, and 1 guest present. We have a quorum.

Those in attendance introduced themselves and welcomed our guest speaker, Patrick Smith. Patrick represents the Berry Law firm from Omaha and his specialty is veteran's claims and appeals. He gave a short talk concerning veteran's options if their claims or appeals cannot get approval from the VA..He left his card and number if anyone had questions.

No new members at this meeting.

Sick call members include: Anthony Weathers (heart surgery), Richard Luth (more chemo), Jim Bezoni (covid), Terry Voss, Mike McGinnis (knee surgery)

The minutes for the July 2022 meeting were sent in advance via email to the membership. Motion to approve as written by Dick Rowe and seconded by Jim Kjosa. Motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was available in hard copy and presented by the Treasurer. Motion to approve as presented by Tom Brown and seconded by Jim Quick. Motion carried unanimously.

We still have 2 parades left for the year. Bellevue 8-20 and Millard on 8-27. Let's fill the trailer for the last 2. They are a lot of fun and spread a lot of good will.

Need some more work on the golf outing. Sept. 26 is the date. As of tonite we have 24 teams. Doing well on sponsorships and raffles---so far \$6800.00. Remember, this is our only fundraiser of the year.

Scholarships: Tom Brown read 2 very moving letters addressed to Chapter 279 from recipients of our scholarship.

Veterans Home Board: Tom Brown was at the meeting held on 8-4 and states there are 58 applicants for the 4 homes we have in NE. Wives can also be included. They need to raise the wages by 30% to properly maintain the homes.

Correspondence: Vice Pres. Mangiamelli reminded us of the Pact Act that just passed. It mostly pertains to burn pits. He also read a thank you letter from the family of Joe Stillwell, former President of our chapter, for the job well done at his funeral. For those of you who are interested in numbers, he also has current state and national membership rosters if you would like to see them.

Veterans Court: Eddie Nelson reports 30-45 in the program and 5-7 veterans will be graduating on 9-1.

National Delegate report: Dottie Barickman is in SC for workshops on finance and leadership. We look forward to her input at next months meeting.

NE VVA Foundation: George Abbott and Tom Brown report the Foundation has received \$2million from the State of NE. In November of this year we are looking to set the Honor Walls and the Helo on her base. DJ's Dugout has donated \$100,000.00 towards the obelisk's. WOW!!

Chapter Membership: President Hester reports that Chapter 279 membership will reach 200 by Sept.

POW/MIA: Ron Haase reports the number still holds at 1584.

New business: It has been brought up that the chapter is running low on uniform patches. George Abbott made motion to buy 100 more of each kind and Larry Swartz seconded. Motion carried.

With Richard Luth in ill health, we need to get our web page updated. Ed Boller made a motion to bring back Ashley to catch us up to date help train someone. Motion was seconded by Glen Page, Motion carried.

The honor guard for parades and funerals were asking about white gloves Tom Lundquist will look into the situation.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 1830 hours located at Millard American Legion Post 374.

A motion was made to adjourn by Ed Boller and seconded by Dick Rowe. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Tom Halbkat, Secretary