

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Nebraska State Council Minutes
Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home
Date: January 5, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM by President Tom Brown. The President led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Brown introduced the new officers of Chapter 397: President – James Schmidt and Treasurer – Ronald Meng. He welcomed them to the council meeting and requested support as they begin their new duties.

Roll call of State Council Officers: President Brown, Vice President Schissel, and Treasure Kjosa, all present. Secretary Haase excused.

Roll call of Chapter Delegates: Chapter 279 – Howard Ball and Dottie Barickman; Chapter 455 – Steve Schawang; Chapter 727 – Greg Hollaway and Terry Carpeck; Chapter 397 – James Schmidt and Ronald Meng. Additional attendee was William Duffield II.

Introduction of Guest: Mike Jackman, DAV Dept. Commander. He also serves as a Veterans Service Officer.

Sick call: Randy Holke.

Officers reports:

President's report: President Brown distributed and discussed various information to each Chapter. A listing of the information is attached to the minutes. (The packet information itself was not provided to the secretary for inclusion in the minute book).

Vice President's report: Reviewed news release from Representative Don Bacon which highlighted the next VA budget of \$72.3 billion dollars.

Secretary's report: Minutes of the July 7, 2018 meeting where emailed to all delegates and officers. Reading of the minutes was waived. Minutes approved as submitted.

Treasurer's report: The financial report for the months of July, August and September, 2018 was submitted. The report was approved as submitted. There were no bills submitted for payment. \$600 in household goods funds are being distributed to three chapters. The financial report will no longer be included with the meeting minutes as Chapter 279 had their emails hacked.

Nominations and Elections: Not applicable for this meeting.

AVVA Report: Bev Schuele reported attending the last Region 6 meeting and is actively promoting membership in both the VVA and AVVA. She noted the recent "All Female Honor Flight to Washington, DC. The Marine Corp is celebrating it's 100th Anniversary. For the first time there is a women, 1st Lt Marian Hierel, completed the 13 week Infantry Officer Course at Quantico, VA. She now leads an infantry platoon of 35 men.

Correspondence report by President: Received a 'thank you' from Patriot Productions for the Council's donation.

Old business:

1. Need man hours and mileage reports.
2. Continue need for member outreach activities. At-Large member listing distributed for potential names to contact.
3. Life time membership remains at \$100. 88,036 total membership.
4. AVVA membership 9,822.

Committee reports:

1. Nebraska Veterans Council. Next meeting to be held on November 13, 2018 at the VFW club in Lincoln. Preliminary work on legislation for the next session.
2. Veterans Home Board. Dennis gave report on activities. Written report attached.
3. PTSD issues. Nothing new to report.
4. Women's Veteran. See AVVA report and attachment.
5. Agent Orange/Hep C. Dennis has complete listing of where Agent Orange and other chemicals where spread.
6. Veterans Health and Benefits. Get new VA ID cards at the VA.
7. POW-MIA. 1,594 still remain MIA . Repatriation ceremonies in both DaNang and Laos so hopefully there will be more identifications soon.
8. Legislative. Started discussions regarding training and accreditation of county service officers. Also the use of 'veteran' by the national Guard and Reserve units. Should apply only to those who have served a length of time on active duty.
9. Vietnam War Commemoration activities continue at the VA.
10. Veterans Court. Howard Ball reported that there are currently 24 people in the program. There is a need for more mentors. There have been 4 graduates so far with 4 more to graduate in January 2019.

Chapter Reports:

Chapter 279 – Report presented. Written report attached..

Chapter 445 –No report.

Chapter 727 – Meetings held the 4th Wednesday of the month. No meetings this summer.

Attended the Governors “Welcome Home” open house for veterans.

New business:

1. Our webpage www.vvanebraskastatecouncil.org is updated as new information is received from National.
2. Vietnam maps are still available for sale for \$10. Cost is \$1 to the chapters.
3. Household goods funds received have been decreasing by approximately 30%.
4. Paper safes are available as needed. Handed out at the VA and veterans homes.
5. Pay bills. None.
6. Blue Water Navy bill has now passed in the House. Senate reviewing.
7. Veterans shop On Line. Suggested members try to set up an account.
8. Monument at the ONC. Terry Hester made a motion that the Council consider funding a monument at the new ONC. Motion passed. Details to be discussed at the January 2019 meeting.

Calendar of events:

1. CSCP Meeting October 18, 2018 in Silver Springs, Maryland.
2. New VA clinic to be built in Lincoln on the site of the old VA hospital.

Next Meetings: January 5, 2019

April 6, 2019

July 13, 2019

October 5, 2019

Meetings start at 9:00 am and held at the Eastern Nebr. Veteran’s Home, Bellevue, NE.
41st and Capehart Road

Respectfully submitted:

Ronald A. Haase, Secretary