

Minutes for the November 9 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 Pledge of Allegiance. Officers present were: President Hester, Vice President Mangiamelli, Treasurer Haase, and Secretary Halbkat.

There were 19 members and 4 officers present. We have a quorum.

There were no new members and the guest speakers from the VA could not make the meeting.

Sick call: Anthony Weathers is still on therapy at home and Ken Millhouse has been added to sick call. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Secretaries report: The minutes for the October 2022 meeting were sent out in advance to the membership via email. Motion to approve as written by George Abbott and seconded by Jim Quick. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report: The report was made to members in hard copy. Motion to approve as presented by George Abbott and seconded by Jim Kjosa. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills to be paid: \$322.08 to President Hester for uniform patches. \$4000.00 for gift cards for needy veterans to be handed out to the 4 surrounding VSO offices, an amount of \$1000.00 per office. Vice Pres. Mangiamelli informed us that the fraternal order of Woodmen of America has also donated \$2500.00 to the chapter for needy veterans. Motion was made by Ron Wilson and seconded by Glen Page to approve. Motion carried.

Potluck Dinner: At our December meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have a short 10 minute meeting and then adjourn for our annual Christmas potluck dinner and social. A sheet was passed around for a head count and it looks like more than 50 will be present. WOW!!! Best ever!! Ron Wilson will be supplying the plates and napkins. Thanks Ron.

Parades: Our first parade in 2023 will be Memorial Day in downtown Omaha. It will be a Bill Williams event, which is always something special.

Scholarships: It has been reported by Tom Brown that the scholarships will be increased from \$500.00 to \$650.00.

Correspondence Report: Vice Pres. Mangiamelli read a letter from Bellevue University thanking our Chapter for helping with their backpack program. They also thanked the chapter for our continuing support of their veterans programs. He also reports that the ceremony for Veterans Day will be at 1100 hours at Memorial park or at Post #1 American Legion if there is inclement weather. Also, on November 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be an unveiling of the new street sign named after James Fous, MOH recipient from Omaha. It will be at 22<sup>nd</sup> & Davenport behind Central High School. Please plan to attend.

Veterans Court: Eddie Nelson reports 2 people to level 5 and 2 graduates this month.

Nebraska Foundation Report: George Abbott reports the 1<sup>st</sup> shipment of granite is coming next week and will be up this year.

Membership: Pres. Hester reports 198 members.

POW/MIA: Treasurer Haase reports 1582.

Other new business: Sharon Cooper reported on interviews for the Memorial. She urged all members to be interviewed. It is painless and will be uploaded within 6 months. It is done at the Vet Center at Bellevue University. Can contact 402-557-7820. Mike Steffen gave a talk on Quilts of Valor. His wife is one of the volunteers that works on the project. Any veteran "touched by war" is eligible. A fantastic program. He handed out applications. A reminder was given about the premier of the movie "The Greatest Beer Run Ever." Put on by Chuck Hagel and Bob Kerry at the Aksarben theater. Should be a big turnout. Plan to attend. .Larry Swartz made a motion to give Anthony Weathers a \$50.00 gift card from DJ's Dugout and Glen Page seconded. Motion carried. There are at present, 4600 interment spaces at the National Cemetery. They plan to start constructing more space.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 1830 hours at Millard American Legion Post 374.

George Abbott made motion to adjourn and was seconded by Jim Quick . Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Tom Halbkat, Secretary