

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

NEBRASKA STATE COUNCIL MINUTES

BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY VETERANS CENTER

APRIL 1, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 0830 hours by President Tom Brown. The President led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of State Council Officers: President Brown, Vice President Schissel, Treasurer Kjosa, Secretary Haase, and new Secretary Halbkat. All present.

Roll call of Chapter Delegates: Chapter 279 – Jim Quick and Joe Mangiamelli, Chapter 455 – Steve Schawang, Chapter 727 – William Duffield and Greg Holloway.

Introduction of Guest: Jim Meier with “Honor and Remember”

Guest Speaker: Jim Meier gave a brief presentation on his organization, Honor and Remember, which is setup for Gold Star families. He also showed the Gold Star flag and talked about the many volunteer programs they have set up and the many group get togethers they have.

President’s Report: President Brown presented the following information:

1. National Office directory and organization
2. How to run your meetings
3. Membership –At-Large report – 138

Vice President’s Report: VP Schissel gave an extensive report on the Veterans Home Board. The highlights were 350 job openings at the homes and no budget to hire. Another highlight was the surveyors did not include the utility easement in their bid and the cost for the Eastern Nebraska Home went up an additional 7 million dollars. The governor will release dollars from the general fund to pay for it. There is a lawsuit to recoup the cost of their mistake. The pickles financial fund was also presented.

Secretary’s Report: The minutes for January 7, 2023 were emailed to all delegates and officers. The reading of the minutes was waived. Greg Holloway moved and Joe Mangiamelli seconded to accept the report as written. Motion approved. At this time, President Brown informed the Council that our Secretary, Ron Haase, needed to pass on his position as Secretary due to personal commitments. Pres. Brown introduced Tom Halbkat, who is Secretary of Chapter 279, as a replacement candidate. Joe Holloway of 727 moved to accept and Steve Schawang of 455 seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously. Joe Mangiamelli of 279 offered a verbal thank you to Ron for a job well done thru-out his time as Secretary. All in attendance applauded.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Kjosa presented the financial report for the months of January through March 2023. Report was approved as submitted.

AVVA report: No report

Nominations and Elections: Due April 2024

Old Business:

Need mileage and man hours report

Need DD214 for VVA membership

Lifetime membership - \$50.00

Regular membership – 587 chapters 89,696 members

At large Members – 139

AVVA membership – 10,283

Nebraska Veteran Council: VP Schissel and Greg Holloway gave report on legislative bills pending

PTSD: No report

Womans Veterans: No report

Agent Orange: Pres. Brown gave report on volunteers needed

Veterans Health and Benefits: Mike Jackman gave report on new PACT bill and what has been the new presumptives and how to be sure the correct paperwork is submitted.

POW/MIA: Ron Haase reports 1581 and a new sponsor for the program that guarantees \$400,000 per year to keep it going for the next 5 years.

Chapter reports: Joe Mangiamelli reports that chapter 279 has become as close sponsor of the JROTC program of the OPS High schools and their wish to march in the VVA anniversary parade in Hawaii. He also reported on the effort that 279 has put forward to get LB 609 passed to secure the \$2 million we need to finish the Memorial to Nebraska Vietnam Veterans in Papillion. The chapter also provided \$1000.00 to Quilts of Valor for recognizing veterans with personalized quilts. They also provided \$1000.00 to AMVETS to help build towers at the National Cemetery. On March 29, Vietnam Veterans Day, 2 members laid wreathes at the ceremony held at the National Cemetery. The chapter had a fabulous turnout at the Legion in Millard for a dinner and the presentation of 3 Quilts of Valor.

New Business:

Visit our webpage – vanebraskastatecouncil.org

Vietnam maps – available

Paper safes – available

Calendar of Events:

Next NESC meeting date: July 8, 2023 and October 7, 2023 at Bellevue University Veterans Center

NVVR: August 10 – 13, 2023, Omaha, Ne.

VVA Convention: August 8 – 12, 2023, Orlando, Fl.

Note: These minutes prepared using a tape recording of the meeting (poor quality) and the meeting agenda.

Motion to adjourn:

Motion to by Greg Holloway and seconded by Joe Mangiamelli

Submitted by:

Tom Halbkat, Secretary