

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**

**NEBRASKA STATE COUNCIL MINUTES**

**BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY VETERANS CENTER**

**April 5, 2025**

Meeting was called to order at 0900 hours by President Brown, who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Officer Attendance:** President Brown, Vice President Schissel, Secretary Halbkat, and Treasurer Kjosa.

**Chapter Delegates:** Chapter 279 and 727 were at the meeting.

**Guest Speaker:** None

**Sick Call:** Steve Shrang

**Officer Reports:**

President Brown:

Communication statistics, social media and news publications.

Reported membership at large is at 156.

**Vice President Schissel:**

The Nebraska Veterans Home Board met on January 5, 2025 with Dennis Schissel and Greg Holloway in attendance. The board considered 74 applications. 73 applications were approved one denied.

At the WNVH there were 65 new hires and improvements were made with maintenance.

The pickle fund started the quarter out at \$54,063.77 with an addition of \$10,042.81 for a total of \$64,106.58. We had expenses of \$3,116.18 for a balance of \$69,990.40.

The Nebraska Veterans Council no report.

Joe Mangiamelli motioned to accept the VP report and Greg Holloway seconded. Motion carried.

**Secretary's report:** the minutes were emailed to all delegates and members. The reading of the minutes was waived. Joe Mangiamelli moved and Jim Quick seconded to accept the minutes as written. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Kjosa reports a balance of \$10,339.02. He also states there are is an \$80.00 increase in storage fees beginning July 15, 2025. Joe Mangiamelli moved and Jim Quick seconded to accept the report. Motion carried.

**AVVA report:** no report

**Nominations & Elections: April 20, 2026**

**Old Business:**

Lifetime membership remains the same at \$50.00. Still 587 chapters with a total of 92,256 members.

AVVA membership is 11,212

**New Business:**

**Chapter 279:** Joe Mangiamelli reports.

During first quarter members attended learning sessions with members of the Buena Vista junior ROTC program discussing experiences during Vietnam service.

Members attended the chapter Vietnam Veteran appreciation dinner; participated in a Zoom call with congressman, Mike Flood discussing the potential adding of names of those killed aboard the Frank E. Evans to the Wall in Washington DC.

Discussed the upcoming parade season in which the chapter will participate. Attended and spoke at a Vietnam Veterans event hosted by the Vets Center at Metropolitan Community College.

Attended the annual Vietnam Veterans Day celebration dinner where four Quilts of Valor were presented and several members received Vietnam Veterans of America achievement medals for service to the chapter.

In addition, the chapter is privileged to have the state council president and district representative as chapter members. The chapter also provides mentors for the Douglas county veteran's treatment court and a chaplain who serves the chapter and Victory apartments.

**Chapters 455 and 727:** no reports

**POW/MIA count** is now at 1573.

**Veterans Health Benefits:** Mike Jackman reports. Beware of sharks it will cost you in the long run.

**Legislative:** Greg Holloway recommends LB693 to be passed this year.

Motion was made by Greg and seconded by Duffy to donate \$300.00 into the NVVR for ads in their program.

**Calendar of Events:**

Next NES meeting will be July 12, 2025 at Bellevue University.

National Convention will be August 5 – 9, 2025 in New Orleans, LA.

NVVR will be held August 14 – 17, in Kearney, NE.

Motion to adjourn was made by Joe Mangiamelli seconded by George Abbott. Motion carried.

**Submitted by:** Tom Halbkat, Secretary