

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Nebraska State Council Minutes
Bellevue University Veterans Center
Date: October 8, 2022**

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM 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 and Secretary Haase, all present.

Roll call of Chapter Delegates:

Chapter 279 – Joe Mangiamelli, Dottie Barickman
Chapter 455 – Steve Schawang
Chapter 727 – Greg Holloway

Introduction of Guest: Mike Jackman, DAV, Dean Kenkel, Nebraska Veterans Coalition

Sick call /funerals: Deceased members include Richard Luth and Joe Stidwell.

President's report:

- A. There are 139 VVA members in the 'At-Large' category in Nebraska. Possible contacts to join our three chapters.
- B. Handouts included: information on flag etiquette, the purpose of the VVA of America and what encourages a person to come back to meetings and get involved.
- C. Dean Kenkel indicated that the Coalition would welcome information from the State Council and VVA Chapters for inclusion in the Coalition newsletters.

Vice President's report:

- A. Gave a report on the Nebraska Veterans homes. Written report included. Next meeting to be held on Oct. 28, 2022.
- B. Reported on the activity in the Pickles Fund. Balance at September 30, 2022 is \$31,046.72.

Secretary's report: Minutes of the July 9, 2022 meeting were emailed to all delegates and officers. Minutes approved as submitted.

Treasurer's report: The financial report for the months of July, August and September 2022 were submitted. A small amount of interest was earned. There was a \$50 disbursement to the NE Veterans Council during the quarter. The treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

Nominations and Elections: The next election of officers for a two-year term will be in April 2024.

AVVA Report: No report.

Old business:

1. Need man hours and mileage reports.
2. Continue need for member outreach activities.
3. Life time membership remains at \$50. 89,133 total members, 587 Chapters.
Use "At-Large" report to get new members.
4. AVVA membership 10,117.

Committee reports:

1. Nebraska Veteran's Council. Next meeting to be held on Nov. 14, 2022.
2. PTSD issues. No report.
3. Women's Veteran. No report.
4. Agent Orange. Books are being updated and available soon.
5. Veteran's Health and Benefits. Update given by Mike Jackman. Suggested that veteran's not use attorneys to file claims. Anything they receive using them ends any future compensation from the VA. Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, American Somila and Quam are additional countries that may be added for those exposed to AO. Hypertension and burn pit issues added as presumptive illnesses. DAV will be opening an office at the VA Hospital with Tim Butts running the office.
6. POW-MIA. 1,582 still remain listed as MIA. Information about the 2 identified since July was not released by the DOD.
7. Legislative. There will be a resolution hearing on the Homestead Exemption for those not 100% rated. Also proposing a statue change in the definition of a County Service Officer.
8. Vietnam War Commemoration. Nothing new.

Chapter Reports:

Chapter 279 – Participated in 9 parades, the Memorial Day program at Memorial Park, and 2 funerals at ONC. Made a donation to the OPS ROTC program. Held successful golf fundraiser.

Chapter 445 – No report.

Chapter 727 – No report.

New business:

1. Website: vvannebraskastatecouncil.org.
2. Vietnam maps are still available for sale for \$10. Cost is \$1 to the chapters.
3. Paper safes are available as needed.

Calendar of events:

1. VVA National Convention – summer of 2023, Orlando, FL.
2. Nebr. State Council (NESC) – January 2023.
3. Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Reunion, August 10-13, 2023, Omaha, Ne. See vetsreunion.com for more information.
4. Massing of the Colors, Washington, DC Nov. 11, 2022.

Respectfully submitted:

Ronald A. Haase, Secretary