

## Secretaries Minutes for July 2021 Meeting

Regular meeting of NE. VVA Chapter 279 called to order at 1830 hours. President led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officers present were: Pres. Hester, VP Mangiamelli, Asst. Trea. Haase, Dick Rowe took minutes for Sec. Halbkat, who was absent.

3 officers and 19 members were in attendance.

Current Treasurer Howard Ball is still on sick call, but improving well. Ron Haase is the assistant treasurer.

Dick Rowe made motion to accept Sec. minutes and Glen Page seconded. Motion carried.

George Abbott made motion to accept Trea. Report and Tom Brown seconded. Motion carried.

Bills brought forward for payment were: \$54.91 for Howard Ball gift card and \$117.70 to Terry Hester for 4 magnetic signs for parades. Motion made by George Abbott to pay bills and seconded by Andy Doza. Motion carried.

Ron Haase brought up the liability insurance from State Farm that needs to have a decision made by the board and officers. Total is \$191.00. Will meet after meeting.

New flag equipment: poles, stands in gold and silver, and carriers for color guard really look great. They stood out at the Ralston parade and we got good comments from the Chamber. They thanked us for being part of the parade.

We received another parade invite from Gretna for the Gretna Days parade on Saturday, July 31 at 1030 AM. We will have enough members to participate.

The chapter wants to honor all WWII veterans in our area. We first need a list that will come and then we will put together a program in the near future.

The National Convention is coming up and our Chapter gets 4 delegates. \$1500.00 will be allotted to each delegate. Joe Mangiamelli and Glen Page (maybe) are already on board. The dates are 11/2-11/7.

Ne. VVA reunion needs some help next month and we will discuss at next months meeting.

Guest speaker was Peggy Ullom, with the Guitars for Vets. This is a VA referral program. They raise money for veterans and there is a waiting period to get into the program It lasts for 10 weeks and at the end they receive a new guitar. The program started in Omaha in 2016. We discussed a donation to the program and George Abbott made a motion to donate \$500.00 and was seconded by Anthony Weathers. Motion carried.

The Chapter golf outing is coming up fast and we need to get more raffle items and more teams signed up. Deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Correspondence from Joe Mangiamelli is saying that the back log of disability claims is 520,000. The government has increased the funding to \$772 million and adding 60 more employees to the case load.

Veterans court is coming along real good and should have 3-4 new graduates real soon.

VVA Foundation is meeting real soon on the helicopter and to see who and when it will be completed. It is estimated that it will cost \$40-\$60 thousand dollars to restore.

Hawkins Construction has been selected to build the new VN Memorial. The current estimate is \$5.37 million. Fund raising is continuing as we are reaching out to statewide foundations to help with the fund raising. Local Vietnamese Church members are interested in participating. The goal for dedication is on VietNam Veterans Day, 2022.

POW/MIA numbers stand at 1584.

Our current membership stands at 190 members and 10 associate members.

A new trailer with sides has been approved for purchase. It is 16 ft. on the inside and 20 ft. on the exterior. Estimated cost is \$3800.00. There is currently space in our storage facility so that would not be a problem. George Abbott said he would be willing to pay for part of it. All donations for it will be returned to the chapter. A motion to approve the purchase was made by Ron Wilson and seconded by Jim Quick. Motion carried. Trailer will be used in our parades.

Ron Wilson asked about changing the meeting times, which was previously tabled. Nothing decided yet.

Ron Haase has POW/MIA wristbands available.

We received a calendar, \$20.00 and \$40.00 gift card from Brewskis for the golf raffle.

Motion to adjourn made by Ron Wilson. All present seconded. Motion carried Adjourned at 1950 hours. Next meeting will be August 5, 2021 at 1830 hours.

Secretary Chapter 279

Tom Halbkat