



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
**Chapter 528 Plymouth, MI 48170**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**4/10/2017**

**MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President John Spencer

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence

OFFICERS ROLL CALL: John Spencer, Mike Steffes, Clyde Rains, Bob Dew, and Dennis Bielskis  
97 MEMBERS PRESENT (86 VVA, 11 AVVA)

Guest(s): VFW Jr. Vice Amy O'Neal talked about the VFW poppies sales May 4,5, &6 2017. Jim Harden, was introduced as the new Lounge manager for the VFW and Leroy Page did a presentation about the Honor & Remembers flag program.

**OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

President-John Spencer, thanked everyone for the last 2 years of being chapter president.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Mike Steffes, thanked everyone for all the help on the projects that we have done.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President- Clyde Rains, thanked everyone for their support of his activates.

Secretary-, Minutes approved with correction. Motion by Jim Hodgson 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Steffes motion carried. Correspondence thank you letters for recent donations that chapter has made.

Treasurer-, was excused and he provided the profit and loss statements for March of 2017,

Chaplain: Rich Whipple, Joy Road Cleanup project this weekend

Historian: Gary Pritchard, this is the 100 Anniversary of the end of World War I. There is a very good WW I Museum located in Kansas City. September of 2017 the PBS special about Vietnam will air.

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**Old Business:**

**Chapter elections of Officers**

1. **President:** Dennis Bielskis
2. **Vic President:** Richard Adis
3. **2VP:** Gary Pritchard
4. **Secretary:** Ron King
5. **Treasure:** Bob Dew
6. **Board Members:**
  - a. Mike Dicker
  - b. Pete Glasgow
  - c. Jerry Thomason

- d. Don Petrere
  - e. Terry Wells
  - f. Max Bandy
7. Delegates to National Convention (six)
- a. Dennis Bielskis
  - b. Gary Estermyer
  - c. Richard Adis
  - d. Bob Dew
  - e. Rich Whipple
  - f. Max Bandy
8. Election Committee
- a. Dean Bell
  - b. Dale Luebke
  - c. John Fleming.

### **Chapter Awards:**

Chapter Board member of the years: *Gene Spurgess*

Chapter member of the year: Jim Kimball

AVVA Member of the year: Patty Bielskis

### **Committee Reports:**

**Chapter By-Laws** - Jim Hodgson, first reading of motion for changes to Chapter By-laws.

**Membership**- Bob Lamoureux, we currently have 284 VVA members and 86 associate members.

The life membership will remain at \$100.00; AVVA Life Membership will be \$100.00 if 60 or older. April 14, 2017 is the first meeting for the fall festival. John O'Hara won drawing for Life membership

**Color Guard** - Bob Lamoureux, N/R

**Product Sales** - Bill Browning, we now have the large chapter's stickers and the large patches for back of Jackets.

**Public Affairs** - Don Dignan: he explained how to make the donation at the car wash where \$1.00 of each wash comes to us on a monthly payment.

**Webmaster/Home-Front Editor**-Tom Brown

- Webpage: [www.vva528.org](http://www.vva528.org)
- Newsletter: all articles, photos and flyers are due on the 22nd of each & every month, more service Photos have been received and added to the site. If you gave one to Tom, he has some to return.
- Fishing Derby signup sheet going around June 10<sup>th</sup> is the date this year.

**POW/MIA** - Al Kerbyson, N/R

**AVVA Rep** - Bryan Bentley, AVVA, N/R

**VFW Liaison** - Gary Kubik introduced the new lounge manager Jim Hardin. Gary's last day is April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Corn beef and cabbage on March 17<sup>th</sup>, we will not have a fish fry on that day.

**VFW Aux.** Patty Brothers N/R.

**A/O & VA Health Chair:** Stu Israel: being will be held after this meeting

**VVA State Council**- Gary Estermyer: He went over the notes from the State Council meeting and explained that we have 801 at large members here in Michigan. A report is available if interested in trying to recruit to our chapter. Further information is on line with his report.

**Fundraising** - Bob Dew, nothing to report

**Chapter Special Committee Reports**

**Kokomo**- Dale Luebke; short report update on the camping sites

**Sportsman raffle**- The date has been set for October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, we will have 40 prizes again 15 from ABC Warehouse and the rest from Gander Mountain. List of prizes has been compiled, and tickets are in now. Sign-up sheet for selling events will be sent around. We currently have 711 tickets sold.

**DONATION/MOTION REQUESTS:**

**D 2017-002**

Motion to donate \$288.00 for Veteran Lapel Pins to be given away at the LPGA tournament May 22-28, 2017 on the Veterans appreciation day.

Motion by Bill Petrere 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Sneath

Board recommendations: recommended approval Membership approval: approved

**M 2017-002**

Motion to make a revision to Article IX to add wording.

Motion made by Jim Hodgson 2<sup>nd</sup> by Robert Dew

Board's recommendation: recommended approval membership approval: First reading

**General Discussion:**

(Limited to three minutes)

Swearing in of new officers conducted by State Council President John Riling.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

- Karaoke - 1st and 3rd Friday 8 pm in the Post Lounge
- Euchre every Wednesday at 7:00 pm, Sliders every Wednesday from 5-7 pm, till May 17th
- Please sign birthday book before the meeting located in the Post Lounge
- Fish fry's every Friday till Good Friday from 5p -7p
- Weekly Car Cruises Start May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Next VVA General Membership Meeting: Monday May 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Next Board meeting Tuesday April 18, 2017 at 7:00 pm

**Adjourned: 9:15 p.m.**

PRESIDENT John Spencer

SECRETARY Dennis Bielskis