



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Chapter 528 Plymouth, MI 48170
General Membership Meeting
2/8/2016

MINUTES

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

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence

OFFICERS ROLL CALL: John Spencer, Richard Waldecker, Mike Steffes, Bob Dew, and Dennis Bielskis

66 MEMBERS PRESENT (56 VVA, 9 AVVA & 1 guest)

Guest(s):

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

President-John Spencer, No report.

1st Vice President - Richard Waldecker, update on Agent Orange bills, the house has 166 and the senate has 30. It is currently stuck in committee.

2nd Vice President-Mike Steffes, no report

Secretary- Dennis Bielskis, Minutes approved with correction.

Treasurer- Bob Dew- presented the January 2016 Profit & Loss Statements.

Approved subject to Audit: M / Ron King, 2nd Al Sneath

Chaplain: Rich Whipple,

Chapter Historian: Rich Waldecker,

NEW BUSINESS:

First call for nominations for Chapter offices

- The list of candidates:
- President: John Spencer, Ron King
- 1st Vice: Mike Steffes
- 2nd Vice: Art Ohannian
- Secretary: Dennis Bielskis
- Treasure: Bob Dew
- Chaplin:
- Board Members: Jim Hodgson, Ron King, Gary Prichard, Gene Spurgess
- State Council Delegate: Gary Estermyer, Alternate Dennis Bielskis
- Nominating Committee: Dean Bell, John Fleming, Dale Luebke

OLD BUSINESS:

- **New Letter: Motion request # 2015-4** presented by Jim Hodgson, about distribution of New Letters by US Mail. Motion was removed and the following was decided on.
 1. A letter will be sent to all non-email folks VVA & AVVA and ask those without an email address to confirm that they want the news letter by mail, email and will read on line.
 2. Jim Hodgson, will continue to keep track of who gets a hard copy on our fan-out roster and do the mailing.
 3. We will not offer any one the option to buy hard copies at \$20/year.
 4. We will look to Chaplin and PR Chair to provide sick/distressed additions to the hard copy mailings
 5. We will continue to provide the Lounge with 25 hard copies of the monthly news letter for recruiting-etc. More can be authorized by President on special occasions.
- **Archive Project, Motion request 2015-8** made by Bryan Bentley to have permission to start a legacy project. This would be interviews with chapter members about their stories which would be later turned into a hard cover book. There would be no cost to the chapter. Joe Tebor supported the motion and Mike Steffes 2nd the motion. Passed
- **Motion request 2015-5**, Purchase of a power point projector, for the Agent Orange talks and items to be viewed at chapter meetings. Dennis Bielskis. Rich Whipple made the motion and 2nd by Mike Steffes to purchase the projector and will pay up to \$500.00. Passed
- **Motion 2015-9** made by Bob Dew to obtain a credit card to be used for chapter business. He has found that Community Financial Credit Union has the best deal for our purposes. A Motion was made by Bob Dew and 2nd by Gene Spurgess, motion carried and was **approved**. The names on the card will be the Chapter president, Treasurer and Secretary.

Committee Reports:

Chapter By-Laws - Jim Hodgson - N/R

Membership- Bob Lamoureux, we currently have 268 VVA members and 78 associate members, of which 198 are life members. The life membership will remain at \$100.00. Drawing for Life membership was won by Ted Enright.

Color Guard - Bob Lamoureux, no activity

Product Sales - Bill Browning, orders are coming in, products are available that were ordered. White chapter shirts are on Sale for \$20.00. The chapter will be taking orders for Shirts and jackets instead of having stock on hand.

Public Affairs - Don Dignan, Poker shoot out coming up on February 4th, 2016 Did Goode boxes for the 10th mountain 17 packages.

Webmaster/Home-Front Editor-Tom Brown

- Webpage: www.vva528.org
- Newsletter: all articles, photos and flyers are due on the 22nd of each & every month,

Looking for someone to help with the calendar for web site?

POW/MIA - Al Kerbyson,

AVVA Rep - Bryan Bentley, No report

VFW Liaison - See announcements below

A/O & VA Health Chair: Stu Israel: Detroit VA Golden Age Games looking for volunteers

VVA State Council- Gary Estermyer, see attached. VVA State Convention June 5, 6, and 7th 2016 in Saginaw, MI

Fundraising - Bob Dew, looking for new ways to raise money between the sportsman raffles.

Chapter Special Committee Reports

- Agent Orange Committee - Rich Waldecker, Program to take new direction with conference call from Vietnam. Dr. Wayne, who has spent 20 years researching Agent Orange and others, will be involved in a video conference for the Town Hall.
- Kokomo- Dale Luebke, as of today we have 218 days and a wake up till next time. Kokomo applications for Camp Sites have been turned in, notified that they had received the reservations requests.

DONATION/MOTION REQUESTS:

No current requests

ANNOUNCEMENT:

- Karaoke - 1st and 3rd Friday 8pm in the Post Lounge
- Please sign birthday book before the meeting located in the Post Lounge
- Euchre every Wednesday starting January 6th 2016 at 7:00 pm
- Chapter Election 1st call at February 2016 Meeting

Next VVA General Membership Meeting: March 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Next VVA Board Meeting: March 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 8:04 p.m.

PRESIDENT

John Spencer

SECRETARY

Dennis Bielskis