



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
**Chapter 528 Plymouth, MI 48170**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**3/14/2016**

## **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  
Excused : Dennis Bielskis

80 MEMBERS PRESENT (65 VVA, 14 AVVA & 1 guest)

Guest(s): Roger US Navy 1967-1971

### **OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

President-John Spencer, talked about the Grand Rapids Veterans Home reports.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Richard Waldecker, update on Agent Orange bills, the house has 179 and the senate has 40.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President-Mike Steffes, no report

Secretary- , Minutes approved with correction.

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

Approved subject to Audit:

Chaplain: Rich Whipple, Joy Rd Clean up schedule is 4/23, 7/23. 10/1

Chapter Historian: Rich Waldecker,

### **Old Business:**

Election of Chapter offices.

**The list of current candidates:**

**President:** John Spencer,

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice:** Mike Steffes

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice:** Jeff Yoshikawa, Ron King

**Secretary:** Dennis Bielskis

**Treasure:** Bob Dew,

**Chaplin:** Rich Whipple

**Board Members:**, Ron King, Gary Prichard, Gene Spurgess, Don Dignan, Terry Wells, Jim Hodgson

**State Council Delegate:** Gary Estermyer, Alternate Dennis Bielskis

**Nominating Committee:** Dean Bell, John Fleming, Dale Luebke

### **Committee Reports:**

**Chapter By-Laws** - Jim Hodgson up dated information about mailing of new letter, 30 members are getting news letter by mail.

**Membership**- Bob Lamoureux, we currently have 271 VVA members and 78 associate members. The life membership will remain at \$100.00. If you have you not a paid current member you cannot vote.

**Color Guard** - Bob Lamoureux, no activity

**Product Sales** - Bill Browning, in hospital

**Public Affairs** - N/R.

**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, Nancy Dignan has stepped forward and is now doing the calendar.

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

**AVVA Rep** - Bryan Bentley, No report

**VFW Liaison** - New Band will play in the Lounge "Flat rockers", 3/17 St. Patrick dinners, April 9<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Derby Party, Super Center car wash March 1 - March 31.

**A/O & VA Health Chair:** Stu Israel: Detroit VA Golden Age Games looking for volunteers, Front Entrance to the Ann Arbor VA Hospital is under construction

**VVA State Council**- Gary Estermyer absent VVA State Convention June 5, 6, and 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 in Saginaw, MI

**Fundraising** - Bob Dew, the sportsman raffles will kick off again late 2016. VVA Travel site, and car shows kick off May 11<sup>th</sup>.

**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 180 days and a wake up till next time. So far everything seems to be going along.

**DONATION/MOTION REQUESTS:**

No current requests

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**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 6<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 7:00 pm
- Chapter Election 2<sup>nd</sup> call at March 2016 Meeting

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Next VVA General Membership Meeting: April 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Next Board meeting March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at 7:00 pm

**Adjourned: 8:04 p.m.**

PRESIDENT John Spencer

SECRETARY Dennis Bielskis