

**Vietnam Veterans of America**  
*Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201*

**CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, August 17, 2015**

Holder's Country Inn  
998 South DeAnza Blvd, San Jose, CA 95129

**Attendees:**

David Ackerman (USMC)  
Christina Ackerman {Guest}  
Gerald Arnold (USN)  
Charles Barber (USN)  
Patty Barber {Guest}  
Michael Berliner (USA)  
Gene Fanucchi (USA)  
Warren Finch (USA)  
Dennis Foggie (USAF)  
Robert Kadlec (USAF)  
William Lewis (USA)  
Donald MacDougall (USA)  
James W. McMann (USA)  
Francis McVey (USN)  
David Sanders (USAF)  
Randall Sessler (USA)  
Mary Sessler {Guest}  
Jack Wells (USMC)  
Dennis Whittaker (USA) {Guest}

I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:14 PM at the Holder's Country Inn. Sergeant-At-Arms Chuck Barber led the Pledge of Allegiance. Acting Chaplain Dennis Foggie provided the invocation and called for a moment of silence in respect for our POWs, MIAs, KIAs and our Brothers and Sisters with health issues or are in dire straights.

II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:

President - David Sanders  
Vice President - Robert Kadlec  
Secretary/Treasurer - Barbara Johnston (Excused)  
1-year Board Member - Dennis Foggie  
2-year Board Member - Walter Dillard (Absent)  
3-year Board Member - Randy Richmond (Excused)

With the inability of Walter Dillard to attend Chapter meetings due to health issues, Gerald Arnold was selected by acclimation to assume the 2-year Board position.

III. Guests:

Christina Ackerman  
Patty Barber  
Mary Sessler  
Dennis Whittaker (Prospective member)

IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the July meeting forwarded electronically to the membership were approved without change.  
Motion to approve by Dennis Foggie and Second by Jim McMann.

V. Correspondence:

Letter from Linn Malaznik with application for Life Membership.

VI. Financial Report:

Financial Report was received telephonically:

Previous Balance: = \$1,671.48 ((20 July 2015))

Income & Expenses unavailable due to absence of Treasurer.

Current Balance: = \$2,639.48 ((17 August 2015))

Motion to approve by Dennis Foggie and Second by Gene Fanucchi.

VII. Officer Reports:

President:

- The City of San Jose will hold a second POW/MIA flag raising in front of City Hall on September 18th. Maximum attendance is encouraged. The UVC will provide the City with a new POW/MIA flag.
- The general consensus is to continue Chapter meetings at Holders Country Inn on D'Anza Blvd on the third Monday of each month. Dinner will begin at 6:00pm with the meeting starting at 7:00pm. Dessert for all those attending will be provided free of charge.
- Earl Edwards is still in an Assisted Living facility on Bascom Avenue in San Jose.
- Ken Cook is in the Palo Alto VA Hospital.

Veteran Service Officer:

Mike Berliner (VSO) and Gerry Arnold (VAVS Rep) reported that there is a free legal clinic on the third Wednesday of each month at the Palo Alto VA Hospital. It is sponsored by "Swords To Plowshares" and meets from Noon to 2:30PM in building 101 in the Veteran Services Offices in room A2-107. Additionally, The Oakland VA Rep, Brett Blom, is available at the Palo Alto VA to handle claims from 8:00AM to 4:00PM on Mondays and from 8:00AM to Noon on Tuesdays.

VIII. CSC Report:

President David Sanders attended the CSC Conference in Fresno between 7 and 9 August.

- Two books on PTSD of interest to Veterans available in paperback:
  - "Trauma and Survival: a Self Help Learning Guide" by Benjamin Colodzin, 1989 (ISBN: B009NGB5J2) -- Amazon \$35.00.

- “Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates” by Erving Goffman, 1961 (ISBN-10: 0385000162; ISBN-13: 978-0385000161) Amazon \$12.35.
- Discussion with Ponce Gonzalez from VVA Chapter 464 in Redwood City regarding holding joint gatherings such as BBQ.
- Los Angeles VVA Chapters still working on issues with the Sepulveda VA regarding VA misuse of 387 acres of land donated in 1888 specifically for a National Home for Disabled Veterans. The VA has been leasing space on the land to commercial enterprises instead of using it for Veterans (specifically disabled and homeless Veterans in the Los Angeles area). Which begs the question of having a Chapter Historian to maintain historical, legal and financial documents and records.
- The VVA National Office is looking for support in contacting our legislatures to encourage their backing of H.R. 1769 and S.901, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015. Copy of the information on the legislation passed out at the July meeting will be forwarded via E-mail.

((Discussion by Chapter members suggested that the San Francisco Bay Area, with its Bio-Tech companies, might be a logical location for a facility for continuing research efforts. A location in San Jose or Palo Alto/Stanford might be appropriate.))

- The CSC Veterans Benefits Committee Chairperson is John Weaver ([weaver@cox.net](mailto:weaver@cox.net)). VSO presentation can be found at: [http://www.vvacalsc.com/pages/subpages/vet\\_benefits.html](http://www.vvacalsc.com/pages/subpages/vet_benefits.html).
- The next CSC Conference will be held in Fresno between October 23 and 25, 2015.

IX. Board Of Directors Report: Nothing to report.

X. UVC Delegates Report (UVC President, and Chapter 201 Member Fran McVey):

- There were two “Spirit of ‘45” events honoring the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. The first took place on August 8th at History San Jose which included vintage World War II vehicles and living history displays along with live big band music. The UVC and VVA-201 had a tent at the event and passed out information and answered questions. Oak Hill Memorial Park held a “Spirit of ‘45” event on August 16th which included remembrance presentations by World War II Army Air Force members who flew missions over Germany as well as a presentation by a real “Rosie the Riveter” who worked at the Douglas Aircraft plant in Southern California.
- The UVC needs more help from member organizations and delegates for fundraising and will need volunteers to help with the Veterans’ Day Parade including handing out 20,000 copies of this year’s Program to spectators.
- Santa Row on Stevens Creek and Winchester will hold a “Honor On The Row” event on Veterans’ Day following the UVC Parade between 3:00PM and 6:00PM. This is primarily a “car show” and there are at least 26 vehicles, including Eisenhower vehicles/staff cars scheduled for the show. Participants will wear military uniforms to have their photos taken with the public for a fee.
- The San Jose Veterans Center will hold an Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) Veterans’ Carnival on August 22nd between 11:00am and 3:00pm at 440 North First Street.

- The San Jose City Council meeting on Tuesday, August 25th, will vote on flying the POW/MIA Flag 365-days a year at City Hall. The UVC will provide the POW/MIA flag to the city. The UVC will also meet with members of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to have the County fly the POW/MIA Flag 365-days a year at the County Building on Hedding.
- The City of San Jose will sponsor a Music & Movie night on August 28th at Evergreen Village Square (4075 Evergreen Village Square) beginning 6:30pm. The UVC will have a tent and table set up for fundraising and needs volunteers to promote the Veterans' Day Parade as well as help pouring wine for the wine tasting before the showing of the movie.
- San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera is forming a sub-committee to handle Veteran issues and wants to establish a program to handle homeless veterans including health care, housing/shelter and preparing for employment. It is estimated by the City that there are at least 718 homeless veterans in San Jose.
- VVA Chapter-201 is scheduled for Flag Lowering at Oak Hill on October 25, 2015. In addition to AVVA participation, the Chapter needs to provide a Commander/President, a Chaplain and at least three members to lower the flag and fold it. The Ceremony begins promptly at 1:30PM so participants should arrive no later than 1:00PM to prepare.

#### XI. Unfinished Business:

- Veterans Alliance Donation:

Under the Household Goods Distribution Program (HGDP), the Chapter is receiving \$385 per month. According to the HGDP requirements, we need to spend an amount "equal the total amount of HGDP grant funds distributed to the chapter during the reporting period." The first reporting period for the Chapter is April 1st through August 31st. At \$385 per month, the Chapter will received a total of \$1,925.00 by the end of August and needs to report (by 15 September) how it has spent that amount.

The majority of HGDP funds will be pretty much eaten up by travel expenses to the National Convention and the CSC Conference in Fresno (under the VVA Sponsored Programs Travel category). What little that might be left over can be spent on a donation to the Veterans Alliance of Santa Clara County (VASCC). This would fall under the approved HGDP "Community Service Programs" category.

Upon receipt of the total actual expenditures for Chapter Travel reimbursements (National Convention and CSC Conference) the Chapter can determine how much it can donate to the VASCC from the HGDP funds to support UVC activities. The amount available should be around \$500.00.

#### XII. New Business:

Nothing to report.

#### XIII. Good of the Order:

- The Moose Veterans Affairs (formally Moose Alert) Committee is looking for Veteran organizations in need of financial assistance for which the Moose can provide donations. They are looking into setting up a California and Nevada Committee and there are plans to hold a Veteran Recognition Day in Sacramento. The Sunnyvale Moose Lodge is looking to adopt Veterans in need and provide them with financial aid.

- The Monterey Bay Rock Cod Fishing Trip will take place on October 3rd. For those with a 60-percent or less disability are qualified to participate. An Application can be found at [mbv.org](http://mbv.org). Each disabled veteran is permitted one caregiver. Manual wheelchairs and walkers are permitted on the boat; however, power chairs and scooters are not permitted. The trip on the Bay departs at 5:30AM and lasts 6 to 7 hours. The catch limit is ten fish. If you arrive the day before (October 2nd), the Marina American Legion Post (694 Legion Way, Marina, CA 93933; 831-384-6616) will provide a spaghetti dinner feed. After the fishing trip, the Seaside American Legion Post (1000 Playa Ave, Seaside, CA 93955; 831-394-6604) will sponsor BBQ banquet at which awards will be presented to fishing participants. Those arrived on October 2nd, and need a place to stay; the Monterey Presidio Army Housing Office (831-242-7979) will provide accommodations to Disabled Veterans for the fishing trip.
- The VA Palo Alto Hospital is in need of volunteers to help with the blind at the 7:00PM Thursday Bingo night.
- Dennis Whittaker reported that the Joaquin Miller Junior High School (6151 Rainbow Dr, San Jose, CA 95129 408-252-3755) will hold an Annual Recognition for Veterans during Veterans' Day week. Each Veteran participating will be assigned to a student to be escorted on to the football field to be recognized and then escorted to an indoor room to answer questions from the students. This is akin to our Speakers Program.
- Fort Ord California Coast State Veterans Cemetery will be building a Columbarium of the cemetery for veterans, and spouses, between 2016 and 2018. Alameda will also open Columbarium of the cemetery for veterans, and spouses, in 2016.
- Status of the San Jose VA Clinic on Great Oaks Blvd: The lease for the facility ends in 2016. They have received funding to build a new three-story facility in San Jose, but it will probably take at least two years. Therefore, the Great Oaks lease will be extended on a year by year basis so the clinic will not be going anywhere for at least the next two years. The location of the new facility is expected to be announced by the end of September.

#### XIV. Closing Ceremony

- The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday September 21, 2015 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM. The Chapter will pay for dessert for those arriving at 6:00 PM.
- Acting Chaplain Dennis Foggie provided the closing benediction and Sergeant-At-Arms Chuck Barber retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:27PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/signed/*

Robert J. Kadlec, Vice President  
 Acting Secretary  
 Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201  
 Vietnam Veterans of America