

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 20, 2015

Sunnyvale Moose Lodge
905 Kifer Road, Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Attendees:

Gerald Arnold (USN)
Charles Barber (USN)
Michael Berliner (USA)
Warren Finch (USA) {Guest}
Dennis Foggie (USAF)
Barbara Johnston (USA)
Robert Kadlec (USAF)
William Lewis (USA)
Francis McVey (USN)
James Maderios (USA)
Randy Richmond (USA)
David Sanders (USAF)
Jack Wells (USMC)
Cang Kim Dong (AVVA)

- I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:00 PM at the Sunnyvale Moose Lodge. Sergeant-At-Arms Chuck Barber led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Randy Richmond 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
1-year Board Member - Dennis Foggie
2-year Board Member - Walter Dillard (Absent)
3-year Board Member - Randy Richmond
- III. Reading of Minutes:
Minutes of the May meeting forwarded electronically to the membership were approved without change. Motion to approve by Dennis Foggie and Second by Randy Richmond.
- IV. Correspondence:
Nothing to report.

V. Financial Report:

A copy of the Financial Report was been distributed:

Asset = \$1,686.48 ((June balance = \$1,301.48 plus deposit of \$385.00))
Expenses = \$ 15.00 ((Bank Service Charge))
Balance = \$1,671.48

Will investigate other financial institutions to identify one without a monthly service charge.

Motion to approve by Dennis Foggie and Second by Mike Berliner.

VI. 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 new location for the Chapter meetings will be Holders Country Inn on D'Anza Blvd (near Cupertino) on the third Monday of each month. Dinner will begin at 6:00pm with the meeting starting at 7:00pm. To receive free use of the meeting room, we are asked to order food off of their menu. Dessert for all those attending will be provided free of charge. Motion to approve by Bill Lewis and Second by Randy Richmond.
- Alternative locations such as: Denny's on Hillsdale at Almaden Expressway (\$75.00 minimum room charge); Library on Hillsdale at Ross (\$35.00 room charge); San Jose Vet Center on north First Street (downtown); etc. can be addressed at the August meeting should Holder's not prove adequate.

VII. Board Of Directors Report:

Nothing to report.

VIII. UVC Delegates Report:

- The UVC has \$18,848 in the bank toward the \$50,00 plus Parade budget requirement. Approximately \$10,900 is expected from a Santa Clara County Grant and about \$5,762.00 from the City of San Jose. Meetings with San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera resulted in the UVC receiving another \$20,000 a year for four years (through 2018, the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day). This brings the total San Jose Cultural affairs grants for 2015 to \$25,762.00. There is one stipulate in that the UVC will need to raise at least \$20,000 on its own (matching) to qualify for the additional San Jose Grant. Upon receipt of the City and County Grants, the UVC should have the funding it needs for this year's Parade, however, it still needs to raise about \$6,900 to meet the "matching grant" requirement.
- Retired Air Force Colonel K.D. Poynter, a Registered Nurse, was a guest. He described what his Poynter Institute is doing to house and train veterans and working with corporations to donate computers and assist in training for working with veterans with PTSD. He is also working on veteran stories and genealogy which is 31-percent complete. Unfortunately, Federal funding for Stories of Service is used up.

- The UVC is short handed and needs to recruit volunteers to help “work the Parade.” Volunteers are strongly encouraged to come forward to support this year’s Parade.
- The UVC is working closely with Vice Mayor Rose Herrera to place a proposal on the City Council agenda to fly the POW/MIA flag at City Hall on a 365day basis.
- UVC President Fran McVey has spoken with the Santa Clara County Veterans Armed Forces Commission to encourage the County to also fly the POW/MIA flag on a 365-day basis at the County building.
- San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera wants to form a team, including UVC participation, to address veteran issues such as homeless veterans.

IX. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee (Robert Johnston, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
POW/MIA Committee (Robert Johnston, Sr.):	There will be a “Fire Watch” at American Legion Post 564 on September 18th.
Agent Orange Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Planning a fundraiser at Moffett Field.
Constitution/Bylaws (Robert Kadlec):	Working with Dennis Foggie to prepare changes to the Chapter Bylaws.
Community Services Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Working with the San Jose Vet Center.
Government Affairs Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Working with County Supervisor Dave Cortese and San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera.
Employment Training & Business Opportunities (ETaBO) (Randall Richmond):	Meeting with a new Bay Area organization - “Veteran Employment Partners” - to re-invigorate Veteran Employment Committees.
Finance & Fund Raising Committee (Randall Richmond):	Working with Moffett Field Commissary to hold a Chapter Fund Raiser.
Public Affairs Committee(Charles Barber):	Need to receive “Speakers Bureau” invitations to provide Chapter speakers for presentations at schools and other groups.

Veterans benefits Committee (Michael Berliner):

If anyone has a problem with a medical practitioner, there are “Veteran Advocates” at every VA facility to assist in resolving issues. The Palo Alto Veteran Advocate is located on the 3rd floor in building 101. The is NOT for disability compensation, it is for health issues only.

San Jose Veterans Center Committee
(David Sanders, Sr.):

Nothing to report.

Veterans Incarcerated Committee
(David Sanders, Sr.):

Nothing to report.

Women Veterans Committee
(Barbara Johnston):

Nothing to report.

X. Unfinished Business:

Nothing to report.

XI. New Business:

Under the Household Goods Distribution Program (HGDP), the Chapter is receiving \$385 per month. According to the HGDP requirements, the Chapter needs 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 Chapter 201 is May 1st through August 31st. At \$385.00 per month, the Chapter would received a total of \$1,540.00 by the end of August and needs to report (by 15 September) how it has spent that amount.

This amount will be pretty much eaten up by travel expenses to the National Convention and the upcoming 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 UVC for the Veteran’s Day Parade. This would fall under the approved HGDP “Community Service Programs.”

When we receive the total actual expenditure for the National VVA July Convention, as well as the August CSC Conference, we can determine the amount of the UVC donation. During our next meeting, on 17 August, we will vote to approve the exact amount to be donated to the Veterans Alliance for the UVC.

XII. AVVA Report: Nothing to report

XIII. Good of the Order:

- The annual “Spirit Of ‘45” Remembrance Day event will be held on Saturday, August 8 between Noon and 4:00PM at History San Jose Park. Admission is free. Use the South Gate of Phelan Road.
- On Sunday, August 16th, Oak Hill Memorial Park will hold a Remembrance Ceremony at 11:00AM at the Main Mausoleum. This will be a one-hour ceremony. Oak Hill has been extremely supportive of veteran causes, therefore, it is important that we support Oak Hill and this ceremony.

- Correspondence from the VVA National Office is asking for support in contacting our legislatures to encourage their backing of H.R. 1769 and S.901, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015. The Sergeant at Arms is distributing the hand out for this legislation.
- Chuck Barber is a volunteer with the Kaiser Hospital Hospice program. They are in the process of starting up program to recognize Veterans in Hospice at Kaiser.
- Moose Veterans Affairs (formally Moose Alert) 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.
- Barbara Johnston reported on information the Chapter had received on the Dream Foundation's Dreams for Veterans. This is sort of like the “Make a Wish Foundation.”
 Dreams for Veterans serves the military community by giving back to terminally ill veterans and their families through the fulfillment of a final dream. Detailed information on this foundation, their programs, and how to apply, can be found on the following web site:
<http://www.dreamfoundation.org/veterans>.
- The National organization of the VVA is offering a special discount for individuals who sign up for Life Membership between August and December 2015. The cost is only \$100.00 regardless of age. Anyone who is not currently a Life Member is encouraged to renew as a Life Member during this period.

XIV. Closing Ceremony

- The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday August 17, 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.
- Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the closing benediction and Sergeant-At-Arms Chuck Barber retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:04PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Johnston

Barbara Johnston, Secretary
 Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
 Vietnam Veterans of America