

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 15, 2015

Sunnyvale Moose Lodge
905 Kifer Road, Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Attendees:

David Ackerman (USMC)
Gerald Arnold (USN)
Charles Barber (USN)
Michael Berliner (USA)
Dennis Foggie (USAF)
Barbara Johnston (USA)
Robert Johnston (USA)
Robert Kadlec (USAF)
Francis McVey (USN)
James Maderios (USA)
Randy Richmond (USA)
David Sanders (USAF)
Jack Wells (USMC)
Reuben Willhite (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.

IV. Correspondence:

- Letter from Carol Lopez requesting support to include her father's name as a "contributor" on the donor list for the San Jose Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Since he resigned from the planning committee before any work was accomplished, the committee does not want to include his name. This is not an issue for the Chapter and Fran McVey, in his capacity as President of the United Veterans Council, will provide a written response to Carol Lopez.
- Letter of greeting from Santa Clara County Supervisor David Cortese.
- Letter of invitation to attend the Vietnamese Armed Forces Day Ceremony on 20 June at the Santa Clara County Offices (20 W. Heading).
- Letter from the National Office -- Resolutions and proposed Constitution changes to be brought up at the National Convention in Springfield, IL in July.
- Letter from California State Board of Equalization -- Tax repayment for qualified itinerant veteran vendors.
- Letter from Vietnam Women Veterans Foundation.
- Letter from APRIA Health Care -- Job openings for Veterans.
- Received five (5) copies of The Veteran magazine/newsletter from the National Office.

V. Financial Report:

A copy of the Financial Report was been distributed:

Asset	=	\$2,071.48
Expenses	=	<u>\$ 770.00</u>
Balance	=	<u>\$1,301.48</u>

VI. Officer Reports:

President:

- Handed out 20 VVA Chapter 201 brochures and applications at the Veterans Appreciation Day at the San Jose Veterans Center on 30 May (No responses).
- David Sanders issued Chapter Order #5, dated 15 June, appointing Randall Richmond as the Chapter Liaison with the VVA-201 Associates.

- David Sanders Made the following committee appointments (Chapter Order #6 to be published):

Membership Committee Chair:	Robert Johnston, Sr.
POW/MIA Committee Chair:	Robert Johnston, Sr.
Agent Orange Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Constitution/Bylaws Chair:	Robert Kadlec
Community Services Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Government Affairs Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Employment Training and Business Opportunities (ETaBO):	Randall Richmond
Finance & Fund Raising Committee Chair:	Randall Richmond
Public Affairs Committee Chair:	Charles Barber
Veterans benefits Committee Chair:	Michael Berliner
San Jose Veterans Center Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Veterans Incarcerated Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Women Veterans Committee Chair:	Barbara Johnston

- David Sanders appointed the following additional delegates to the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County:
 - Gerald Arnold
 - Michael Berliner
- The Chapter Banner has finally been located and is now in the possession of Chapter President David Sanders.

VII. Board Of Directors Report:

Reports of the May 5, 2015 BOD meeting (Approval of the draft 2015-2016 Chapter Budget) and the May 21, 2015 BOD meeting (Approval of reimbursement for attendance at the July 2015 National VVA Convention) were distributed.

VIII. California State Council (CSC) Report:

Chapter Delegate to the National VVA Convention, Bob Johnston, may not be able to attend the 26 June 2015 California Region 8 & 9 Pre-Convention Conference, in Reno, NV. The \$45.00 registration fee has been paid so an alternate would be able to attend. If no one is able to attend, the Chapter might be able to request a refund.

IX. Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Report:

- Chapter 201 VSO Michael Berliner reported that the VA and Congress have recognized that C3s and C4s (C-123 aircraft) used to dispense Agent Orange chemicals were not properly

cleaned/decontaminated. Aircrews and military personnel who flew or worked on them are eligible for Agent Orange care by the VA.

- VSO Berliner reported that veterans with foot problems caused by Diabetes, Neuropathy, etc., are eligible for special footwear through the VA.

X. Unfinished Business:

- The Chapter budget for 2015-2016 was approved by the membership assembled (Motion by Robert Kadlec, second by Dennis Foggie).
- The membership assembled approved a donation of \$100.00 for the Gold Star Mothers Family Monument (at Arlington National Cemetery) fundraiser (Motion by Barbara Johnston, second by Randy Richmond).
- Chapter Delegate to the National VVA Convention, Bob Johnston, received notification that Chapter-201s registration had been received and that to be allowed to vote, the Chapter's Financial Report must be submitted prior to 20 June 2015.

XI. New Business:

- Volunteers are requested for a new web master for the Chapter web site.
- Randy Richmond will coordinate with Moffett Field regarding holding a fund raising drive at the Commissary.
- Suggested Chapter activities included:
 - Monterey Bay fishing trip
 - Support the AVVA BBQ at the Menlo Park VA Hospital in the August/September time frame.
 - Participation with the American Legion at their 4th of July BBQ at the Menlo Park VA Hospital.
 - Reestablishment of the Chapter Speakers Bureau to support local high school history classes.
 - Support community college veterans' offices.
- San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera would like to present a Proclamation of recognition the VVA Chapter 201 at the City Hall in the September time frame.

XII. AVVA Report: Cang Kim Dong, Vice President of AVVA Chapter 201, reported that the AVVA will participate in the annual San Jose Rose, White & Blue Parade on the 4th of July.

XIII. Good of the Order:

- On 23 June the San Jose City Council will address the flying of the POW/MIA flag at the City Hall. The Council will vote on a resolution proposing flying of the POW/MIA flag on the following five days a year:
 1. Armed Forces Day (3rd Saturday in May)
 2. Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)
 3. Flag Day (June 14th)
 4. Independence Day (July 4th)
 5. Veterans Day (Nov. 11th)

The United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County (UVC) is requested that the POW/MIA banner be flown at San Jose City Hall 365 days a year and encourages Veterans to attend the hearing at

1:30PM on 23 June to support this action. The minimum requested would be to include March 30 (Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day) and the 3rd Friday in September (POW/MIA Day).

- Gerald Arnold praised the outstanding job that the AVVA did with the BBQ provided at the San Jose Veterans Center for the 15th Annual Veterans Appreciation Day Celebration on May 30, 2015.
- Alternative venues for future Chapter 201 meetings were suggested. Locations to be examined include: A return to Harry's Hof Brau (using the smaller quieter side room); Cathedral of Faith on Curtner and Hwy 87 in San Jose; Meeting room at Cang Dong's home and American Legion Post 318. Use of Harry's Hof Brau would require purchase of meals. Cathedral of Faith should be free but dependent on availability on a regular basis. There is extremely limited parking in the cul de sac at Cang Dong's home. Post 318 rents their hall for \$85.00 for a four-hour meeting.
- Next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday July 20, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Sunnyvale Moose Lodge.

XIV. Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the closing benediction and Sergeant-At-Arms Chuck Barber retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:24PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Johnston

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