

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

**CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, November 16, 2015**

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

**Attendees:**

Warren Finch	(USA)
John Hassenplug	(USN)
Clyde Horn	(USA)
Barbara Johnston	(USA)
Robert Kadlec	(USAF)
James Medeiros	(USA)
Francis McVey	(USN)
Sherry Oppenheim	(Guest)
David Sanders	(USAF)
Mary Sessler	(Guest)
Randall Sessler	(USA)
Jack Wells	(USMC)
Oleta Willhite	(AVVA)
Reuben Willhite	(USMC)

- I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:05 PM (1905 hours) at the Holder's Country Inn.
- II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:
  - President - David Sanders
  - Vice President - Robert Kadlec
  - Secretary/Treasurer - Barbara Johnston
  - 1-year Board Member - Dennis Foggie (Excused)
  - 2-year Board Member - Gerald Arnold (Absent)
  - 3-year Board Member - Randy Richmond (Absent)
- III. Guests:
  - Sherry Oppenheim
  - Mary Sessler
- IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the October 19th meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Motion to approve by John Hassenplug and Second by Bob Kadlec. The minutes were approved.
- V. Correspondence:
  - Received a copy of the Chapter 223 (~~Redwood City~~ **Santa Rosa**) newsletter. Copies the State newsletter (Zephyr) can be obtained on the CSC web site ([www.vvacalsc.com](http://www.vvacalsc.com)).

VI. Financial Report:

- Copy of the Financial Report was distributed:

October 31st Balance:	=	<u>\$2,129.76</u>
Plus Income	=	<u>\$ 585.00</u>
<u>Sub-Total</u>	=	<u>\$2,714.76</u>
Minus Expenses	=	<u>\$ 273.00</u>
<b><u>Balance</u></b>	=	<b><u>\$2,441.76 (11/16/15)</u></b>

Motion to approve by John Hassenplug and Second by Randy Sessler. Motion passed.

- Barbara Johnston will be traveling over Thanksgiving but will be available for an audit of the Chapter books/finances during the first two weeks in December.

VII. Officer Reports:

President:

- A ceremonial Flag Raising for the San Jose Veterans Center's new flagpole at their new location (440 N 1st St, San Jose, CA 95112) was held on Saturday, November 7th from 11AM to 1:30PM.
- Participated in the UVC Veterans' Day Parade in San Jose, the City of Santa Clara Memorial Ceremony and the UVC Honor on the Row event at Santana Row on November 11th.

VIII. Board Of Directors Report:

Nothing to report.

IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:

The CSC Conference was held in Fresno between 23 and 25 October. President Dave Sanders attended as the Chapter Delegate.

- VVA Northern District Director Dean Gotham is working with Congressman John Garamendi on California homeless issues. Dean is our contact at the CSC for Veteran homeless issues.
- The next CSC Conference will be held between 29 and 31 January 2016 in Fresno.
- The next State VVA Convention will be held between 23 and 26 June 2016 (location to be determined).

X. United Veterans Council Report

- On 25 October, about twenty Chapter 201 VVA and AVVA members participated in the UVC Flag Lowering Ceremony at Oak Hill Memorial Park to honor deceased Veterans. UVC Past President, and Chapter 201 member, Gene Fanucchi acted as the Master of Ceremonies while Chapter 201 Vice President Bob Kadlec officiated for the VVA. Chapter 201 member Dennis Foggie, AVVA Chapter 201 Vice President Cang Dong and Chapter Chaplain Randy Richmond lowered and folded the flag at the Veterans Section of Oak Hill Memorial Park while members of AVVA Chapter 201 provided the Honor Guard for the Ceremony.
- UVC After Action Veterans' Day "debriefing" will be held on Tuesday, 24 November at American Legion Post 318 at 6:30PM.

- Prior to the Veteran’s Day Parade, and the Armistice Day Ceremony, San Jose Mayor [Sam Licardo](#) and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors President Dave Cortese held a News Conference for the Media. The subject was the initiation of a City and County homeless project putting together a team to raise funds with a goal to eliminate homelessness by the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day in 2018. This project will probably incorporate the San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera’s “Veterans Empowering Veterans” project (which the UVC is a member) and local corporations representation on the Silicon Valley Leadership Group. One initiative is for the City of San Jose to provide rental subsidies to fill the gap in cost for section 8 cap rents. The Housing Authority and the City will be holding a meeting within the next two weeks to address the benefits for landlords. Additionally, the City has purchased a hotel in San Jose which will be renovated and devoted to housing for Veterans.

XI. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee (Robert Johnston, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
POW/MIA Committee (Robert Johnston, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
Agent Orange Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Education Brochures have been produced with funding from the HGDP.
Constitution/Bylaws (Robert Kadlec):	To be addressed after the Holidays.
Community Services Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Working with the San Jose Vet Center.
Government Affairs Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Working with the City and County on Veteran homeless issues.
Employment Training & Business Opportunities (ETaBO) (Randall Richmond):	Nothing to report.
Finance & Fund Raising Committee (Randall Richmond):	Chapter Fund Raiser at Moffett Field Commissary is planned for 12/13 December 2015 from 10:00am - 3:00pm.
Public Affairs Committee(Vacant):	Nothing to report.
Veterans benefits Committee (Vacant):	Nothing to report.
San Jose Veterans Center Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
Veterans Incarcerated Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Will provide copies of recent Chapter meeting minutes to incarcerated Chapter members.
Women Veterans Committee (Barbara Johnston):	Nothing to report.

XII. Unfinished Business:

- The Chapter will partner with American Legion District 13 during their Presidents Day event in February 2016 for visitations to the VA Hospitals.

### XIII. New Business:

- President Dave Sanders made a motion to renew Chapter membership on the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County at \$20.00 for annual dues. Motion seconded by Reuben Willhite. Motion passed.
- In accordance with the Chapter Constitution/Bylaws, the Chapter membership is required to elect a nominating committee, hereafter known as the "Election Committee," to identify and nominate individuals for the Annual Election of Officers to be held in April each year. We will need three individuals on this committee. The following were "elected" as members on the Election Committee:

John Hassenplug  
Francis McVey  
Randall Sessler

Anyone interested in an officer position should let their desires be know to anyone of the members of the Election Committee.

- The Chapter currently has a web site that was created and maintained by Past Chapter President Mike Shaw. Recently Mike suggested that the Chapter identify someone else to develop/maintain a web site for the Chapter since it is a bit difficult for him to continue doing it from his new residence in Thailand.

Therefore, an individual who has developed several web sites (primarily the Sons of Union Veterans) has indicated a willingness to develop a new Chapter web site as well as maintain it.

A new web site, with the possible URL of [www.VVA201.org](http://www.VVA201.org), can be created with an estimated cost to develop and maintain it at approximately **\$72 per year** (with a three-year contract

Motion to develop a new Chapter web site was made by Bob Kadlec, seconded by Reuben Willhite. Motion passed.

- Jack Wells reported that an Army veteran in the Bellingham, Washington VVA Chapter is participating in a program to provide scholarships, or financial aid, to school children in Vietnam. Jack made a motion for the Chapter to sponsor two Vietnamese children at \$130.00 each for the 2016 calendar year (total \$260.00) from HGDP funds. Motion seconded by John Hassenplug.

### XIV. Good of the Order:

- The Chapter might want to consider partnering with American Legion District 13 during their Presidents Day event in February 2016.
- **Our next Chapter meeting has been canceled in lieu of a holiday dinner at Harry's Hof Brau on Saturday, 19 December 2015. We will gather at Harry's Hof Brau and the Chapter would pay for a Senior Dinner for all those who wish to attend. Essentially all "formal" business would be postponed until January in lieu of the Holiday festivities.**

- President Dave Sanders reported that Chapter Member Jack wells authored an excellent book titled “Class of 67: The Story of the 6th Marine Officer's Basic Class of 1967.” In the book, Jack delivers a moving and fitting eulogy to the forty-three lieutenants who were in Marine Officers Basic Class 6-67, and who died in Vietnam, plus one classmate captured in Lebanon in 1988 and hung by Muslim terrorists. The book is a memorial to those men who made the ultimate sacrifice for their men and country. In telling their story, and the battle action that caused their death, the book provides a capsule history of the war as seen by those who served in Central Vietnam.

Amazon is selling the book \$45.95 plus tax in paperback. Jack has copies for anyone interested at \$32.00 (tax paid). If you are interested in a copy, contact Jack at: [jwellsca1@earthlink.net](mailto:jwellsca1@earthlink.net).

- Warren Finch provided information on obtaining M1 Garand rifles for the Chapter AVVA Honor Guard through the Civilian Marksmanship Program. Orders for a maximum of 15 rifles can be placed through the AMVETS. Storage is at the Discretion of the Chapter in accordance with all State and local laws/regulations (must be in a lockable, 3-bolt, safe). The rifles remain the property of the U.S. Government. The Government will pay/reimburse the cost of any necessary repairs. They must be returned to the Government when no longer needed. President Dave Sanders will coordinate with the Chapter 201 AVVA regarding ordering the rifles and Chapter 201 will provide the blanks for use by the Honor Guard.
- The Moose organization has a program called “Tommy Moose” that provides “stuffed” moose to local police and fire departments for distribution to children. The Chapter might want to obtain some of these Tommy Moose for distribution at the VA Hospitals.

#### XV. Closing Ceremony

- **The next VVA Chapter 201 gathering will be at Harry’s Hof Brau on Saturday, 19 December 2015 at ~~4:00pm~~ 12:00 noon.** (Time change)
- Acting Chaplain Sherry Oppenheim provided the closing benediction and Acting Sergeant-At-Arms John Hassenplug retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:07PM (2007 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

*Barbara Johnston*

Barbara Johnston, Secretary

Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201

Vietnam Veterans of America

