

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – CHAPTER 120
MEMBERSHIP MINUTES – THURSDAY, Feb. 2, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Mello at 7:10 pm at the IAM Union Hall, 357 Main Street, East Hartford, CT, with the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. Officers present: President Frank Mello, Vice President Jerry Blum Treasurer Roger Anderson, and Secretary Pete Lund. Board of Directors present: Paul Barry, Bill Chiodo, Frank Zizzamia,, and Peter Galgano. Pattie Dumin was absent and excused.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Ken Lewis made motion made to accept the minutes; motion seconded by Bob Burgess and passed unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Roger Anderson provided copies of account balances report as of 1/31/17 and the transaction report for the period thru 1/31/17. He reviewed the income and expense items on the transaction report. President Frank Mello thanked Roger for his report.

SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT –John Cutler reported the following: As of 31 January, we have 61 open claims and 41 appeals, for a total caseload of 102 (this figure does not include brokered claims from other Regional Offices).

The VA has now established presumptive service connection for eight (8) diseases associated with Camp Lejeune water contamination. These eight are: adult leukemia, aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, liver cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, and Parkinson’s disease. Effective date for this rule is March 14, 2017.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP – Frank Mello reported that the chapter has a total of 259 VVA members, 39 individual members, 4 permanently hospitalized members, and 216 life members. Frank reported that AVVA has 15 members, 5 individual and 10 life members. Frank also reported he has processed a new member and new Life Member. Not on report from National yet.

AGENT ORANGE – No Report

VAVS – No Report

AVVA – No Report

POW/MIA – No Report

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS – Tim Siggia reported of News Flash that Vietnam Veterans of America supports H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans act by david Valadao (CA-21). **Concurrent Receipt Legislation introduced.** FRA continues its advocacy for legislation authorizing the immediate payment of concurrent receipt of full military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for all disabled retirees. The Association appreciates the progress that has been made on this issue that includes a recently enacted provision fixing the CRSC glitch that caused some beneficiaries to lose compensation when their disability rating was increased. Chapter 61 retirees receiving CRDP, and CRDP retirees with less than 50 percent disability rating should also receive full military retired pay and VA disability compensation without any offset.

WOMEN VETERANS – No report

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GOOD AND WELFARE – Pete Lund passed word on Paul Scappaticci is recovering from an operation. Paul requested this to Pete L.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None Frank Mello had mentioned that Chapter showed up to support SP 76 held at legislature. That would remove the funding nr a highway study costing as much as \$300,000 and return it back to General Fund. There was ome discussion and support of this to possibly resolve problem on spending this money to support Honor Guards at Veterans Funerals. Paul Barry also mentioned that a bill would have to be passed and suggested that a line item for the budget be designated for Military Honors. There was some discussion of Elections coming up for Nominating Committee and Delegates to National Convention to be held in August. August 8, 2017-August 12, 2017 New Orleans Marriott, 555 Canal St, New Orleans, LA.s. Paul Barry spoke on possible and expected expenditures. Nominations are to be suggested and accepted to present committee: Tim Siggia, Ken Lewis, and Bill Chiodo. Pete Lund will get particular correspondence to committee.

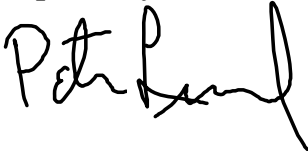
COMMUNITY SERVICES Bob Burgess read a letter of thanks for coats given to Washington Elementary School in Manchester. In summary; it was much appreciated.

NEWSLETTER – John Cutler reported Cutoff for March newsletter articles is 17 February

PRODUCT SALES – No report.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion made to adjourn at 7:50. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The next Chapter Board meeting will be Feb. 23, 2017. The next membership meeting will be held March 2nd.. .The next State Council meeting will be held March 19th 2017.

Respectively submitted by



Pete Lund
Secretary Chapter 120