

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – CHAPTER 120
MEMBERSHIP MINUTES – THURSDAY, April 6, 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, leading with the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. Officers present: President Frank Mello, Treasurer Roger Anderson, and Secretary Pete Lund. Board of Directors present: Bill Chiodo, Frank Zizzamia, and Peter Galgano. Vice President Jerry Blum, Paul Barry, and Pattie Dumin were absent and excused.

ELECTION Frank Mello made a motion to suspend meeting to hold election. Motion seconded and passed. Nomination for Delegates for National Convention at New Orleans and Nominating Committee was posted on blackboard and who has accepted the nomination. Since there weren't more than necessary, motion made for Secretary to cast one vote for nominees. Motion seconded and passed. Elected for National Convention are Bob Bagge, John Seimer, Frank Mello, Paul Barry, Jerry Blum, and Bob Burgess. Elected for Nominating Committee are Ken Lewis, Bill Chiodo and Tim Siggia.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Chapter read minutes. Bob Burgess made motion made to accept minutes, seconded by Ken Lewis; passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Roger Anderson provided copies of account balances report as of 3/31/17 and the transaction report for the period thru 3/31/17. 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 March, we have 56 open claims and 43 appeals, for a total caseload of 99 (this figure does not include brokered claims from other Regional Offices). Of the 43 appeals, 19 are waiting Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) decisions. Our overall win rate is steady at 89 percent.

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. +2 from last month. Frank reported that AVVA has 15 members, 5 individual and 10 life members. +1 from last month

AGENT ORANGE – Paul Scapp. Discussed updates of Agent Orange Bill in Congress and expressed good words of Rep. Esty from Conn. and Cmdr. Wells on this discussion. And much support in addition of Rick Weidman from VVA. He has expressed "Best it's been".

VAVS – No Report

AVVA – Joanne Blum to represent Chapter at Nat'l Convention to be held in August.

POW/MIA – No Report

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS – Tim Siggia reported that Veteran's Choice program to be extended beyond September and VA is working to enhance the Choice Program.

WOMEN VETERANS – No report

GOOD AND WELFARE – Frank Mello has mentioned of a great article from American Legion Magazine; web site is [//www.legion.org/magazine/236274/lifetime-healing](http://www.legion.org/magazine/236274/lifetime-healing). A great article on Father Phil who has served in Vietnam; article a lifetime of healing. I copied part of the article and follows: Salois was one of only seven in his platoon who weren't injured in the battle. He received the Silver

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Star for his actions on March 1, 1970. What transpired led him to an even higher calling, one that has given him the opportunity to minister to countless souls over the decades since Vietnam.

OLD BUSINESS Chapter participated at a Welcome Home at State Capital at LOB March 30th.

NEW BUSINESS Bill Chiodo mentioned concerns of Chapter Region 1 Director John Minor; his lack of input to Chapter.

Motion from Bob Burgess to continue our donation of \$200.00 to the South Windsor Little League to display our Chapter banner; motion seconded and passed

Frank also mentioned that Chapter will participate in Shad Derby May 20th in Windsor; staging at High School at 10:30 and step-off at 11:30.

Motion made to donate 5 bricks \$35.00 for each to the VFW/American Legion revamping the Veterans' park in East Windsor. Motion seconded and passed.

Bob Venti had spoken on the Glastonbury VFW post 77659 charter getting removed because of only 1 member. Post will continue a drive for goods to the troops; motion made for Chapter to contribute \$50.00 for this one last drive. Motion seconded and passed.. Bob V. also mentioned April 5 Anniv for Army and 100 year anniv. for WW1.

COMMUNITY SERVICES John Cutler. The VVA Car Donation Program is available for anyone who wants to donate their car and receive a tax deduction equal to its fair market value. To donate, go to vietnamveteranscardonation.org You can also call the toll free number at 800-435-7838 . Question of whether this will help out on the Helping Hands from National.

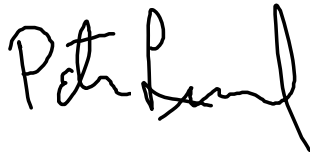
NEWSLETTER – John Cutler reported Cutoff for May newsletter articles is 21 April

PRODUCT SALES – No report

ADJOURNMENT- Motion made to adjourn at 7:45. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The next Chapter Board meeting will be April 27, 2017. The next membership meeting will be held May 4, 2017. The next State Council meeting will be held June 11, 2017.

Respectively submitted by



Pete Lund
Secretary Chapter 120