

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – CHAPTER 120**  
**MEMBERSHIP MINUTES – THURSDAY, Oct. 5, 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 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: were Paul Barry, Bill Chiodo, and Pattie Dumin Vice President Jerry Blum and Board of Directors Frank Zizzamia, and Peter Galgano were absent and excused.

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

Chapter read minutes. Minutes to be amended as followed:: Motion by Frank Mello to have Chapter to donate \$500. for Texas hurricane victims to be sent to a VVA representative in Texas. Motion seconded and passed. Another motion made by Frank Mello to do similar help to Florida victims in donating \$500. for Florida hurricane victims to be sent to a VVA representative in Florida. Motion made to accept amendments, seconded and motion passed unanimously

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Roger Anderson provided copies of account balances report as of 9/30/17 and the transaction report for this period. 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: As of 30 September, we have 52 open claims and 45 appeals, for a total caseload of 97. Of the 45 appeals, 22 are at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA). Our Return on Investment (ROI) for fiscal year 2017 is 150 to 1, meaning that for every dollar we spend on our program we win \$150 for our veterans.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**MEMBERSHIP** – Frank Mello reported that the chapter has a total of 261 VVA members, 36 individual members, 4 permanently hospitalized members, and 221 life members. +1 from last month. Frank reported that AVVA has 15 members,.

**AGENT ORANGE** – No Report Frank Mello looking for new volunteer representative

**VAVS** – Frank Mello looking for new volunteer representative for this position. Meeting held at Newington Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. after Mary Beaulieu did a POW MIA ceremony New Fisher House at West Haven to be completed

**AVVA** – No Report

**POW/MIA** – No Report

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS** – Tim Siggia reported that military benefits won't be affected in case of a shut-down. In addition, he reported a false reality of lack of resources in Puerto Rico with 10,000 troops on the ground; a report by Jim Mattis. Tim also reported the Senate won't confirm Trump's Pentagon nominees until McCain gets Iraq and Afghanistan details. Paul Barry also mentioned of Commissioner Connally stepping down and Dept. Commissioner Tom Saddi is acting Commissioner.

**GOOD AND WELFARE** – Bob Venti had mentioned Goodwin College held a 9-11 ceremony at Riverside Ave. East Hartford on 9-11. He also mentioned of Gold Star families to be celebrated last Sunday of September. Bob also reported Veteran's Day parade to meet at American Legion at 10:30 Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> Saturday. He also reported on free phones being distribution

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

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**NEW BUSINESS** – Dance to be held DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>. Flag burning event idea brought up again, a possibly to be done by Patriotic Commissioner.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES** Chapter participated in Ct. Stand-down Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. at Rocky Hill.

**NEWSLETTER** – John Cutler reported Cutoff for November newsletter articles is 20 October.

**PRODUCT SALES** – No report. Ted Groenstein had a raffle.

**ADJOURNMENT**- Motion made to adjourn at 8:10. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The next Chapter Board meeting will be Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>. The next Chapter membership meeting will be held Nov.3, 2017. The next State Council meeting will be held Nov.19, 2017.

Respectively submitted by 

Pete Lund  
Secretary Chapter 120