

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

READING OF THE MINUTES

Chapter read minutes. Motion was made to accept amendments, seconded and motion passed unanimously

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ken Lewis acting in Roger Anderson's absence provided copies of account balances report as of 10/31/17 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 31 October, we have 60 open claims and 46 appeals, for a total caseload of 106. Of the 46 appeals, 22 are at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA).

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 – Paul Scappaticci read a letter he had written to the new head of VA, Dr. Shulkin, in reference to the Blue Water Navy issues.

VAVS – No Report

AVVA – Joanne Blum mentioned of an Annual Fundraiser Sat. Nov. 11th at Elks Lodge 1893 in Manchester. A luncheon and color guard presentation at luncheon at 5:30.

POW/MIA – No Report

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS – Tim Siggia reported **Oppose TRICARE Regulation That Increases Fees**. The Department of Defense (DoD) continually tries to shift health care costs to beneficiaries. DoD is now attempting to implement a regulation with higher cost shares and a new fee structure for retirees younger than 65. **VSO's Meet to Strategize on Agent Orange Blue Water Navy**. FRA staff Tom Snee, Chris Slawinski and Brian Condon along with other Veteran Service Organizations (VSO's) recently met at the American Legion, Washington, DC office to discuss efforts to enact the "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act." Staff members from the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) also attended. The legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate (H.R.299 & S.422 respectively). HVAC Chairman Phil Roe (Tenn.) in earlier meetings with FRA staff expressed an interest in moving the House bill out of committee and onto the House floor for consideration by

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the full House. **HVAC Reviews Improvements to VA Choice Program.** The House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) began the process of reviewing, debating and approving a draft proposal to make it easier for veterans who seek medical care outside the VA health system (Veterans Health Administration-VHA). **Congress Votes to Tables CFPB Financial Institutions Forced Arbitration Rule.** The Senate recently voted to table the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) final rule on arbitration agreements and class-action lawsuits. The Vice President had to vote in the Senate and broke the tie (50-50).

GOOD AND WELFARE –Bob reported Veteran's Day parade to meet at American Legion at 10:30 Nov. 11th Saturday. He also reported VFW East Hartford is looking for increased membership. Paul mentioned of a luncheon at Goodwin College Nov. 19 at 11:30 with a dedication at the Veterans Garden. Frank Mello mentioned of Operation Home-front to help with Handicapped Ramps etc. Phone number is 1-800-887-4673.

OLD BUSINESS – Dance to be held DECEMBER 9th.

NEW BUSINESS – Frank Zizzamia mentioned of severe damage to Roger Anderson Car during recent storm. Motion made to Chapter to disburse \$ 250.00 to Roger to help out. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY SERVICES Bob Venti mentioned of placing flags at Hillside Cemetery. Volunteers are needed starting at 8:00. He also mentioned of Xchange privileges starting Nov. 11th for honorable discharged veterans.

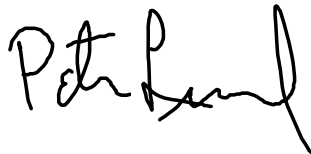
NEWSLETTER – John Cutler reported Cutoff for December newsletter articles is 24 November. Email any articles and/or photos to the new address at ctchapter120@aol.com Please note that jrcvva120@aol.com is no longer active.

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

ADJOURNMENT- Motion made to adjourn at 8:05. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The next Chapter Board meeting will be November 30th. The next Chapter membership meeting will be held Dec.7, 2017. The next State Council meeting will be held Nov.19, 2017.

Respectively submitted by



Pete Lund
Secretary Chapter 120