

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – CHAPTER 120**  
**MEMBERSHIP MINUTES – Friday Jan. 5, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Mello at 7:00 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, and Secretary Pete Lund. Vice President Jerry Blum and Treasurer Roger Anderson were absent and excused. Board of Directors present: were Paul Barry, Phil Morneault, Peter Galgano, and Frank Zizzamia. Board of Director Bill Chiodo was absent and excused. Meeting cancelled yesterday due to storm and rescheduled the following night. Frank mentioned in future, meeting to be cancelled and be held at next scheduled monthly meeting.

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

Chapter read minutes. Motion was made to accept, Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

In Roger Anderson's absence, Pete Lund provided copies of account balances report as of 12/31/17 and the transaction report for this period. He reviewed the income and expense items on the transaction report. President Frank Mello thanked Pete for his report.

**SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT** – John Cutler reported: As of 31 December, we have 69 open claims and 45 appeals, for a total caseload of 114. Of the 45 appeals, 22 are at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA).

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**MEMBERSHIP** – Frank Mello reported that the chapter has a total of 259 VVA members, 32 individual members, 4 permanently hospitalized members and 223 life members; a decrease of 2. Two of our members, last month, Robert Bernier and Russell Ehlert have deceased. Frank reported that AVVA has 20 members.

**AGENT ORANGE** – No Report

**VAVS** – No Report

**AVVA** – No Report

**POW/MIA** – Pete Lund read a report sent by Mary Beaulieu Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>.as follows. In November, President Trump met with the President of Vietnam - the meeting went great and there was much talk about the POW issue. Vietnam has lifted all restrictions on the number of US personnel who can work in the country. There is also no more restricted areas that the US cannot have access to and Vietnam has committed their navy and maritime services to work with US officials on any sites involving water shoot downs. All of these actions are considered a very big step forward by POW/MIA families.

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS** – Tim Siggia reported several items such as: Court refused Trump's request to delay Jan. 1 transgender enlistments. He also mentioned the VA has suspended applications for new VA ID cards. He also reported President Trump signed the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization act.

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – CHAPTER 120**  
**MEMBERSHIP MINUTES – Friday Jan. 5, 2018**

**GOOD AND WELFARE** – Chapter members met at Col. Gates Cemetery Rocky Hill to place a Yule log at the grave of Tom Blanchard, the youngest casualty of the Vietnam War. Log placed on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>; a date that would have been Tom's 66<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Annual Dance held December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Frank Mello made a motion to nominate Phil Morneault as Board of Director member. Pete Lund seconded motion. Phil accepted nomination. Motion unanimously approved by the board to fill the opening until the April election.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES** – Not reported out at meeting was Chapter provided support to the Hartford Vet Center for 5 families. First names were provided by the Hartford Vet Center; all children receiving a coat along with gifts.

**NEWSLETTER** – John Cutler reported cutoff for February newsletter articles is 19 January. Email any articles and/or photos to the new address at [ctchapter120@aol.com](mailto:ctchapter120@aol.com)

**PRODUCT SALES** – No report.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion made to adjourn at 7:35. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The next Chapter Board meeting will be Jan. 25, 2018. The next Chapter membership meeting will be held Feb. 1, 2018. The next State Council meeting will be held Jan.21, 2018.

Respectively submitted by 

Pete Lund  
Secretary Chapter 120