

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – CHAPTER 120
MEMBERSHIP MINUTES – Thursday Feb. 1, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Mello at 7:05 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. Vice President Jerry Blum was 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.

READING OF THE MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Roger Anderson provided copies of account balances report as of 1/31/18 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 January, we have 62 open claims and 47 appeals, for a total caseload of 109. Of the 47 appeals, 22 are at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA).

Because our service officer program will close operations in a little over a year, we will not accept new clients. We will work the existing claims and appeals over the next year to try closing them before June 1, 2019. At that time, any open claims and appeals will go to the VVA National program.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP – Frank Mello reported that the chapter has a total of 260 VVA members, 32 individual members, 4 permanently hospitalized members, and 223 life members; an increase of 1 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.30th.as follows. The only thing to report is that there has been UNPRECEDENTED PROGRESS made in over the last 3 months with Vietnam concerning our POWs/MIAs - also remains for WWII and Korea being identified are at an all-time high.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS – Tim Siggia reported several items such as: President signs EO to improve Mental Health Resources for transiting vets for at least one year after separation. In addition a start of negotiations to overhaul the flawed program Veterans Choice Program.

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GOOD AND WELFARE – Coats distributed to 4 towns; Manchester, East Hartford, South Windsor, and Windsor. Approx 30 coats each.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – Bob Burgess brought an idea to have election early for the National Convention next year to allow for a bigger bang for buck in airline prices. As it stands now, our by-laws doesn't allow for it. National by-laws would have to be looked at.

COMMUNITY SERVICES A huge shout-out to Bob Burgess for obtaining the coats for distribution to the community. Several Chapter members helped in getting the coats to local communities.

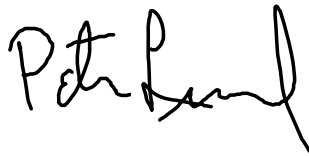
NEWSLETTER – John Cutler reported Cutoff for March newsletter articles is 16 February. Email any articles and/or photos to the new address at ctchapter120@aol.com

PRODUCT SALES – No report.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion made to adjourn at 7:40. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The next Chapter Board meeting will be Feb, 22 2018. The next Chapter membership meeting will be held March 1, 2018. The next State Council meeting will be held March.18, 2018.

Respectively submitted by



Pete Lund
Secretary Chapter 120