

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – CHAPTER 120**  
**MEMBERSHIP MINUTES – Thursday April 5, 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, Vice President Jerry Blum, and Secretary Pete Lund. Board of Directors present were Paul Barry, Peter Galgano, Bill Chiodo and Phil Morneault. Board of Director Frank Zizzamia and Treasurer Roger Anderson were absent and excused.

**READING OF THE MINUTES** Chapter members read minutes. Motion was made to accept, Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** Ken Lewis, in Roger's absence provided copies of account balances report as of 3/31/18 and the transaction report for this period. Ken Lewis, in Roger's absence reviewed the income and expense items on the transaction report. President Frank Mello thanked Ken for this report.

**CHAPTER 120 ELECTIONS** Election for Officers and Board of Directors including Nominating Committee and 6 Delegates for State Council. Names include the following: President Frank Mello, Vice President Phil Morneault, Treasurer Roger Anderson, and Secretary Pete Lund. Board of Directors Paul Barry, Peter Galgano, Bill Chiodo and Frank Zizzamia and Bob Burgess. Nomination Committee Bill Chiodo, Tim Siggia, and Ken Lewis. 6 delegates for State Council include Paul Barry, Frank Mello, Frank Zizzamia, Ken Lewis, John Cutler and Bob Burgess. All have accepted nomination. Motion made to elect nomination for Officers since no one else running and allow Secretary to cast one ballot for Officers. Motion seconded; Motion carried. Motion made to elect nomination for Board of Directors delegates since no one else running and allow Secretary to cast one ballot for 5 Board of Directors delegates. Motion seconded; Motion carried. Motion made to elect nomination 6 State Council 3elegates since no one else running and allow Secretary to cast one ballot for 6 State Council Delegates. Motion seconded; Motion carried. Motion made to elect nomination 3 Nominating Committee delegates since no one else running and allow Secretary to cast one ballot for 3 Nominating Committee delegates. Motion seconded; Motion carried.

**SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT** – John Cutler reported: as of 31 March, we have 32 open claims and 44 appeals, for a total caseload of 76. Again, we are not accepting new veteran clients. For the first quarter of this year (January through March), we have won over \$333,000 while spending \$1,550 on the service rep program. This means that for every dollar we spend on our program, we win \$215 for our veterans.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**MEMBERSHIP** – Frank Mello reported that the chapter has a total of 258 VVA members, 32 individual members, 4 permanently hospitalized members, and 223 life members. Frank reported that AVVA has 19 members.

**AGENT ORANGE** – A presentation was made by Gerry Wright, an agent orange survivor and Vietnam Veteran to explain for Cross Country Motorcycle trip to gather signatures to eliminate the onset dates for presumptive diseases associated for Agent Orange. He also signed up as a new member of Chapter 120. Paul Scappaticci also mentioned his latest correspondence with Congressional members on the Blue Water Agent Orange issue.

**VAVS** – No Report

**AVVA** – No Report

**POW/MIA** – Pete Lund read a report sent by Mary Beaulieu March 27<sup>th</sup> as follows. Number of missing is down to 1,600. Lastly if anyone has a question about a POW bracelet they still have or simply wants to know if a

certain someone has ever been returned I have that information and can let them know. Paul Barry also read out latest statistics of the POW issue.

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS** – Tim Siggia reported Trump dismissed David Shulkin VA Secretary was replaced with Admiral Jackson who must be confirmed by the Senate. In the interim, Trump announced Robert Wilkie would serve as acting Secretary. Tim also mentioned of a news release from VVA dated March 23, 2018 that Veterans with bad paper discharges to get Mental Health Screening and care from the VA. Paul Barry brought up discussion for Senate Bill 289; we desperately need our membership to call and or email their state representatives and state senators to encourage them to vote for the passage of Senate Bill 289 which restores \$2 million in funding to the Connecticut Department of veteran's affairs. Kathy Lechause also mentioned she mentioned too few constituents; they never heard of it. Again, out to membership, please get in touch with your area congress person to raise awareness of this bill and impact of loss of revenue to the RRH.

**GOOD AND WELFARE**– Frank Mello Shad Derby May 19<sup>th</sup> at Windsor; step off 11:30a.m. at high school. He also mentioned of Fisher House dedication at West Haven May 4<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned of meetings at Goodwin College 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month from 5-7 p.m. Bob also brought up discussion American Legion Manchester looking for donations for banquet hall. Item to be discussed at board meeting for recommendations Paul Scappaticci brought up veteran discussion for veteran recognition at Yard Goat Game May 18<sup>th</sup>. Stadium asking for help to recognition for area veterans in need. Patti Dumin reported May 3 as Channel 3 Kids Camp Honors Dr. Linda S. Schwartz at Connecticut Convention Center 100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford.

**OLD BUSINESS** – No Report

**NEW BUSINESS** – No Report

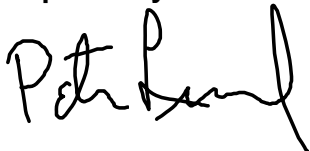
**COMMUNITY SERVICES** No Report

**NEWSLETTER** – John Cutler reported Cutoff for May newsletter articles is 20 April. 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 8:10. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The next Chapter Board meeting will be April 27, 2018. The next Chapter membership meeting will be held May 3, 2018. The next State Council meeting will be held June.10, 2018.

**Respectively submitted by**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Lund". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pete Lund  
Secretary Chapter 120