

## **VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – CHAPTER 120**

**MEMBERSHIP MINUTES – Thursday May 3, 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 Phil Morneault Treasurer Roger Anderson, and Secretary Pete Lund. Board of Directors present were Paul Barry, Peter Galgano, Bill Chiodo Bob Burgess, and Frank Zizzamia. All present were sworn in.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT** Roger Anderson provided copies of account balances report as of 4/30/18 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 30 April, we have 25 open claims and 43 appeals, for a total caseload of 68. Once again, we are not accepting new veteran clients.

### **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. Frank reported that AVVA has 19 members.

**AGENT ORANGE** – No Report

**VAVS** – No Report

**AVVA** – Joanne Blum spoke on tax issue on lights out; Pattie mentioned that this topic to be discussed at next Leadership meeting in this at National.

**POW/MIA** – Pete Lund read a report sent by Mary Beaulieu May 2<sup>nd</sup>. as follows: With Trump meeting with "Rocket Man" pow groups are asking him to bring up issue There are 200 sets of remains being held ready to be returned and we are asking Trump to ask for their immediate return Also asking Trump to bring up starting negotiations again on our missing POWs who were known to have been sent to North Korea from Vietnam and also negotiations for those that were held after the end of the Korean War

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS** – Tim Siggia reported Veterans endorsed State Senator Mae Flexer push for Bill 289 at State Capital April 24<sup>th</sup>. He also spoke on several other issues at Capitol Hill including. National Defense Budget bill H.R 5515, a Bill to expand VA Choice staling in House and Senate and expanded Chiropractic care for veterans Bill has passed. Paul Barry gave Chapter an update on Bill 289 for Rocky Hill; passed out of Appropriations committee but now has to go before the House and Senate. He has expressed thanks to all who have contacted State Government and has asked for more push more pressure on pedal to make sure this gets passed. The worry-some part is getting this bill “tagged” to a loser bill rejecting both.

**GOOD AND WELFARE** – No report

**OLD BUSINESS-** Bob Venti asking for donations to American Legion Post in Manchester; now Chapter has the details. Financial discussions to be reviewed at next Board meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Frank Mello discussed a possible Healing Mass to be held at a nearby church; more to follow. There is a concern of increased suicides. More info to follow.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES** Shad Derby May 19<sup>th</sup> in Windsor. Step off at 11 am at Windsor High School. Bob Venti spoke on Parade for Manchester for Memorial Day; suggestion made for Chapter to participate in Parade in South Windsor. John Cutler to send out mass email once details provided by Roger Anderson after discussion with Patriotic Commission. South Windsor hosting an event called “Evening in the Park” held in Nevers Road Park May 19, 2018 from 5 PM to dusk followed by fireworks. Bob Venti mentioned of a dedication in East Windsor Park near fish restaurant May 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM. Additionally, he mentioned of a ceremony at Veterans Park in East Hartford at corner of Scott Road and Roberts Street to be held May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.

**NEWSLETTER** – John Cutler reported Cutoff for June newsletter articles is 25 May. 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 8:20. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The next Chapter Board meeting will be May 31, 2018. The next Chapter membership meeting will be held June 6, 2018. The next State Council meeting will be held June.10, 2018.

Respectively submitted by



Pete Lund  
Secretary Chapter 120