

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – CHAPTER 120
MEMBERSHIP MINUTES – Thursday Feb. 7, 2019

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 Bob Burgess, Bill Chiodo, Peter Galgano, Frank Zizzamia and Paul Barry.

READING OF THE MINUTES – Chapter members read minutes. Few edits were mentioned. Motion was made to accept with amendments, seconded and carried unanimously

TREASURER’S REPORT – Roger Anderson provided copies of account balances report as of 1/31/2019 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 – As of 31 January, we have 5 open claims and 42 appeals. Twenty-three (23) of those appeals are at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), with 2 still waiting for hearings. The VA Appeals Modernization Program will take effect on February 19. This means that any appeals for VA decisions made on or after February 19 will be processed through the new rules. Under the new rules, veterans can chose to appeal using one of three (3) basic options. Veterans appealing under the new rules should ask for advice from a service officer.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP – Frank Mello reported that the chapter has a total of 249 VVA members; of which is 22 individual members, 4 permanently hospitalized members, and 224 life members. Frank reported that AVVA has 19 members.

AGENT ORANGE – Paul Scappaticci discussed Agent Orange with news that Gerry Wright, Paul and Sen. Blumenthal had lots of discussion and Gerry Wright invited to State of Union address in D.C. Paul also mentioned that Federal Appeals court came out with a decision that the Blue Water Navy sailors have won. He also thanks everyone in Chapter for all the support shown for this effort.

VAVS – No Report

AVVA – No Report

POW/MIA – Pete Lund read out email by Mary Beaulieu dated 2-5-19 as follows: Nothing new to report - number of missing stands at 1,590 and Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia have all provided continued cooperation on finding our missing in their countries - the identification of WWII remains are still moving along at a rapid speed. **Need POW chairperson.**

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS –Tim Siggia mentioned several articles such as House Panel took aim at Legal roadblock to military malpractice lawsuits. In addition he mentioned another article on GI Bill Payment Delays and other articles.

Paul Barry had some discussion on Dept. of Veterans Affairs meeting just held. Bill Chiodo had concerns of VVA not being represented; Paul assured in future we would be included. Paul

mentioned of lots of new faces who had not the slightest clue on budget cuts for the Dept of Veteran Affairs as from \$32 Million to approx. \$20 Million.

GOOD AND WELFARE – Lots of coats dropped off in 5 communities; coats and gifts delivered to Hartford Vets Center. A total of approx. 120 coats. Pete Lund read off Thank You notes received for Chapter; one from Washington School in Manchester and other from Mayberry School in East Hartford.

OLD BUSINESS – No report

NEW BUSINESS – National Convention discussed.

COMMUNITY SERVICES – Lots of coats dropped off in 5 communities; coats and gifts delivered to Hartford Vets Center. A total of approx. 120 coats. Pete Lund read off Thank You notes received for Chapter; one from Washington School in Manchester and other from Mayberry School in East Hartford.

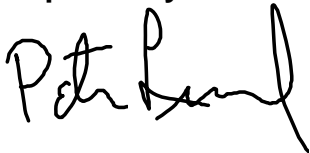
Paul Barry discussed Fallen Star project; getting completion Veterans Day Weekend. Roger Anderson read off a Thank You note from Goodwin College for all the support monies provided by Council and Chapter 120.

NEWSLETTER – Cutoff for March newsletter articles is 22 February. Email any articles and/or photos to ctchapter120@aol.com

Product Sales – Leigh Lovering volunteered to be the chair for this position. He gave Chapter some good ideas in going forward in sales and had a sale reduced prices on existing inventory. He also had some thoughts of raffles held at last portion of meeting. 50/50 approved by majority. He also mentioned of deals on products to be sold after the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion made to adjourn at 8:23. The next Chapter Board meeting is Feb. 28th and next Chapter meeting is March 7, 2019. The next State Council meeting will be held March 24, 2019.

Respectively submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Lund". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Pete Lund
Chapter 120 Secretary