

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – CHAPTER 120
MEMBERSHIP MINUTES – Thursday March 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, Treasurer Roger Anderson, and Secretary Pete Lund. Board of Directors present were Paul Barry, Bob Burgess, Bill Chiodo, Peter Galgano, and Frank Zizzamia. Vice President Phil Morneault was absent and excused.

READING OF THE MINUTES Chapter members read minutes. Paul Barry made motion to accept, seconded by Bob Burgess; motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT Roger Anderson provided copies of account balances report as of 1/28//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 28 February, we have 6 open claims and 41 appeals. Twenty-one (21) of those appeals are at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), with 2 waiting for hearings.

The VA Appeals Modernization Program took effect on February 19. Under the new rules, veterans can choose to appeal using one of three (3) basic options. Veterans appealing under these new rules should ask for advice from a service officer before making a decision.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP – Frank Mello reported that the chapter has a total of 252 VVA members; of which is 19 individual members, 4 permanently hospitalized members, and 229 life members. Frank reported that AVVA has 19 members.

AGENT ORANGE –Gerry Wright discussed Agent Orange with news that Gerry Wright, Paul Scap and Sen. Blumenthat had lots of discussion and Gerry Wright attended to State of Union address in D.C.

Lots of discussion on Gerry's Resolution for Agent Orange. Robert Warner to help with edits before Chapter and State Council approves resolution to be submitted to National has in special format as an example on VVA National Website.

VAVS – No Report

AVVA – Joanne Blum going to Nat'l Convention to represent Region 1.

POW/MIA – No Report. **Need POW chairperson.**

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS –Tim Siggia mentioned several articles such as Burn Pit legislation has been introduced. **SBP/DIC Offset Repeal Bill Introduced Rep. Joe Wilson** (S.C.) has introduced legislation in the House (H.R.553) that would repeal the current VA practice of substituting Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for a surviving spouse's Survivor Benefit Plan when the service member's death is premature and service-connected.

President Trump Signs Veterans Benefits and Transition Act President Trump signed into law the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act (S.2248), sponsored by Sen. Jon Tester (Mont.), ranking member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

Paul Barry had some discussion on Dept. of Veterans Affairs meeting just held. Bill Chiodo had concerns of VVA not being represented.

GOOD AND WELFARE – No report

OLD BUSINESS- No report

NEW BUSINESS –National convention discussed. Due to increased travel expenses discussed at Board meeting, motion made from floor to increase Chapter Monies from \$600.00 to \$800.00 for each delegate. Motion seconded and passed unanimously. Delegates to National Convention (6 if we have 250 members) and Nominating Committee (3). Election will be held April 4th, 2019.


COMMUNITY SERVICE- Memorial Day Parade to be held in South Windsor Memorial Day; assemble at 9:15 Industrial Park off Route 5 and step off at 10:00 A.M. Vietnam Veterans Day to be held at Capital at 1:00 PM March 29, 2019

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

PRODUCT SALES- Leigh Lovering mentioned he has a catalog of product including photos. . 50/50 held with Ted Groenstein's help. He also mentioned of deals on products to be sold after the meeting

ADJOURNMENT- Motion made to adjourn at 8:20. The next Chapter Board meeting is March. 28th and next Chapter meeting is April 4, 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 style with a large initial "P" and "L".

Pete Lund Chapter 120 Secretary