

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – CHAPTER 120**  
**MEMBERSHIP MINUTES – Thursday May 2, 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, and Frank Zizzamia. Board of Director Paul Barry absent and excused.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT** Roger Anderson provided copies of account balances report as of 4/30/2019 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 30 April, we have 4 open claims and 36 appeals. Twenty-one (21) of those appeals are at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA). Concerning the Blue Water Navy court decision on Agent Orange exposure, the Supreme Court has granted the Department of Justice a 30-day extension until late May. The VA Secretary had previously told congress he will NOT recommend appealing the court decision

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**MEMBERSHIP** – Frank 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. Pete Lund mentioned he sent out 16 letters to members who are Chapter members who aren't Life members. 8 members responded; now we will go after some At Large members who are eligible. We need 300 members in Chapter 120 to have 7 delegates at National Convention in Year 2021.

**AGENT ORANGE** –Gerry Wright gave latest update on Agent Orange Bill and discussed possible edits.

**VAVS** – No Report

**AVVA** – No Report; Pattie Dumin reported AVVA lost its Vice President. She also reported that Joanne Blum will be going to National Convention.

**POW/MIA** – No Report. **Need POW chairperson.** Last Rolling Thunder this year at Nation's Capital.

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS** –Tim Siggia mentioned several articles such as Gerry Wright updated with Agent Orange Bill. The Agent Orange Bill has been introduced to the Senate. He also mentioned to shield Disabled Veterans disability from bankruptcy. He also mentioned a subcommittee urges Coast Guard pay during any future shutdown. He also mentioned the Senate has passed a resolution for Military Appreciation Day.

**GOOD AND WELFARE** –National Delegates for Convention delegate would have to as discussed and possibilities for Chapter 120 6<sup>th</sup>. Delegate. It was mentioned that the delegate would have to be approved by Chapter 120 Board of Directors. After much discussion, it was decided that an emergency Board meeting would decide after this meeting. Motion made, seconded and approved. (((After this meeting, Board meeting held; motion made to have Jerry Blum as 6<sup>th</sup>. Delegate. Seconded and approved unanimously with one Board Member Paul Barry absent and excused.))))

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**COMMUNITY SERVICE** - Copy Pasted from Phil Morneault: Thanks Phil!

DAV State Convention at the Cromwell Marriott is this weekend: May 3 - 5.

May 6, 6:00 pm Veteran's Appreciation Luncheon, Manchester Hospital, Lower Level.

May 4, Saturday, 11:00 am to 2 pm; Fisher House dedication, VA West Haven,

May 17th, Friday, 11:00 am, 70th Armed Forces Day luncheon, Aqua Turf Club, Southington, RSVP by May 11th.

May 18, Saturday, Windsor Shad Derby Parade: Form up at the high School at 10:30 am and step off at 11:30.

May 18, Saturday, Armed Forces Day Celebration in South Windsor, Nevers Park on Nevers Road, 5:00 pm till dusk, bring chairs. Booth set up be there at 3:00 pm.

May 24th, CT State Veteran's Memorial Ceremony at State Armory, Noon to 12:45.

May 24th, Newsletter cutoff date.

May 26, 6:00 pm Bi-Centennial Park, East Hartford. Ceremony?? Not sure what is planned but mentioned by Bob Venti

May ?? Poppy Drive by Bob Venti at Stop and Shop in Manchester??

May 27, Monday South Windsor Memorial Day Parade; Assemble at 9:15 at Industrial Park off Route 5, Step off for 10:00 am.

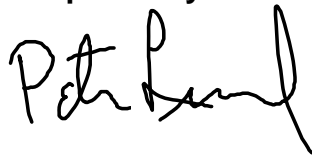
June 8th. Military vehicles Expo at the Chester, CT Fairgrounds.

**NEWSLETTER** – Cutoff for June newsletter articles is 24 May. Email any articles and/or photos to [ctchapter120@aol.com](mailto:ctchapter120@aol.com)

**PRODUCT SALES**- Leigh Levering spoke on available product. Tax exempt paperwork complete.

**ADJOURNMENT**- Motion made to adjourn at 8:20. The next Chapter Board meeting is May 30<sup>th</sup> and next Chapter meeting is June 6, 2019. The next State Council meeting will be held June 2, 2019.

**Respectively submitted by**



Pete Lund  
Chapter 120 Secretary