

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – CHAPTER 120
MEMBERSHIP MINUTES – Thursday June 6, 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, Paul Barry, and Frank Zizzamia.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT Roger Anderson provided copies of account balances report as of 5/31/2019 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 May, we have 7 open claims and 35 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 another 30-day extension from May 28 to June 28.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP – Frank reported that the chapter has a total of 246 VVA members; of which is 10 individual members, 4 permanently hospitalized members, and 232 life members. Frank reported that AVVA has 19 members. Frank Mello thanked Pete Lund to reach out to non-life members and membership about to expire to sign up as life members to get count up beyond 250. Update from National very slow.

AGENT ORANGE – Gerry Wright gave latest update on Agent Orange Bill and discussed possible edits. Lots on this subject will be discussed at VVA Nat'l Convention this summer.

VAVS – No Report; next meeting at West Haven June 13th.

AVVA – No Report

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

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS – Tim Siggia mentioned several articles such as Gold Star Family tax relief program, Joint Hearing on military and veterans' suicide. In addition, Navy Chief and Joint chief of staff are confirmed.

GOOD AND WELFARE – Paul Barry mentioned that any Delegates to National Convention who accepted monies and is a no show is expected that they would reimburse the Chapter. Long hours and participation expected for Convention; Main subject to be "How the Lights will be turned off."

NEW BUSINESS –Stand-down discussed; Paul Barry made motion for Chapter to contribute \$500.00 for this event Sept. 20th; Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY SERVICE- Chapter participated in following:

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,

May 24 th, CT State Veteran's Memorial Ceremony at State Armory,

May 26, 6:00 pm Bi-Centennial Park, East Hartford. Ceremony

May 26 Poppy Drive by Bob Venti at Stop and Shop in Manchester

May 27, Monday South Windsor Memorial Day Parade; A. Paul Barry had high grade remarks for this event; top shelf by Town of South Windsor.

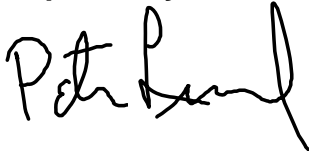
Chapter members Bob Burgess and Roger Anderson participated in Boy Scout troop 105 rededication of Vietnam Memorial in Hartford May 27th. Chapter has helped Boy Scout troop all these years. Bob Burgess and Bill Chiodo were in original photo 30 years ago.

NEWSLETTER – Cutoff for July/August newsletter articles is 12 July. Email any articles and/or photos to ctchapter120@aol.com

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

ADJOURNMENT- Motion made to adjourn at 8:15. The next Chapter Board meeting is Aug 29th and next Chapter meeting is Sept. 5, 2019. The next State Council meeting will be held Sept. 15, 2019.

Respectively submitted by



Pete Lund
Chapter 120 Secretary