

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – CHAPTER 120
MEMBERSHIP MINUTES – Thursday Jan 2, 2020

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by President Phil Morneault 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 Phil Morneault Vice 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.

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

TREASURER’S REPORT Roger Anderson provided copies of account balances report as of 12/31/19 and the transaction report for this period. He reviewed the income and expense items on the transaction report. President Phil Morneault thanked Roger for his report.

Appreciation Award for year 2019 awarded to Leigh Lovering right after Treasurer Report. The Chapter Appreciation Award was given to Leigh Lovering, who has rejuvenated our product sales program. Additionally, Leigh has contributed many hours of volunteer work for the Chapter. (Copy pasted from Jan. 2020 Newsletter Thank you John.)

SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT – As of 31 December, we have 8 open claims (including 2 Blue Water Navy claims) and 27 appeals. Twenty-one (21) of those appeals are at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) level waiting decisions. For Calendar Year 2019, we won \$526,000 for our vets, with a Return on Investment of 226 (meaning for every dollar we spent on our program, we won \$226 for veterans).

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP – Frank reported that the Chapter has a total of 248 VVA members; of which is 10 individual members, 4 permanently hospitalized members, and 234 life members. Frank reported that AVVA has 18 members.

AGENT ORANGE –NO REPORT Some discussion of latest claims submitted. Already VA denials returned from recent Blue Water claims and the 4 additional diseases discussed with fact of hold up by White House Chief of Staff Mulvaney.

VAVS – NO REPORT

AVVA – NO REPORT

POW/MIA – NO REPORT **Need POW chairperson.**

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS – NO REPORT There was a discussion of Chapter members to refrain endorsing any political candidate while wearing patches, shirts or jackets signifying VVA. Taboo. “The federal tax code is very clear in this regard, and any implication of improper activities could cause us to lose our tax exemption and not-for-profit status. As long as no VVA endorsement of a

political candidate is given or implied, individual VVA members are encouraged to participate in the political process. As private citizens, we have every right to do so," said VVA President Rowan.

GOOD AND WELFARE – NO REPORT

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS –Bob Venti brought up an idea of participation of flags for color guard with a local veteran's council. To be discussed later once he has more info.

COMMUNITY SERVICE- Chapter volunteered help to 200 coats given by Ocean Job Lot. Chapter participated for gifts to be given to 3 families picked by Hartford Vet-Center. Chapter also distributed approx. 126 coats to 4 local communities as done in past. Chapter held a gathering at Col. Gates Cemetery at Rocky Hill to honor a Marine Tom Blanchard, youngest Ct. Veteran to die in Vietnam. Chapter presented a Yule Log for grave been doing this for years.at Col. Gates Cemetery at Rocky Hill to honor a Marine Tom Blanchard, youngest Ct. Veteran to die in Vietnam. Chapter has been doing this for years. Chapter members also attended several Wreaths across America events thru out State.

Member of the Year Copied from Newsletter: Member of the Year was awarded to an anonymous Chapter Life member who has donated \$200 to the Chapter each month for the past 30 years. The money donated to the Chapter has assisted our programs for veterans, including our Helping Hands for Fellow Veterans.

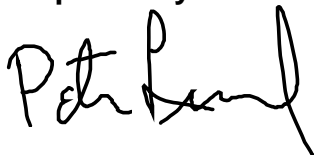
Dance held Sat Dec. 7th A success; good time by all. Lots of the food. A thank you to all who contributed to raffle gifts and overall to the dance.

NEWSLETTER – Cutoff for February newsletter articles is 24 January. Email any articles and/or photos to ctchapter120@aol.com

PRODUCT SALES- Leigh Lovering showed several articles of Products such as hats, jackets and sweatshirts; he even modelled the latest warm sweatshirt.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion made to adjourn at 8:05. motion seconded and approved. The Next Board meeting is Jan 30th; next Chapter meeting is Feb. 6th; next State Council meeting will be held Jan 19, 2020 Chapter removed decorations from hall.

Respectively submitted by



Pete Lund
Chapter 120 Secretary