

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – CHAPTER 120**  
**MEMBERSHIP MINUTES – Thursday July 1, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by President Bob Burgess 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 Bob Burgess, Vice President/Treasurer Phil Morneault, Secretary Pete Lund; Board of Directors present were Paul Barry, Peter Galgano, and Frank Zizzamia, and Roger Anderson.

**READING OF THE MINUTES** Chapter members read minutes. Ken Lewis made motion to accept minutes as written, seconded by Paul Barry; motion passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** Phil Morneault provided copies of account balances report as of 6-30-2021 and the transaction report for this period.

**SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT – N**

As of 30 June, we have 12 open claims and 19 appeals:

- Of the 12 open claims, 9 are waiting Compensation & Pension exams. These exams, all VA-contracted exams, are being delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions and the lack of contractor physicians qualified for the specific exams requested.
- Of the 19 appeals, 8 are at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), 1 remanded to the Regional Office for further action, and 10 waiting VVA attorney review.
- After 9 long years of appeals, one of our veteran clients has been granted service connection. The veteran received a retroactive payment of over \$118,000 and will receive \$1,016 per month in compensation.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**MEMBERSHIP** –No Report. John Siemer would like or transfer his membership to Ct. Chapter 120. He used to be a long time member of 120 before he transferred to Florida

**AGENT ORANGE** –Gerry Wright gave Chapter an update of the Agent Orange Memorial to be held in Andover Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 6:00 P.M. He also mentioned of a chopper to be done as a display and Buy A Brick Program. Ct Chapter participated in Dedication will be held at 1800 hour with refreshments etc.

Bill in State to name a road in vicinity of monument AGENT ORANGE WAY.

**VAVS** – NO REPORT

**AVVA** – NO REPORT

**POW/MIA** – – NO REPORT Phil Morneault mentioned 1585 MIA from Vietnam War.

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS** – Tim Siggia had mentioned on several items such as Sexual Assaults. Issues being done inside Chain of Command

President Biden nominates Del Toro as Sec of Navy; his appt requires Senate Confirmation

There is a bill to allow retirees to get rid of 180 day wait before accepting a job for Dept of Defense.

**GOOD AND WELFARE – NO REPORT**

**OLD BUSINESS** None

**NEW BUSINESS** –Craig Jordan, a Chapter 120 member gave an update to chapter to participate in a scholarship program at Goodwin College called CONNECTICUT VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 120 FOUNDATION. Chapter initially be starting out with \$3,000.00; \$1,000.00 a year for 3 years. It will be a great donation that Chapter has started.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE-** Numerous events mentioned by Bob Venti including update of Afghan withdrawal.

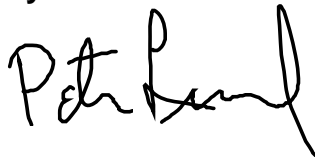
**NEWSLETTER** – Cutoff for July/August newsletter articles is 9 July. Email any articles and/or photos to [ctchapter120@aol.com](mailto:ctchapter120@aol.com)

**PRODUCT SALES-** NO REPORT

**ADJOURNMENT-** Motion made to adjourn at 8:10. Motion seconded and approved. The Next Board meeting is July 29, 2021 next Chapter meeting is Aug. 5, 2021; next State Council meeting will be held Sept. 19, 2021

**Respectively submitted July 28, 2021**

by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Lund". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pete Lund  
Chapter 120 Secretary