

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – CHAPTER 120
MEMBERSHIP MINUTES – Thursday Sept. 2, 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; Board of Directors present were Roger Anderson, Paul Barry, Peter Galgano, Leigh Lovering, Frank Zizzamia. Secretary Pete Lund was absent and excused

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

TREASURER’S REPORT Phil Morneault provided copies of account balances report as of 8-25-2021 and the transaction report for this period.

SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT – As of 31 August, we have 15 open claims and 18 appeals:

- Of the 15 open claims, 5 are waiting Nehmer review for the 3 new Agent Orange presumptive conditions (bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism). The Nehmer court case requires VA to readjudicate previously denied claims that are related to presumptive diseases caused by Agent Orange exposure. Veterans and their families may receive disability and death benefits, retroactive to the date VA received the original claim.
- Of the 18 appeals, 11 are at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), 1 remanded to the Regional Office for further action, and 6 waiting VVA attorney review and submittal of attorney briefs.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP –No Report

AGENT ORANGE – NO REPORT

VAVS – NO REPORT

AVVA – NO REPORT

POW/MIA – – Mary Beaulieu provided John Cutler and Pete Lund report; Pete Lund read e-mail report as follows: “Don't know if there is a meeting this Thursday - if so I will not be able to attend - as for a POW report - the only and best thing happening is that there has been MASSIVE returns of remains from the Korean War and WWII - Covid has restricted a lot of recovery efforts but things are starting to begin again - still missing from Vietnam are 1,584 patriots!!”

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS – Tim Siggia reported on several subjects such as

Leaders of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform urged the National Archives this week to digitize its records to help with a large backlog of records requests from veterans who need personnel information to secure government benefits.

HASC-MP Approves FY2022 NDAA

The House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee marked up its portion of the House version of the FY2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-H.R.4350). Key provisions in the subcommittee markup include:

- No new TRICRE fee increases;
- Prohibiting any reduction or realignment of military medical staff at Military Treatment Facilities (MTF);
- Providing an annual active duty pay increase that keeps pace with civilian pay increases (2.7 percent)

Veterans Affairs faces a deadline to implement to its GI Bill.

The Senate Armed Services Committee's proposed 2022 defense policy bill contains a provision that would require women to register for the draft, officially known as the Selective Service System.

Female Vets in Congress Decry Proposal to Disband Pentagon's Advisory Panel on Women

GOOD AND WELFARE – NO REPORT

OLD BUSINESS 1st scholarship from VVA Chapter 120 given to a female veteran at Goodwin College invited to attend xmas party. Paul Barry talked about requirements; Chapter will consider a larger amount if it goes well.

Chapter Board approved \$1,500 for children winter coats to be given out to local communities. Xmas dance party at Union Hall Dec. 4, 2021. Kathy Lechause asked about letter to be sent out for this event. A discussion on refund on requests if cancelled. Discussion on can we do a Raffle on line?

NEW BUSINESS –None

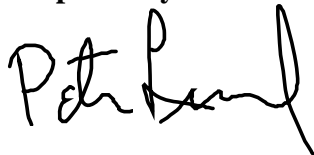
COMMUNITY SERVICE- Goodwin College providing a 9-11 Ceremony to commemorate lives lost due to attacks on United States 9-11-01. To be conducted Sat. 9-11-21 at 10 A.M.

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

PRODUCT SALES- NO REPORT

ADJOURNMENT- Motion made to adjourn at 8:04. Motion seconded and approved. The Next Board meeting is Sept. 30, 2021; next Chapter meeting is Oct. 7, 2021; next State Council meeting will be held Sept. 19, 2021

Respectively submitted Sept. 2, 2021 by



Pete Lund
Chapter 120 Secretary