

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

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 12-2-2021 and the transaction report for this period.

Service Rep Report

John Cutler reported in email as follows: As of 30 November, we have 13 open claims and 14 appeals:

- Of the 13 open claims, 4 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 14 appeals, 6 are at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), 7 waiting VVA attorney review and submittal of attorney briefs, and 1 remanded to the Regional Office for further adjudication.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP – November 2021 rosters were emailed to the State Council on 15 December 2021. Total membership stands at 682, an increase of one member as compared to the previous month. Chapter membership is 239.

AGENT ORANGE – Gerry Wright gave Chapter a report on Bill 332; not even look at it until Spring.

VAVS – No report.

AVVA – No report.

POW/MIA – Mary Beaulieu sent an email to chapter a report as follows: COVID RESTRICTIONS STILL LIMITING RECOVERY OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA

THERE IS A BOOK TITLED "A LEGACY OF CHAINS" WHICH HAS 6 STORIES - ONE OF THEM IS A STORY ABOUT OUR POWS - HANOI DID ADMIT THAT THERE WERE STILL HUNDREDS OF MEN BEING HELD ALIVE BUT WANTED MONETARY COMPENSATION BEFORE THEY WOULD RELEASE ANY OF THEM - WASHINGTON DC SAID NO - AND HANOI SAID NO ONE WOULD BE RELEASED. I DO REMEMBER HEARING THIS DURING MY 35 YEARS OF WORKING THIS ISSUE - WAS MOSTLY ABOUT WASHINGTON DC (JOHN KERRY & JOHN McCAIN A FORMER POW

HIMSELF) GETTING CAUGHT IN A LIE THAT ALL POWS WERE RELEASED!! JOHN McCAIN KNEW OTHER POWS WERE STILL BEING HELD WHEN HE WAS ONE OF THE CHOSEN TO BE RELEASED BUT DENIED THAT HE SAW ANYONE

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS – Tim Signia reported out he would have a report out at next meeting.

GOOD AND WELFARE – Frank Zizzamia reported out Paul Barry to be inducted into Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame Dec. 3, 2021 at the Armory. Congrats Paul! Paul Barry spoke on this and gave a thanks to Chapter members; he mentioned he couldn't have done it alone.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS –Leigh Lovering made motion Chapter to provide (2) Gift cards as door prizes for upcoming Dance Dec. 4th; Paul Barry seconded and unanimously approved. Paul Barry made a motion for Chapter to provide Bob Burgess and additional \$240.43 for purchase of coats to be disbursed to communities. Roger Anderson seconded and unanimously approved. Chapter Board members to distribute after New Year.

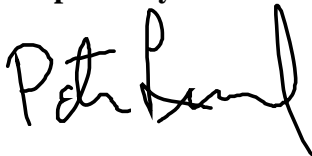
COMMUNITY SERVICE- Craig Jordan has mentioned Goodwin College will participate at EH Memorial Day Parade that Chapter will also participate on Monday May 30, 2022. Manchester Parade stepped off at 10:30 Nov. 11, 2021 at American Legion on Legion with event held at Manchester Hospital; Craig Jordan as spokesperson for the event. Frank Zizzamia reported out Missing Man Table held at Rocky Hill Auditorium at 3:30. Manchester Road Race held this year.

NEWSLETTER Cutoff for January newsletter articles is 17 December. Email any articles and/or photos to ctchapter120@aol.com

PRODUCT SALES- Leigh Lovering mentioned he would provide a new price list of product that Chapter members would be able to purchase.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion made to adjourn at 8:04. Motion seconded and approved. The Next Board meeting is Dec. 30, 2021; next Chapter meeting is Jan 6, 2022; next State Council meeting will be held Nov. 21, 2021

Respectively submitted Dec. 6, 2021 by



Pete Lund
Chapter 120 Secretary