Vietnam Veterans of America

Virginia State Council

Meeting Minutes
27 June 2015
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Jim Blount called the meeting to order with due form and ceremony at 9:00 AM in the Harrisonburg Fire and Rescue Building, Harrisonburg, VA. All VSC officers except Charlie Montgomery were present. Jim assigned Tim Vail as the parliamentarian. George Corbett conducted a roll call of the delegates as follows:

VVA #48: Jay Gill
VVA #78: Coreen Broomfield, Jack Dresch
VVA #81: Tim Vail
VVA #196: David Stokes, Robert Crowder, Freddy Pleasant
VVA #227: Len Ignatowski
VVA #433: None
VVA #614: None
VVA #617: Gordon Tassi
VVA #710: Franks Sayers, Bill Edwards,
VVA #752: Sam Thompson, Chuck Yeager
VVA #806: John Listman
VVA #840: Cary Ford
VVA #936: Kenn Sadler, Ray Powell, Tom Coleman
VVA #957: Tom Monahan
VVA #969: Robert Fulcher
VVA #1019: Ron Hafey, Jim Venable
VVA #1042: Mel Swartzstein
VVA #1061: Tom Snook, Jerry O’Hara, Tom Pfaff
At Large: None

The agenda was accepted without objection. Jerry O'Hara, President of VVA #1061, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced the president of the Harrisonburg Chamber of Commerce, who welcomed the group to Harrisonburg. A motion was made, seconded and passed to suspend with the reading of the VSC March 2015 meeting minutes.

Committee Reports

Finance: Terry Haskins reported there were no requests for grants this period. Edith Dresch went over the current VSC financial status with the delegates for the 1st Qtr, FY 2016.
Veteran’s Incarcerated: No report.
Veteran's Benefits: No report.
Government Affairs: George Corbett reported on the various pieces of veteran related information received from the VVA National Office and other sources. He noted that this would be good material for chapter newsletters.
Minority Affairs: No report.

POW/MIA/Veterans Initiative: Jay Gill reported noted a new website, the DPAAA site www.dpaaa.mil. The organization has a new director, a retired US Army LTG.

Community Services: George Corbett reported on the many projects and programs by VVA chapters in Virginia. He noted the VSC website, www.vva-vasc.org, and its multi-faceted approach to providing information on the VVA chapters and the VSC. He noted that he and the VSC officers are using this forum as their main communications outlet and encouraged delegates and chapters to check this site on a regular basis.

Agent Orange (AO): Jim Blount noted several bills before the US Congress regarding AO issues. He noted the VSC Town Hall at the Lynchburg VSC meeting in 2014.

Constitution/By-Laws: Jim Blount reported that the proposed VVA National Constitution changes and Resolutions to be presented at the 2015 VVA National Convention will be discussed later in the meeting.

Membership: Jim Blount reported that VVA membership in Virginia is at 2013 members and AVVA membership in Virginia is at 262 members.

Economic Opportunities: Jim Blount noted that the VSC needs someone to chair this committee.

Public Affairs: Jim Blount noted that the VSC needs someone to chair this committee.

Fund-raising: William Piercy reported several items for sale at his Sgt-At-Arms desk in the rear of the room.

Veteran’s Affairs: Gordon Tassi reported that Prince William county is willing to cede land for the construction of a Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center.

Regional Liaison: Jim Blount reported that there were no issues this report period.

Women Veterans: No report.

Homeless Veterans: No report.

AVVA Representative: Linda Fulcher reported on Virginia AVVA delegates to the 2105 VVA/AVVA National Convention in Springfield, IL.

Joint Leadership Council (JLC): George Corbett reported that the JLC met on 20 May 2015 to review the JLC legislative initiatives considered by the 2015 Virginia General Assembly and their status. The JLC will meet on 15 July 2015 in the Virginia War Memorial Freedom Hall to solidify and prioritize the JLC legislative initiatives for the 2016 Virginia General Assembly session. He noted that Charlie Montgomery will become the VVA Primary Representative to the JLC effective 1 July 2015. He has been designated as the Alternate Representative for the VVA at the JLC.

VAVS: George Corbett reported that VVA #78 VAVS representatives continue their support at the McGuire VA Medical Center. He urged chapters contact a nearby VA medical facility to get involved with the VAVS program. Coreen Broomfield, VVA #78, reported on several projects around the Commonwealth involving women veterans.

Unfinished Business

Jim Blount reported on the 2015 VVA Region 3 Conference.

Edith Dresch spoke on the Household Good Donation Program. She noted a reduction in the amount of monies received under this program by the VVA National Office.

George Corbett spoke on updating the VSC Telephone/Address Directory. Only a few chapters have provided him with their updates.

Jim Blount spoke on the 2015 VVA National Convention. He reiterated the need to ensure chapters and state councils getting their financial and elections reports in to the national office prior to the national
convention in order for their delegates to be credentialed at the convention.

Jim Blount discussed the annual camp out at Rockahock Campground on 7-9 August 2015. The campground is located on US Rt #60 east of Richmond near Lenexa, VA.

Jim Blount spoke on the VSC Scholarship Program. He urged members to submit entries for the great program.

**New Business**

Jim Blount noted the VVA Region 3 Director's report and read pertinent excerpts from it.

Jim Blount noted that the Sons and Daughters In Touch is in need of financial support.

Jim Blount noted the following VSC meeting dates for 2016: 25-27 March, 24-26 June, 22-24 October. One delegate noted the March 2016 date was Good Friday/Easter Sunday weekend. Jim asked for chapters to consider hosting the VSC in 2016.

Sam Thompson made a motion that the VSC consider making a donation to the In Memory Plaque project to raise it above ground and to support the Sons and Daughters in Touch organization. The motion was accepted without objection. Jim Blount noted that any requests for VSC monetary support must be brought before the VSC Finance Committee for discussion.

Jim Blount went over the proposed resolutions and proposed constitutional changes for the 2015 VVA National Convention.

**Announcements**

The next VSC meeting will be held in Williamsburg, VA 16-18 October 2015. Tom Monahan, President of VVA chapter # 957, noted that the lodging for this meeting will be in the Quality Inn and Suites, 5351 Richmond Road (US Rt #60), Williamsburg, VA. The hotel phone number is (757) 645-3636. Room cost is $62.00 per night (Includes a hot breakfast). Please make your reservations by 15 September 2015. The hotel is located next door to the Captain George's Seafood Buffet restaurant.

Coreen Broomfield, VVA #78, spoke on filing claims with the VA as well as several veteran benefits. She is a certified claims officer.

Several delegates held a lively discussion regarding the VA Choice Card Program and it's ramifications.

VVA #1061 held a 50/50 raffle and a Chinese style auction of donations items to raise monies for the chapter's programs.

Jim adjourned the meeting at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Corbett
Secretary
VVA Virginia State Council