

PENDING APPROVAL

Vietnam Veterans of America Virginia State Council

Meeting Minutes
5 December 2009
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Charlie Montgomery called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM in the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, Virginia Beach, VA. All VSC officers were present. Pastor Dean Woodward gave the devotional. Charlie requested a moment of silence for our missing and fallen comrades. Larry Burger's daughter sang the National Anthem. William Piercy led the delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ray Zumpol presented an honorary membership in the VVA #48 to Pastor Woodward.

Charlie assigned Jim Blount as the parliamentarian. George Corbett conducted a roll call of the delegates as follows:

VVA #48: Larry Burger, Steve Newsom, Ray Zumpol
VVA #78: Bernie Lenart
VVA #81: Doug Burnette, Tim Vail, Fred Fralin
VVA #196: Larry Bachman
VVA #227: Len Ignatowski, Paul Stancliff, Jonathan Olson
VVA #433: None
VVA #599: None
VVA #614: Tom Riley, Eddie Wilson, Carlton Byrd, Robert Hendrick
VVA #617: Darrel Harvey
VVA #627: Alfred Lynch, Lewis Hawthorne
VVA #682: None (Excused)
VVA #710: Bill Edwards, Roger Stevens, Frank Sayers
VVA #752: Bootie Smith
VVA #806: Jim Hogg, Willie Crawley
VVA #840: John Foster
VVA #917: John Quigly
VVA #936: None
VVA #957: Mike Patterson
VVA #969: Leon Hickey, Bob Cowan, Bob Fulcher
VVA #1019: Arnie Eversen, Wayne Graham, Ken Watts
At-Large: Dr. David Smeltz

George Corbett motioned to accept the agenda; Bernie Lenart seconded; motion passed. Al Lynch motioned to suspend with the reading of the VSC September 2009 meeting minutes; Paul Stancliff seconded; motion passed. Steve Newsome, President, VVA #48, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted the Holiday Party later in the evening at the American Legion Post off of Tidewater Trail in Norfolk. The party starts at 7:00 PM. There will be a bus to carry folks to the party. It will leave for the party at 6:30 PM and

return at 11:00 PM. Charlie introduced Mayor Will Sessoms of Virginia Beach, VA. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for their service. Steve Newsom presented him with a plaque for in appreciation for his support to veterans. Larry Burger introduced Kurt Welch, Executive Director of the Judeo-Christian Outreach center. Mr. Welch spoke on the veteran's volunteer service at the center. Nancy Montgomery noted that the AVVA would be meeting later that morning in the conference room next to the VSC Conference room. Charlie Montgomery noted that the hotel would be providing a hot buffet lunch for \$10.00. He called for a 10-minute break before the committee reports. Charlie then moved to presentation of the VSC committee reports.

Committee Reports

Finance: Edith Dresch went over the VSC financial status for the 3rd Qtr, FY 2009. All looks good. Terry Haskins noted that there were four requests for monies from the VSC. He noted a request from VVA #81 for \$300 in matching funds to support a Holiday Program at the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Salem, VA. He noted a request from VVA #627 for \$200, which the committee amended to \$300, to support their Holiday Program with several nursing homes in the Emporia area. He noted a request from VVA #957 for \$700, which the committee adjusted to \$350. This adjustment was due to their request to pay dues to an organization that the committee felt was not in order. He noted a request from VVA #969 for \$200 to support a Holiday Support Program. The delegates approved these recommended grants. Terry Haskins noted that the committee recommended \$200 to each of the four VET Centers in Virginia. Len Ignatowski and Charlie Montgomery noted that the VET Centers did not have control over any donations in some areas. Discussion ensued and a suggestion was made to send the money to the local VVA chapter with the stipulation that the money be earmarked for the VET Centers. The committee motion was amended to reflect this suggestion. This motion, as amended, was approved by the delegate.

Incarcerated Veterans: 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 a list of Governor-Elect Bob McDonnell's veterans concerns that he received the Virginia Department of Veteran's Services. He noted that many of the concerns mirrored the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) 2010 Legislative Priorities.

Minority Affairs: No report.

POW/MIA/Veterans Initiative: Charlie Montgomery noted the passing of Mark Campbell and asked if anyone would take on the duties. Dr. David Smeltz volunteered to be the committee chair.

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): No report.

Veteran's Initiative: No report.

Constitution/By-Laws: Jim Blount

Membership: Charlie Montgomery reported on a chapter survey from the VVA National Office to update their records. He also noted the move of the VVA National Office this coming weekend.

Economic Opportunities: Larry Burger reported

Public Affairs: Terry Steer reported on two fundraising activities using a Vietnam print from VVA #78 and the "I Support The Troops" red shirts program. VVA #78 will make these two fundraising programs available to other VVA chapters in Virginia upon request.

Fund Raising: Jim Blount talked

Veteran's Affairs: Terry Haskins reported

Regional Liaison: Charlie noted everything seemed OK. There is one issue that will be discussed by the VSC Executive Board.

Women Veterans: No report.

Homeless Veterans: Dr. David Smeltz reported on the millions of homeless veterans in the USA. He reported on the plight of the homeless Vietnam veterans and the mortality rate among Vietnam veterans. He reported that alcohol, smoking, and the lack of exercise are leading causes of death among Vietnam veterans. It is estimated at the rate of deaths among Vietnam veterans, by 2015, there won't be many of them left.

AVVA Representative: Nancy Montgomery reported

VAVS: George Corbett reported on the recent Veterans Day ceremony at the Richmond VAMC and the upcoming Homeless Veteran Stand-down scheduled for 16 December at the center. He encouraged chapters in the Roanoke-Salem area and the Tidewater area to become certified as VVA VAWS representatives. He explained the process for VAWS certification. Charlie Montgomery reiterated this effort.

Joint Leadership Council (JLC): George Corbett reported on the 2010 JLC Legislative Priorities that will be presented to the Virginia Legislature. There will be a meeting on 22 December to align the priorities with the governor's newly published budget. The JLC representatives will meet with lawmakers on 18 January in Richmond to advocate for these priorities.

Nominating: Charlie nominated Sam Thompson, Roger Stevens and Ellis "Bootie" Smith to this committee. Sam will chair the committee. They will accept nominations for all VSC offices. The VSC elections will be held in June 2010.

Unfinished Business

Edith Dresch noted that she will be handing out Household Goods Donation Program (HGDP) checks today and the next HGDP report will be due 15 March 2010.

New Business

Charlie Montgomery noted that the VSC 2010 calendar needs to be set at this meeting. The following dates

6 February – VSC 2010 Budget Meeting in Richmond (DAV #50 Building).

19 - 21 March – Roanoke, VA with VVA Chapter #81 Hosting.

6-9 May – Region 3 Conference in Lexington, KY.
19 June – VVA Chapter #78 (Meeting in DAV #50 Building).
16-18 July – VSC Campout at Lake Sherando, VA.
9-15 August – VVA Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL.
18 September – Chapter #78 (Meeting in DAV #50 Building).
3-5 December – VVA #969 in Virginia Beach at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort.

Charlie Montgomery discussed the upcoming VVA Service Representative Training Program. Ron Hafey and Ken Watts, VVA #1019, and John Foster, VVA #840, have indicated they would like to attend this training. The training will be held 8-12 February 2010 in the Crown Plaza Hotel, Silver Spring, MD.

Announcements

Larry Burger reiterated the Holiday Party at the American Legion of off Tidewater Drive in Norfolk, VA.

Charlie adjourned the meeting at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Corbett
Recording Secretary
VVA Virginia State Council

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