

PENDING APPROVAL
Vietnam Veterans of America
Virginia State Council

Meeting Minutes
3 December 2011
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Charlie Montgomery called the meeting to order with due form and ceremony at 9:00 AM. All VSC officers were present. Laura Burger sang the National Anthem. Charlie assigned Jim Blount as the parliamentarian. George Corbett conducted a roll call of the delegates as follows:

VVA #48: Steve Newsom, Ted Van Horn
VVA #78: Bernie Lenart
VVA #81: Doug Burnette, Fred Fralin
VVA #196: David Stokes, Larry Bauchman, Gary Witt
VVA #227: Len Ignatowski, Byron Sheldon
VVA #433: None
VVA #614: Tom Riley, Carlton Byrd, Robert hendricks
VVA #617: Gordon Tassi, Darrel Harvey,
VVA #627: Lewis Hawthorne, Al Lynch
VVA #682: LeRoi Mason
VVA #710: Roger Stevens, Frank Sayers, Bill Edwards
VVA #752: Sam Thompson, Bootie Smith
VVA #806: Jim Hogg
VVA #840: Harold Hughes, Cary Ford
VVA #917: None
VVA #936: Kenn Sadler, Ray Powell
VVA #957: Mike Patterson, Bill West
VVA #969: Leon Hickey, Bob Fulcher
VVA #1019: None

The agenda was accepted without objection. Charlie Montgomery, VVA Virginia State Council President, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked VVA #48 for assisting the VSC in organizing this meeting. Ted Van Horn, President, VVA #48, welcomed everyone to Virginia Beach, VA. He noted the Chapter Christmas Party at the local American Legion hall. The party starts at 7 PM. Charlie turned the meeting over to Nancy Montgomery who conducted a memorial service in memory of Harry Hittle, AVVA member, VVA #617. Charlie introduced Ms. Martha Consolvo, an advocate for POW/MIA issues, who spoke to the attendees. Ms. Consolvo lost her son, USMC Capt. John Consolvo, in Vietnam and is a Gold Star Mother. A motion was made, seconded and passed to suspend with the reading of the VSC September 2011 meeting minutes.

Committee Reports

Finance: Larry Burger provided the quarterly VSC financial report. Terry Haskins reported one request for a grant of \$400 from VVA #81 to support several holiday venues. The attendees approved this request. A motion was made and properly seconded to donate \$250 to each of the five veteran's centers in Virginia. The motion passed.

Incarcerated Veterans: Leroi Mason, VVA #682, reported on a VVA chapter start up at the Green Rock Correctional Facility. He also noted that a correctional facility in the Tidewater area has been cleared to establish a veterans support group. He has been cleared to go into correctional facilities to provide advice and assistance to incarcerated veterans. He noted that the Virginia Department of Corrections Senior Staff has been supportive of VVA efforts to reach out to these veterans.

Veteran's Benefits: Frank Sayers reported on an increase in COLA of 3.6% beginning 1 January 2012 for military retirees.

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: No report.

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.

Constitution/By-Laws: Jim Blount reported that any changes to the VSC Constitution/Bylaws are done at the VSC biennial convention. The next convention is scheduled for June 2012.

Membership: Charlie Montgomery reported that the total VVA membership in Virginia is approaching 2000 members. He also noted that a new chapter would be established in Abington, VA. They will be VVA Chapter #1042. He also noted another chapter forming near Harrisonburg, VA. He noted that VVA #599 is now defunct due to noncompliance with VVA rules regarding the submission of mandatory reports for several years. Charlie discussed the upcoming revised VVA Membership Directory. Sam Thompson will get with VVA #227 to contact VVA At-Large members in their area to see if they would like to join VVA #227.

Economic Opportunities: No report.

Public Affairs: Terry Steer reported on an article in a recent issue of the Parade magazine on Tom Corey, Past President of the VVA.

Fundraising: Terry Steer spoke on designing a VSC coin to be used as a fundraising venue. He showed several designs for the group's consideration. The estimated cost of the coins is \$3.00 each and could be sold for \$5.00 each. He asked the attendees to review each design and then vote for their choice of design. After some discussion, the attendees decided on a combined design incorporating a Huey helicopter and the outline of Virginia with the Virginia State Seal.

Veteran's Affairs: No report.

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

Women Veterans: Karen Dempsey introduced herself as the new committee chair. She read a letter from Sarah McVicker, VVA Region 3 Director. She noted the increase in women veterans in the country.

Homeless Veterans: No report.

AVVA Representative: Nancy Montgomery

VAVS: George Corbett reported that the VVA VAVS for the McGuire VA Medical Center Veterans Day activities and will provide support to the upcoming Homeless Veterans Stand-down on 14 December 2011. The VVA VAVS office at the McGuire VA Medical Center continues to provide advice and assistance to veterans in the VA medical center. He urged chapters near a VA Medical Center who wish to get into this program to contact the him and he will advise them on how to become a VVA VAVS representative.

Joint Leadership Council (JLC): George Corbett reported on the JLC and Board of Veterans Services (BVS) working together to advocate for legislative initiatives before the 2012 session of the Virginia General Assembly. He provided a list of both the JLC and BVS 2011-2012 initiatives to the attendees. The VVA has been assigned a legislative objective, Improvement of the delivery of Veterans Services, to advocate for before our elected officials in the Virginia General Assembly. He provided a paper with information on this objective to the attendees.

Unfinished Business

Charlie Montgomery reported on the recent VVA National Board of Directors meeting held 7-8 October 2011 in Silver Spring, MD. He noted the dedication of a meeting room at the VVA HQ's to the late George C. Duggins.

George Corbett reminded chapters that he needs their updated information to update the VSC Telephone/Address Directory.

Charlie discussed the Household Goods Donation Program. The chapters that participate in this program will receive a proceeds check at the end of this meeting. He mentioned the use of collection boxes to increase collection of goods.

Charlie reiterated the VSC 2012 meeting schedule. He noted that the VSC Budget Committee would meet in Richmond, VA on 4 February to establish the VSC 2012-2013 budget for the VSC approval at the March 2012 meeting. The September 2012 VSC meeting has been changed to 28-30 September on the Eastern Shore. VVA Chapter #614 will host this meeting.

New Business

Charlie Montgomery reported on several issues at the VVA National Office (Membership computer problems, Elimination of the Mike Nash Golf Tournament, and the Updated VVA Membership Directory).

Charlie reiterated the VVA and VSC reporting timeframes. VSC report deadline is 1 June each year and the VVA National Office report deadline is 15 July each year.

Charlie appointed Sam Thompson as the VSC Nominating Committee chairman. Sam will appoint several other VVA members to the committee.

Sam Thompson suggested recognizing Lou James' long history of assistance to VVA and the VSC on the VSC website.

Kenn Sadler spoke on Virginia Day at the VAMC Martinsburg, WV. He will provide more information as he receives it.

Announcements

The next VSC meeting will be held in Lynchburg, VA 9-11 March 2012. VVA Chapter #196 will host the meeting. David Stokes noted two lodging venues, the Wingate and the Days Inn near the River Ridge Mall. The Wingate cost \$94.99 + tax per night and the Days Inn cost \$49.95 + tax per night. The Wingate phone number is (434) 845-1700 and the Days Inn phone number is (434) 847-8655. The actual meeting will take place at American Legion Post #16, five miles from the lodging site.

Charlie adjourned the meeting at 2:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Corbett
Recording Secretary
VVA Virginia State Council