

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2015

Sunnyvale Moose Lodge
905 Kifer Road, Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Attendees:

David Ackerman (USMC) { Guest}
Gerald Arnold (USA) { Guest}
Charles Barber (USN)
Michael Berliner (USA)
Gene Fanucchi (USA)
Dennis Foggie (USAF)
Barbara Johnston (USA)
Robert Johnston (USA)
Robert Kadlec (USAF)
Donald MacDougall (USA)
James Maderios (USA)
Randy Richmond (USA)
David Sanders (USAF)
Richard Segovia (USA) {CSC Guest}
Randy Sessler (USA) { Guest}
John Turner (USA) { Guest}
Reuben Willhite (USMC)

I. The meeting was called to order by President Robert Johnston at 1210 hours at the Sunnyvale Moose Lodge. CSC Central District Director Richard Segovia led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Johnston called for a moment of silence in respect for our MIAs, POWs, KIA and our Brothers and Sisters with health issues or are in dire straights.

II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:

President - Robert Johnston
Vice President - Donald MacDougall
Secretary/Treasurer - Barbara Johnston
1-year Board Member - Randy Richmond
2-year Board Member - Vacant
3-year Board Member - Walter Dillard (Absent)

III. Membership Status:

Secretary Barbara Johnston reported that the current Chapter membership stands at 64 plus 5 new applicants for a total of 69 members.

IV. Guests:

CSC Central District Director Richard Segovia

V. Correspondence:

- Letter from the National Office -- Chapter is authorized two (2) delegates to the National Convention in Springfield, Illinois in July 2015.
- Check from the National Office for new members and renewals.

VI. Officer Reports:

President: • Robert Johnston attended the January 2015 CSC Conference in Fresno, CA.
• There has not been a Chapter meeting quorum since before December 2014.

Secretary: Nothing to report.

Treasurer: The Treasurer's report gave the income, expenses and balance of the bank account as of April 12, 2015.

AVVA Liaison: Nothing to report.

VI. Committee Reports: Nothing to report.

VII. Old Business: Nothing to report.

VII. New Business:

A. Election of Officers

- CSC Central District Director Richard Segovia designated as election official.
 - President Nomination: David Sanders -- Elected by acclamation
 - Vice President Nomination: Robert Kadlec -- Elected by acclamation
 - Secretary Nomination: Barbara Johnston -- Elected by acclamation
 - Treasurer Nomination: Barbara Johnston -- Elected by acclamation
 - 1-year Board Member Nomination: Dennis Foggie -- Elected by acclamation
 - 3-year Board Member Nomination: Randy Richmond -- Elected by acclamation
{Board Member Walter Dillard moves up as 2-year Board Member}
 - AVVA Liaison Nomination: To be appointed by the new Board of Directors.
- Motion made that all uncontested positions be elected by acclamation -- Passed.
- CSC Delegate Nominations (one - 2-tear term): Robert Johnston
David Sanders

••• NOTE: Meeting was suspended at 1315 hours for vote count •••

{Side discussion addressed the terminology issue of a Constitution versus Bylaws for a Chapter. CSC Central District Director Richard Segovia stated that the VVA Constitution is a National document that addresses National, State and Chapter general procedures. National writes a Constitution while a Chapter writes Bylaws to implement the provisions of the National Constitution and the State Bylaws.}

{A leadership conference is held every two years by the State to provide training for any VVA member.}

{The Region 8/9 Conference will be held in Reno, NV on 26 to 28 June 2015.}

••• NOTE: Meeting reconvened at 1337 hours for vote count •••

- CSC Delegate Election (one - 2-year term): David Sanders {Elected as Delegate}
Robert Johnston {Alternate}
- United Veterans Council Delegate: Robert Kadlec -- Elected Unanimously
- National Convention Delegate: Robert Johnston & Barbara Johnston -- Elected Unanimously
- CSC Central District Director Richard Segovia administered the oath of office to all officers and delegates.

B. Chapter Meeting Dates

- President Elect David Sanders moved that meeting dates be changed to 1900 hours on the third Monday of each month. Passed Unanimously.

C. Memorial Day

- All members requested to participate, along with AVVA Members, at the Oak Hill Field of Honor Service at 1330 hours on 25 May 2015.

D. VA Claims

- The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Traveling Van will be at American Legion Post-419 on 21 April 2015 for those who wish to submit claims applications to the VA.

E. Traveling Wall

- The Traveling Wall at Golden Gate National Cemetery will be closed and taken down this evening (12 April 2015).

VIII. Good of the Order

- Mike Berliner advised that the VA has announced a new expedited/streamlined process for filing claims.
- Next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on 18 May 2015.

XI. Closing Ceremony

- Randy Richmond provided the closing benediction.
- Meeting was adjourned at 1403 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed

Barbara Johnston, Secretary
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Harry's Hof Brau Restaurant
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, CA 95129

- I. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Robert Kadlec at 7:10 PM at Harry's Hof Brau Restaurant. Sergeant-At-Arms Chuck Barber led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation and called for a moment of silence in respect for our POWs, MIAs, KIAs and our Brothers and Sisters with health issues or are in dire straights.
- II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:
 - President - David Sanders (Excused)
 - Vice President - Robert Kadlec
 - Secretary/Treasurer - Barbara Johnston
 - 1-year Board Member - Dennis Foggie
 - 2-year Board Member - Walter Dillard (Absent)
 - 3-year Board Member - Randy Richmond
- III. Introduction of Guests:

Wives of Chapter members attending the meeting were introduced.
- IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the April meeting mailed to the membership were approved without change.
- V. Correspondence:
 - Letter from the National Office -- Request support for National Toxic Exposure Research Act legislation (HR-1769 & S-901).
 - Letter from the National Office -- List of 114 Congressional Members.
 - Letter from the National Office -- Agenda list of Congressional legislation.
 - Check from the National Office for \$495.00 for Chapter Life Memberships.
- VI. Financial Report:

The Treasurer's report gave the income, expenses and balance of the bank account as of May 18, 2015.

VII. Officer Reports:

President: David Sanders made the following Chapter Officer appointments:

- Chapter Order #1 -- Chaplain Randall Richmond.
- Chapter Order #2 -- Sergeant-At-Arms Charles Barber.
- Chapter Order #3 -- Chapter Veteran Service Officer and VA Veteran Services representative (VSO/VAVS) Michael Berliner.
- Chapter Order #4 -- Chapter VA Veteran Services representative Gerald Arnold.

Secretary: Barbara Johnston reported that the Chapter Financial Report for National has been prepared and will be submitted. Additionally, Barbara requested the Chapter approve reimbursement of \$261.00 for delegate attendance at the April CSC meeting in Fresno and Certified mail to the CSC for \$14.80 and \$14.00 for National for submission of member DD-214s. William Lewis so moved and Randy Richmond seconded. **Motion passed.**

Board of Directors: The Chapter Board of Directors met on 7 April 2015 and approved a draft Chapter budget to be submitted to the membership at the 18 May 2015 meeting for their review. The Chapter membership is to vote on the budget at the 15 June 2015 meeting.

VIII. CSC Report: Bob Johnston attended the 24-26 April 2015 California State Council (CSC) Conference in Fresno as the Chapter Delegate. Barbara Johnston and Bob Kadlec attended as Chapter Alternates. The following issues were addressed and information disseminated:

- VVA National VSO, Karen Olszewski gave an informative presentation on procedures for filing VA claims.
- Veterans Benefits Fund -- \$36,000 has been donated to State programs. The Wounded Warrior Program may be admirable, however, it is hurting non-profit fundraising.
- Membership Affairs -- Need to better define the mission of the VVA: How do we help today's new veterans? Not just Vietnam Veterans. Suggestions include scholarships for veterans and their families and philanthropic support to veterans in need.

Suggested that Chapters recommend individuals interested in becoming Life Members to hold off on applying until August 2015 when National will be running a promotion charging \$100 for Life Membership regardless of age.

- Central District Breakout Session -- Question Raised on how long Chapters must retain their records. Other than for historical purposes, apparently the IRS requires at least 5-years. Concern was raised about where Chapter, and VVA, assets go when a Chapter is shut down or abandoned. NOT RESOLVED:

- HGDP -- The Household Goods Distribution Program (HGDP) 2016 budget was discussed. Chapter 201 will be receiving \$385 per month between April 2015 and March 2016. The Chapter must be represented at all CSC meeting or lose it's funding and must "distribute" monies received for specific exempt or charitable purposes only. Reports to be submitted twice a year.
- California Region 8 & 9 Pre-Convention Conference will be held in Reno, NV on 27 June 2015. Issues include introduction of National Officer Candidates, proposed VVA Constitution amendments and proposed resolutions for the VVA 17th National convention to be held in Springfield, IL between 21 & 25 July 2015.

IX. Unfinished Business:

The Chapter will participate in the United Veterans Council (UVC) Ceremony at the Oak Hill Memorial Park Veterans Section on Monday, 25 May 2015. The Chapter will post its colors and place the Vietnam Wreath. Following the UVC ceremony, the Chapter will conduct a Memorial Day Service at the Field of Honor, including a POW/MIA Service. Volunteers to support both ceremonies are needed and should sign up with President Dave Sanders at the Veterans Section by 10:00AM.

X. New Business:

- VVA request for Chapter donations of \$2,000 to \$3,000 to support the Gold Star Mothers Family Monument (at Arlington National Cemetery) fundraiser was "tabled" until the June meeting.
- Chapter VSO Michael Berliner advised that there will be a FREE legal advice clinic covering VA benefits and discharge upgrades on the third Wednesday of the month between 12:00 noon and 2:30PM at the Palo Alto VA Hospital (Building 101, room A2109).
- Bob Johnston will be the Chapter Delegate to both the CSC Region 8/9 Conference in Reno, NV and the National VVA Convention in Springfield, IL. His cost for the Reno conference is for the registration only. His expenses for the National Convention include transportation, registration, and hotel room.
 - Motion was made to reimburse Bob Johnston \$45 to cover the cost of the Reno, NV conference registration -- **Passed**.
 - Motion was made by Dennis Foggie (Bill Lewis Second) to allocate funding, not to exceed \$1,500, to cover Bob Johnston expenses to attend the National VVA Convention in Springfield, IL. Amendment to the motion was made by Gerald Arnold (Randy Richmond Second) to submit the request to the Chapter BOD for approval -- **Passed**. An Amendment to the amendment to require the full BOD membership (all six), not just the two thirds required by the Chapter Constitution (Bylaws), consider the request was rejected.

XI. AVVA Report: Cang Kim Dong, Vice President of AVVA Chapter 201, sent greetings from the Chapter 201 Associates.

XII. Good of the Order:

- American Legion District 13 Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony will be held at the Oak Hill Memorial Park Veterans Section on 13 June at 11:00 AM. Bring your old flags to be retired.

- List of the top 12 Veteran Bills for 2015 to come before the State Legislature, prepared by Pete Conaty & Associates for the CSC, was distributed. The CSC is either a sponsor or a supporter of the bills.
- Next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday June 15, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Sunnyvale Moose Lodge. Coffee and a dessert (cupcakes) will be provided.

XI. Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the closing benediction and Sergeant-At-Arms Chuck Barber retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed

Barbara Johnston, Secretary
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 15, 2015

Sunnyvale Moose Lodge
905 Kifer Road, Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Attendees:

David Ackerman (USMC)
Gerald Arnold (USN)
Charles Barber (USN)
Michael Berliner (USA)
Dennis Foggie (USAF)
Barbara Johnston (USA)
Robert Johnston (USA)
Robert Kadlec (USAF)
Francis McVey (USN)
James Maderios (USA)
Randy Richmond (USA)
David Sanders (USAF)
Jack Wells (USMC)
Reuben Willhite (USMC)
Cang Kim Dong (AVVA)

- I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:00 PM at the Sunnyvale Moose Lodge. Sergeant-At-Arms Chuck Barber led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation and called for a moment of silence in respect for our POWs, MIAs, KIAs and our Brothers and Sisters with health issues or are in dire straights.
- II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:
 - President - David Sanders
 - Vice President - Robert Kadlec
 - Secretary/Treasurer - Barbara Johnston
 - 1-year Board Member - Dennis Foggie
 - 2-year Board Member - Walter Dillard (Absent)
 - 3-year Board Member - Randy Richmond
- III. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the May meeting forwarded electronically to the membership were approved without change.

IV. Correspondence:

- Letter from Carol Lopez requesting support to include her father’s name as a “contributor” on the donor list for the San Jose Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Since he resigned from the planning committee before any work was accomplished, the committee does not want to include his name. This is not an issue for the Chapter and Fran McVey, in his capacity as President of the United Veterans Council, will provide a written response to Carol Lopez.
- Letter of greeting from Santa Clara County Supervisor David Cortese.
- Letter of invitation to attend the Vietnamese Armed Forces Day Ceremony on 20 June at the Santa Clara County Offices (20 W. Heading).
- Letter from the National Office -- Resolutions and proposed Constitution changes to be brought up at the National Convention in Springfield, IL in July.
- Letter from California State Board of Equalization -- Tax repayment for qualified itinerant veteran vendors.
- Letter from Vietnam Women Veterans Foundation.
- Letter from APRIA Health Care -- Job openings for Veterans.
- Received five (5) copies of The Veteran magazine/newsletter from the National Office.

V. Financial Report:

A copy of the Financial Report was been distributed. The Treasurer’s report gave the income, expenses and balance of the bank account as of June 15, 2015.

VI. Officer Reports:

President:

- Handed out 20 VVA Chapter 201 brochures and applications at the Veterans Appreciation Day at the San Jose Veterans Center on 30 May (No responses).
- David Sanders issued Chapter Order #5, dated 15 June, appointing Randall Richmond as the Chapter Liaison with the VVA-201 Associates.
- David Sanders Made the following committee appointments (Chapter Order #6 to be published):

Membership Committee Chair:	Robert Johnston, Sr.
POW/MIA Committee Chair:	Robert Johnston, Sr.
Agent Orange Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Constitution/Bylaws Chair:	Robert Kadlec
Community Services Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Government Affairs Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.

Employment Training and Business Opportunities (ETaBO):	Randall Richmond
Finance & Fund Raising Committee Chair:	Randall Richmond
Public Affairs Committee Chair:	Charles Barber
Veterans benefits Committee Chair:	Michael Berliner
San Jose Veterans Center Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Veterans Incarcerated Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Women Veterans Committee Chair:	Barbara Johnston

- David Sanders appointed the following additional delegates to the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County:
 Gerald Arnold
 Michael Berliner
- The Chapter Banner has finally been located and is now in the possession of Chapter President David Sanders.

VII. Board Of Directors Report:

Reports of the May 5, 2015 BOD meeting (Approval of the draft 2015-2016 Chapter Budget) and the May 21, 2015 BOD meeting (Approval of reimbursement for attendance at the July 2015 National VVA Convention) were distributed.

VIII. California State Council (CSC) Report:

Chapter Delegate to the National VVA Convention, Bob Johnston, may not be able to attend the 26 June 2015 California Region 8 & 9 Pre-Convention Conference, in Reno, NV. The \$45.00 registration fee has been paid so an alternate would be able to attend. If no one is able to attend, the Chapter might be able to request a refund.

IX. Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Report:

- Chapter 201 VSO Michael Berliner reported that the VA and Congress have recognized that C3s and C4s (C-123 aircraft) used to dispense Agent Orange chemicals were not properly cleaned/decontaminated. Aircrews and military personnel who flew or worked on them are eligible for Agent Orange care by the VA.
- VSO Berliner reported that veterans with foot problems caused by Diabetes, Neuropathy, etc., are eligible for special footwear through the VA.

X. Unfinished Business:

- The Chapter budget for 2015-2016 was approved by the membership assembled (Motion by Robert Kadlec, second by Dennis Foggie).

- The membership assembled approved a donation of \$100.00 for the Gold Star Mothers Family Monument (at Arlington National Cemetery) fundraiser (Motion by Barbara Johnston, second by Randy Richmond).
- Chapter Delegate to the National VVA Convention, Bob Johnston, received notification that Chapter-201s registration had been received and that to be allowed to vote, the Chapter's Financial Report must be submitted prior to 20 June 2015.

XI. New Business:

- Volunteers are requested for a new web master for the Chapter web site.
- Randy Richmond will coordinate with Moffett Field regarding holding a fund raising drive at the Commissary.
- Suggested Chapter activities included:
 - Monterey Bay fishing trip
 - Support the AVVA BBQ at the Menlo Park VA Hospital in the August/September time frame.
 - Participation with the American Legion at their 4th of July BBQ at the Menlo Park VA Hospital.
 - Reestablishment of the Chapter Speakers Bureau to support local high school history classes.
 - Support community college veterans' offices.
- San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera would like to present a Proclamation of recognition the VVA Chapter 201 at the City Hall in the September time frame.

XII. AVVA Report: Cang Kim Dong, Vice President of AVVA Chapter 201, reported that the AVVA will participate in the annual San Jose Rose, White & Blue Parade on the 4th of July.

XIII. Good of the Order:

- On 23 June the San Jose City Council will address the flying of the POW/MIA flag at the City Hall. The Council will vote on a resolution proposing flying of the POW/MIA flag on the following five days a year:
 1. Armed Forces Day (3rd Saturday in May)
 2. Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)
 3. Flag Day (June 14th)
 4. Independence Day (July 4th)
 5. Veterans Day (Nov. 11th)

The United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County (UVC) is requested that the POW/MIA banner be flown at San Jose City Hall 365 days a year and encourages Veterans to attend the hearing at 1:30PM on 23 June to support this action. The minimum requested would be to include March 30 (Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day) and the 3rd Friday in September (POW/MIA Day).

- Gerald Arnold praised the outstanding job that the AVVA did with the BBQ provided at the San Jose Veterans Center for the 15th Annual Veterans Appreciation Day Celebration on May 30, 2015.

- Alternative venues for future Chapter 201 meetings were suggested. Locations to be examined include: A return to Harry's Hof Brau (using the smaller quieter side room); Cathedral of Faith on Curtner and Hwy 87 in San Jose; Meeting room at Cang Dong's home and American Legion Post 318. Use of Harry's Hof Brau would require purchase of meals. Cathedral of Faith should be free but dependent on availability on a regular basis. There is extremely limited parking in the cul de sac at Cang Dong's home. Post 318 rents their hall for \$85.00 for a four-hour meeting.
- Next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday July 20, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Sunnyvale Moose Lodge.

XIV. Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the closing benediction and Sergeant-At-Arms Chuck Barber retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:24PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed

Barbara Johnston, Secretary
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 20, 2015

Sunnyvale Moose Lodge
905 Kifer Road, Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Attendees:

Gerald Arnold (USN)
Charles Barber (USN)
Michael Berliner (USA)
Warren Finch (USA) {Guest}
Dennis Foggie (USAF)
Barbara Johnston (USA)
Robert Kadlec (USAF)
William Lewis (USA)
Francis McVey (USN)
James Maderios (USA)
Randy Richmond (USA)
David Sanders (USAF)
Jack Wells (USMC)
Cang Kim Dong (AVVA)

- I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:00 PM at the Sunnyvale Moose Lodge. Sergeant-At-Arms Chuck Barber led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation and called for a moment of silence in respect for our POWs, MIAs, KIAs and our Brothers and Sisters with health issues or are in dire straights.
- II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:
 - President - David Sanders
 - Vice President - Robert Kadlec
 - Secretary/Treasurer - Barbara Johnston
 - 1-year Board Member - Dennis Foggie
 - 2-year Board Member - Walter Dillard (Absent)
 - 3-year Board Member - Randy Richmond
- III. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the May meeting forwarded electronically to the membership were approved without change. Motion to approve by Dennis Foggie and Second by Randy Richmond.
- IV. Correspondence:

Nothing to report.

V. Financial Report:

- A copy of the Financial Report was been distributed. The Treasurer's report gave the income, expenses and balance of the bank account as of July 20, 2015.
- Will investigate other financial institutions to identify one without a monthly service charge.
- Motion to approve by Dennis Foggie and Second by Mike Berliner.

VI. Officer Reports:

President:

- The City of San Jose will hold a second POW/MIA flag raising in front of City Hall on September 18th. Maximum attendance is encouraged. The UVC will provide the City with a new POW/MIA flag.
- The new location for the Chapter meetings will be Holders Country Inn on D'Anza Blvd (near Cupertino) on the third Monday of each month. Dinner will begin at 6:00pm with the meeting starting at 7:00pm. To receive free use of the meeting room, we are asked to order food off of their menu. Dessert for all those attending will be provided free of charge. Motion to approve by Bill Lewis and Second by Randy Richmond.
- Alternative locations such as: Denny's on Hillsdale at Almaden Expressway (\$75.00 minimum room charge); Library on Hillsdale at Ross (\$35.00 room charge); San Jose Vet Center on north First Street (downtown); etc. can be addressed at the August meeting should Holder's not prove adequate.

VII. Board Of Directors Report:

Nothing to report.

VIII. UVC Delegates Report:

- The UVC has \$18,848 in the bank toward the \$50,00 plus Parade budget requirement. Approximately \$10,900 is expected from a Santa Clara County Grant and about \$5,762.00 from the City of San Jose. Meetings with San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera resulted in the UVC receiving another \$20,000 a year for four years (through 2018, the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day). This brings the total San Jose Cultural affairs grants for 2015 to \$25,762.00. There is one stipulate in that the UVC will need to raise at least \$20,000 on its own (matching) to qualify for the additional San Jose Grant. Upon receipt of the City and County Grants, the UVC should have the funding it needs for this year's Parade, however, it still needs to raise about \$6,900 to meet the "matching grant" requirement.
- Retired Air Force Colonel K.D. Poynter, a Registered Nurse, was a guest. He described what his Poynter Institute is doing to house and train veterans and working with corporations to donate computers and assist in training for working with veterans with PTSD. He is also working on veteran stories and genealogy which is 31-percent complete. Unfortunately, Federal funding for Stories of Service is used up.

- The UVC is short handed and needs to recruit volunteers to help “work the Parade.” Volunteers are strongly encouraged to come forward to support this year’s Parade.
- The UVC is working closely with Vice Mayor Rose Herrera to place a proposal on the City Council agenda to fly the POW/MIA flag at City Hall on a 365day basis.
- UVC President Fran McVey has spoken with the Santa Clara County Veterans Armed Forces Commission to encourage the County to also fly the POW/MIA flag on a 365-day basis at the County building.
- San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera wants to form a team, including UVC participation, to address veteran issues such as homeless veterans.

IX. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee (Robert Johnston, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
POW/MIA Committee (Robert Johnston, Sr.):	There will be a “Fire Watch” at American Legion Post 564 on September 18th.
Agent Orange Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Planning a fundraiser at Moffett Field.
Constitution/Bylaws (Robert Kadlec):	Working with Dennis Foggie to prepare changes to the Chapter Bylaws.
Community Services Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Working with the San Jose Vet Center.
Government Affairs Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Working with County Supervisor Dave Cortese and San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera.
Employment Training & Business Opportunities (ETaBO) (Randall Richmond):	Meeting with a new Bay Area organization - “Veteran Employment Partners” - to re-invigorate Veteran Employment Committees.
Finance & Fund Raising Committee (Randall Richmond):	Working with Moffett Field Commissary to hold a Chapter Fund Raiser.

Public Affairs Committee(Charles Barber):

Need to receive “Speakers Bureau” invitations to provide Chapter speakers for presentations at schools and other groups.

Veterans benefits Committee (Michael Berliner):

If anyone has a problem with a medical practitioner, there are “Veteran Advocates” at every VA facility to assist in resolving issues. The Palo Alto Veteran Advocate is located on the 3rd floor in building 101. The is NOT for disability compensation, it is for health issues only.

San Jose Veterans Center Committee
(David Sanders, Sr.):

Nothing to report.

Veterans Incarcerated Committee
(David Sanders, Sr.):

Nothing to report.

Women Veterans Committee
(Barbara Johnston):

Nothing to report.

X. Unfinished Business:

Nothing to report.

XI. New Business:

Under the Household Goods Distribution Program (HGDP), the Chapter is receiving \$385 per month. According to the HGDP requirements, the Chapter needs to spend an amount “equal the total amount of HGDP grant funds distributed to the chapter during the reporting period.” The first reporting period for Chapter 201 is May 1st through August 31st. At \$385.00 per month, the Chapter would received a total of \$1,540.00 by the end of August and needs to report (by 15 September) how it has spent that amount.

This amount will be pretty much eaten up by travel expenses to the National Convention and the upcoming CSC Conference in Fresno (under the VVA Sponsored Programs Travel category). What little that might be left over can be spent on a donation to the UVC for the Veteran’s Day Parade. This would fall under the approved HGDP “Community Service Programs.”

When we receive the total actual expenditure for the National VVA July Convention, as well as the August CSC Conference, we can determine the amount of the UVC donation. During our next meeting, on 17 August, we will vote to approve the exact amount to be donated to the Veterans Alliance for the UVC.

XII. AVVA Report: Nothing to report

XIII. Good of the Order:

- The annual “Spirit Of ‘45” Remembrance Day event will be held on Saturday, August 8 between Noon and 4:00PM at History San Jose Park. Admission is free. Use the South Gate of Phelan Road.
- On Sunday, August 16th, Oak Hill Memorial Park will hold a Remembrance Ceremony at 11:00AM at the Main Mausoleum. This will be a one-hour ceremony. Oak Hill has been extremely supportive of veteran causes, therefore, it is important that we support Oak Hill and this ceremony.
- Correspondence from the VVA National Office is asking for support in contacting our legislatures to encourage their backing of H.R. 1769 and S.901, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015. The Sergeant at Arms is distributing the hand out for this legislation.
- Chuck Barber is a volunteer with the Kaiser Hospital Hospice program. They are in the process of starting up program to recognize Veterans in Hospice at Kaiser.
- Moose Veterans Affairs (formally Moose Alert) is looking for Veteran organizations in need of financial assistance for which the Moose can provide donations. They are looking into setting up a California and Nevada Committee and there are plans to hold a Veteran Recognition Day in Sacramento.
- Barbara Johnston reported on information the Chapter had received on the Dream Foundation's Dreams for Veterans. This is sort of like the “Make a Wish Foundation.”
Dreams for Veterans serves the military community by giving back to terminally ill veterans and their families through the fulfillment of a final dream. Detailed information on this foundation, their programs, and how to apply, can be found on the following web site:
<http://www.dreamfoundation.org/veterans>.
- The National organization of the VVA is offering a special discount for individuals who sign up for Life Membership between August and December 2015. The cost is only \$100.00 regardless of age. Anyone who is not currently a Life Member is encouraged to renew as a Life Member during this period.

XIV. Closing Ceremony

- The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday August 17, 2015 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM. The Chapter will pay for dessert for those arriving at 6:00 PM.
- Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the closing benediction and Sergeant-At-Arms Chuck Barber retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:04PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed

Barbara Johnston, Secretary
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 17, 2015

Holder's Country Inn
998 South DeAnza Blvd, San Jose, CA 95129

Attendees:

David Ackerman (USMC)
Christina Ackerman {Guest}
Gerald Arnold (USN)
Charles Barber (USN)
Patty Barber {Guest}
Michael Berliner (USA)
Gene Fanucchi (USA)
Warren Finch (USA)
Dennis Foggie (USAF)
Robert Kadlec (USAF)
William Lewis (USA)
Donald MacDougall (USA)
James W. McMann (USA)
Francis McVey (USN)
David Sanders (USAF)
Randall Sessler (USA)
Mary Sessler {Guest}
Jack Wells (USMC)
Dennis Whittaker (USA) {Guest}

I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:14 PM at the Holder's Country Inn. Sergeant-At-Arms Chuck Barber led the Pledge of Allegiance. Acting Chaplain Dennis Foggie provided the invocation and called for a moment of silence in respect for our POWs, MIAs, KIAs and our Brothers and Sisters with health issues or are in dire straights.

II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:

President - David Sanders
Vice President - Robert Kadlec
Secretary/Treasurer - Barbara Johnston (Excused)
1-year Board Member - Dennis Foggie
2-year Board Member - Walter Dillard (Absent)
3-year Board Member - Randy Richmond (Excused)

With the inability of Walter Dillard to attend Chapter meetings due to health issues, Gerald Arnold was selected by acclimation to assume the 2-year Board position.

III. Guests:

Christina Ackerman
Patty Barber
Mary Sessler
Dennis Whittaker (Prospective member)

IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the July meeting forwarded electronically to the membership were approved without change. Motion to approve by Dennis Foggie and Second by Jim McMann.

V. Correspondence:

Letter from Linn Malaznik with application for Life Membership.

VI. Financial Report:

- Financial Report was received telephonically. A copy of the Financial Report was been distributed. The Treasurer's report gave the income, expenses and balance of the bank account as of August 17, 2015.
- Motion to approve by Dennis Foggie and Second by Gene Fanucchi.

VII. Officer Reports:

President:

- The City of San Jose will hold a second POW/MIA flag raising in front of City Hall on September 18th. Maximum attendance is encouraged. The UVC will provide the City with a new POW/MIA flag.
- The general consensus is to continue Chapter meetings at Holders Country Inn on D'Anza Blvd on the third Monday of each month. Dinner will begin at 6:00pm with the meeting starting at 7:00pm. Dessert for all those attending will be provided free of charge.
- Earl Edwards is still in an Assisted Living facility on Bascom Avenue in San Jose.
- Ken Cook is in the Palo Alto VA Hospital.

Veteran Service Officer:

Mike Berliner (VSO) and Gerry Arnold (VAVS Rep) reported that there is a free legal clinic on the third Wednesday of each month at the Palo Alto VA Hospital. It is sponsored by "Swords To Plowshares" and meets from Noon to 2:30PM in building 101 in the Veteran Services Offices in room A2-107. Additionally, The Oakland VA Rep, Brett Blom, is available at the Palo Alto VA to handle claims from 8:00AM to 4:00PM on Mondays and from 8:00AM to Noon on Tuesdays.

VIII. CSC Report:

President David Sanders attended the CSC Conference in Fresno between 7 and 9 August.

- Two books on PTSD of interest to Veterans available in paperback:
 - “Trauma and Survival: a Self Help Learning Guide” by Benjamin Colodzin, 1989 (ISBN: B009NGB5J2) -- Amazon \$35.00.
 - “Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates” by Erving Goffman, 1961 (ISBN-10: 0385000162; ISBN-13: 978-0385000161) Amazon \$12.35.
- Discussion with Ponce Gonzalez from VVA Chapter 464 in Redwood City regarding holding joint gatherings such as BBQ.
- Los Angeles VVA Chapters still working on issues with the Sepulveda VA regarding VA misuse of 387 acres of land donated in 1888 specifically for a National Home for Disabled Veterans. The VA has been leasing space on the land to commercial enterprises instead of using it for Veterans (specifically disabled and homeless Veterans in the Los Angeles area). Which begs the question of having a Chapter Historian to maintain historical, legal and financial documents and records.
- The VVA National Office is looking for support in contacting our legislatures to encourage their backing of H.R. 1769 and S.901, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015. Copy of the information on the legislation passed out at the July meeting will be forwarded via E-mail.

((Discussion by Chapter members suggested that the San Francisco Bay Area, with its Bio-Tech companies, might be a logical location for a facility for continuing research efforts. A location in San Jose or Palo Alto/Stanford might be appropriate.))
- The CSC Veterans Benefits Committee Chairperson is John Weaver (weaver@cox.net). VSO presentation can be found at: http://www.vvacalsc.com/pages/subpages/vet_benefits.html.
- The next CSC Conference will be held in Fresno between October 23 and 25, 2015.

IX. Board Of Directors Report: Nothing to report.

X. UVC Delegates Report (UVC President, and Chapter 201 Member Fran McVey):

- There were two “Spirit of ‘45” events honoring the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. The first took place on August 8th at History San Jose which included vintage World War II vehicles and living history displays along with live big band music. The UVC and VVA-201 had a tent at the event and passed out information and answered questions. Oak Hill Memorial Park held a “Spirit of ‘45” event on August 16th which included remembrance presentations by World War II Army Air Force members who flew missions over Germany as well as a presentation by a real “Rosie the Riveter” who worked at the Douglas Aircraft plant in Southern California.
- The UVC needs more help from member organizations and delegates for fundraising and will need volunteers to help with the Veterans’ Day Parade including handing out 20,000 copies of this year’s Program to spectators.

- Santa Row on Stevens Creek and Winchester will hold a “Honor On The Row” event on Veterans’ Day following the UVC Parade between 3:00PM and 6:00PM. This is primarily a “car show” and there are at least 26 vehicles, including Eisenhower vehicles/staff cars scheduled for the show. Participants will wear military uniforms to have their photos taken with the public for a fee.
- The San Jose Veterans Center will hold an Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) Veterans’ Carnival on August 22nd between 11:00am and 3:00pm at 440 North First Street.
- The San Jose City Council meeting on Tuesday, August 25th, will vote on flying the POW/MIA Flag 365-days a year at City Hall. The UVC will provide the POW/MIA flag to the city. The UVC will also meet with members of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to have the County fly the POW/MIA Flag 365-days a year at the County Building on Hedding.
- The City of San Jose will sponsor a Music & Movie night on August 28th at Evergreen Village Square (4075 Evergreen Village Square) beginning 6:30pm. The UVC will have a tent and table set up for fundraising and needs volunteers to promote the Veterans’ Day Parade as well as help pouring wine for the wine tasting before the showing of the movie.
- San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera is forming a sub-committee to handle Veteran issues and wants to establish a program to handle homeless veterans including health care, housing/shelter and preparing for employment. It is estimated by the City that there are at least 718 homeless veterans in San Jose.
- VVA Chapter-201 is scheduled for Flag Lowering at Oak Hill on October 25, 2015. In addition to AVVA participation, the Chapter needs to provide a Commander/President, a Chaplain and at least three members to lower the flag and fold it. The Ceremony begins promptly at 1:30PM so participants should arrive no later than 1:00PM to prepare.

XI. Unfinished Business:

- Veterans Alliance Donation:

Under the Household Goods Distribution Program (HGDP), the Chapter is receiving \$385 per month. According to the HGDP requirements, we need to spend an amount “equal the total amount of HGDP grant funds distributed to the chapter during the reporting period.” The first reporting period for the Chapter is April 1st through August 31st. At \$385 per month, the Chapter will received a total of \$1,925.00 by the end of August and needs to report (by 15 September) how it has spent that amount.

The majority of HGDP funds will be pretty much eaten up by travel expenses to the National Convention and the CSC Conference in Fresno (under the VVA Sponsored Programs Travel category). What little that might be left over can be spent on a donation to the Veterans Alliance of Santa Clara County (VASCC). This would fall under the approved HGDP “Community Service Programs” category.

Upon receipt of the total actual expenditures for Chapter Travel reimbursements (National Convention and CSC Conference) the Chapter can determine how much it can donate to the VASCC from the HGDP funds to support UVC activities. The amount available should be around \$500.00.

XII. New Business:

Nothing to report.

XIII. Good of the Order:

- The Moose Veterans Affairs (formally Moose Alert) Committee is looking for Veteran organizations in need of financial assistance for which the Moose can provide donations. They are looking into setting up a California and Nevada Committee and there are plans to hold a Veteran Recognition Day in Sacramento. The Sunnyvale Moose Lodge is looking to adopt Veterans in need and provide them with financial aid.
- The Monterey Bay Rock Cod Fishing Trip will take place on October 3rd. For those with a 60-percent or less disability are qualified to participate. An Application can be found at mbv.org. Each disabled veteran is permitted one caregiver. Manual wheelchairs and walkers are permitted on the boat; however, power chairs and scooters are not permitted. The trip on the Bay departs at 5:30AM and lasts 6 to 7 hours. The catch limit is ten fish. If you arrive the day before (October 2nd), the Marina American Legion Post (694 Legion Way, Marina, CA 93933; 831-384-6616) will provide a spaghetti dinner feed. After the fishing trip, the Seaside American Legion Post (1000 Playa Ave, Seaside, CA 93955; 831-394-6604) will a sponsor BBQ banquet at which awards will be presented to fishing participants. Those arrived on October 2nd, and need a place to stay; the Monterey Presidio Army Housing Office (831-242-7979) will provide accommodations to Disabled Veterans for the fishing trip.
- The VA Palo Alto Hospital is in need of volunteers to help with the blind at the 7:00PM Thursday Bingo night.
- Dennis Whittaker reported that the Joaquin Miller Junior High School (6151 Rainbow Dr, San Jose, CA 95129 408-252-3755) will hold an Annual Recognition for Veterans during Veterans' Day week. Each Veteran participating will be assigned to a student to be escorted on to the football field to be recognized and then escorted to an indoor room to answer questions from the students. This is akin to our Speakers Program.
- Fort Ord California Coast State Veterans Cemetery will be building a Columbarium of the cemetery for veterans, and spouses, between 2016 and 2018. Alameda will also open Columbarium of the cemetery for veterans, and spouses, in 2016.
- Status of the San Jose VA Clinic on Great Oaks Blvd: The lease for the facility ends in 2016. They have received funding to build a new three-story facility in San Jose, but it will probably take at least two years. Therefore, the Great Oaks lease will be extended on a year by year basis so the clinic will not be going anywhere for at least the next two years. The location of the new facility is expected to be announced by the end of September.

XIV. Closing Ceremony

- The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday September 21, 2015 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM. The Chapter will pay for dessert for those arriving at 6:00 PM.
- Acting Chaplain Dennis Foggie provided the closing benediction and Sergeant-At-Arms Chuck Barber retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:27PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

/signed/

Robert J. Kadlec, Vice President
Acting Secretary
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Holder's Country Inn
998 South DeAnza Blvd, San Jose, CA 95129

Attendees:

Gerald Arnold (USN)
John Hassenplug (USN) {Guest}
Barbara Johnston (USA)
Robert Johnston (USA)
Robert Kadlec (USAF)
William Lewis (USA)
Donald MacDougall (USA)
Joann MacDougall {Guest}
Francis McVey (USN)
David Sanders (USAF)
Richard Segovia (USA) {CSC Central District Director}
Jack Wells (USMC)
Reuben Willhite (USMC)
Oleta Willhite {AVVA}
Cang Kim Dong (AVVA)

I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:08 PM (1908 hours) at the Holder's Country Inn. President Sanders led the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the invocation and called for a moment of silence in respect for our POWs, MIAs, KIAs and our Brothers and Sisters with health issues or are in dire straights. The September meeting date was changed to Wednesday, September 23, 2015, as a result of an unexpected, and unplanned, closure of Holder's Country Inn because of PG&E repair work on their lines. This was a one-time date change.

II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:

President - David Sanders
Vice President - Robert Kadlec
Secretary/Treasurer - Barbara Johnston
1-year Board Member - Dennis Foggie (Excused)
2-year Board Member - Gerald Arnold
3-year Board Member - Randy Richmond (Excused)

III. Guests:

Richard Segovia (USA) {CSC Central District Director}
John Hassenplug (USN) {New Member}
Joann MacDougall {Guest}

IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the August 17 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Following correction is made under Good of the Order: “The Monterey Bay Rock Cod Fishing Trip will take place on October 3rd. For those with a ~~60-percent-or-less~~ **40-percent or more** disability are qualified to participate.” Motion to approve by Gerald Arnold and Second by Reuben Willhite. The minutes were approved with the change.

V. Correspondence:

Nothing to report.

VI. Financial Report:

Copies of the Financial Reports for July through September were distributed. The Treasurer’s report gave the income, expenses and balance of the bank account as of September 23, 2015.

Motion to Table the Financial report until the October meeting by Robert Kadlec and Second by Fran McVey.

VII. Officer Reports:

President:

- The City of San Jose held the dedication of the POW/MIA flag raising in front of City Hall on September 18th. Mayor Sam Liccardo, Vice Mayor Rose Herrera, several City Council members, and a large number of Veterans and public were in attendance. Only thing missing was the media. The POW/MIA flag will fly with the National Colors in front of City Hall 365-days a year.
- Mike Berliner has resigned from the Chapter. His wife is experiencing serious health issues. His Chapter positions of Veteran Services Officer (VSO) and UVC Delegate will need to be filled.
- Chapter 201 is scheduled to participate in the UVC Flag Lowering Ceremony on October 25. President Sanders will be attending the CSC Conference in Fresno, therefore, Vice President Kadlec will “officiate” for the Chapter. All are encourage to attend this ceremony and three members will be required for the lowering and folding of the flag. We will also need participation of the AVVA Color Guard.
- Past Chapter President Bob Johnston, Sr. has delivered several boxes of Chapter material to President Sanders. The material includes a flight suit which might have belonged to Darwin Thomas.
- The AVVA Color Guard needs replacement of its old bolt-action rifles. The Chapter has a contact and is investigating obtaining M1 Garands as a replacement.
- The Chapter needs to plan for a fund raising drive at the Moffett Commissary.

- The next issue of the California VVA Zephyr newsletter will have an article and photo of the POW/MIA Flag Raising Dedication with Chapter Members Dave Sanders and Fran McVey who were instrumental in obtaining the San Jose City Council approval.

Chaplain (President Sanders filling in for Randy Richmond):

- Earl Edwards is still in an Assisted Living facility on Bascom Avenue in San Jose.
- Ken Cook is now in the Menlo Park VA Hospital (building 331).

Veteran Service Officer:

Mike Berliner (VSO) has resigned from the Chapter and a replacement will have to be appointed.

VIII. Board Of Directors Report:

A Board of Directors meeting is tentatively planned for the week of 28 September.

IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:

The next CSC Conference will be held in Fresno between 23 and 25 October. President Dave Sanders will be the Chapter Delegate in attendance.

X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Delegates Report

- The UVC needs more help from member organizations and delegates to help with the Veterans' Day Parade including handing out 20,000 plus copies of this year's Program to spectators.
- The Grant check from Santa Clara County (for the UVC Parade) was mistakenly mailed to an incorrect address. The check will be reissued and President Dave Sanders will pick it up and deliver it to the UVC.
- With the success of the approval by the City of San Jose to fly the POW/MIA flag 365-days a year in front of City Hall, the UVC will now meet with Santa Clara County Armed Forces & Veteran Commission to fly the POW/MIA flag at the County Building on Hedding Street 365-days a year.
- President Sanders and Fran McVey have been asked by San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera to participate on the San Jose "Veterans Empowering Veterans" Committee to handle homelessness. The City Council is purchasing the old Plaza Hotel in downtown San Jose to make it a shelter for the homeless.
- VVA Chapter-201 is scheduled for Flag Lowering on October 25, 2015.

XI. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee (Robert Johnston, Sr.):	The Chapter currently has 72 members. 57 Life members, 12 Individual member and 3 Incarcerated.
POW/MIA Committee (Robert Johnston, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
Agent Orange Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Hepatitis A Status.
Constitution/Bylaws (Robert Kadlec):	Working with Dennis Foggie to prepare changes to the Chapter Bylaws.
Community Services Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
Government Affairs Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
Employment Training & Business Opportunities (ETaBO) (Randall Richmond):	Nothing to report.
Finance & Fund Raising Committee (Randall Richmond):	Working with Moffett Field Commissary to hold a Chapter Fund Raiser.
Public Affairs Committee(Charles Barber):	Chuck Barber moving to Modesto. Nothing to report.
Veterans benefits Committee (Vacant):	Michael Berliner has resigned from the Chapter. Nothing to report.
San Jose Veterans Center Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
Veterans Incarcerated Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
Women Veterans Committee (Barbara Johnston):	Nothing to report.

XII. Unfinished Business:

- UVC Veterans' Day Donation:
The Chapter was able to make a donation of \$503.43 to the UVC from the HGDP funds to support this year's UVC Veterans' Day Parade.
- Joaquin Miller Jr. High Veterans Recognition:
Joaquin Miller Junior High School (6151 Rainbow Dr, San Jose, CA 95129 408-252-3755) will hold an Annual Recognition for Veterans during Veterans' Day week. Each Veteran participating will be assigned to a student to be escorted on to the football field to be recognized and then escorted to an indoor room to answer questions from the students. This is akin to our Speakers Bureau Program.

XIII. New Business:

- Monterey Bay Rock Cod Fishing Trip:

The fishing trip will take place on October 3rd. Those with a 40-percent or greater disability are qualified to participate. An Application can be found at mbv.org. Gerry Arnold moved to have the Chapter donate \$250.00 to support the trip. Motion Seconded by Donald MacDougall. Approved.

- UVC Veterans' Day Parade:

The Chapter will submit an application to participate in the Veterans' Day Parade again this year. There are several other events taking place at the same time that may conflict with the Parade. Mountain View is holding a Veterans Memorial Dedication at 11:00AM, the City of Santa Clara is holding its annual ceremony at the park on Kiely at 3:00PM and the UVC will hold an "Honor on the Row" event at Santana Row between 2:00PM and 6:00PM.

XIV. Good of the Order:

- The annual 9/11 Service at Oak Hill this year was great. There were a number of high school volunteers who helped out and it was suggested that some of them might be recruited to assist with the Veterans' Day Parade.
- There will be a cruise on the SS Jeremiah O'Brien "Liberty Ship" from San Francisco's Pier 45 on July 16, 2016. The cruise will be from 11:00 in the morning until 4:00 in the afternoon and cost \$100 per person. A discount might be provided to Veterans. It is suggested that the Chapter contact the other Northern California VVA Chapters to coordinate a group to participate in the cruise.
- The AVVA is planning on holding BBQs at the VA hospitals in Palo Alto and Menlo Park. A requirement for a "health certificate" for food handling will be needed. It appears that the BBQ might be delayed until perhaps the December/Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanza/Festivus time frame.
- The Chapter might want to consider resurrecting the "Darwin's Kids" charitable program.
- Bob Johnston, Sr. reported that he has about \$6,100.00 in VVA products that can be used for fund raising sales. Items include patches, bumper stickers, military unit pins, etc.
- Bill Lewis recommended the book, "Post Traumatic Shame Disorder" by Darrell D. Turner (PHD), that addresses PTSD issues and how the social, political, and cultural conditions during the 1960s experienced by Vietnam Veterans have affected them. The book can be ordered online at <http://www.posttraumaticshamedisorder.com/store.html>. Enter the "coupon Code" VET to receive a 10-percent discount from the cover price.
- A new movie being shown on PBS titled "On two Fronts - Latinos In Vietnam" is recommended. The first showing was on September 22nd on KQED and can be viewed on line at: <http://video.pbs.org/video/2365563511/>. The DVD can be purchased from Amazon for \$29.99 at <http://www.amazon.com/On-Two-Fronts-Latinos-Vietnam/dp/B014VVNUFK>.

- CSC Central District Director Richard Segovia encouraged all to contact their representatives to ask for their backing of H.R. 1769 and S.901, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015. If you go to the VVA web site <http://capwiz.com/vva/home/> and enter your Zip Code, you can send a prepared letter to your Representatives and Senators asking them to join their colleagues to cosponsor the legislation.
- Bob Johnston, Sr. advised that he would draft up a report of his attendance at the National VVA Convention in Springfield, Illinois in July and provide it for distribution to the membership.
- It was noted that National organizations such Wounded Warriors and Paralyzed Veterans, are running “slick” TV productions soliciting donations for disabled Veterans. Problem is that these organizations are making it difficult for Veteran organizations (both local and national) such as the VVA to perform fund raising since these organizations have high visibility and are dominating fund raising. Much of the money they collect goes to administrative expenses and advertising with little going to the veterans. An example is the reported salary of the head of the Wounded Warriors organization who is drawing a salary of about \$413,000 per year.
- Former Chapter member Phil, and wife Vera, Kinsey is a founder of the “Point Man Ministries,” an evangelistic organization for service veterans and their families (www.pmim.org). They were very active in the Chapter’s BBQs at Palo Alto and Menlo Park. They are now living in Ohio where that are running a local ministry “outpost.” Point Man Ministries might be consider as an organization for a future Chapter philanthropic contribution.

XV. Closing Ceremony

- The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday October 19, 2015 at Holder’s Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM. The Chapter will pay for dessert for those arriving at 6:00 PM.
- Gerald Arnold called for a moment of silence for the departed and President Sanders provided the closing benediction and retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:34PM (2034 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed

Barbara Johnston, Secretary
 Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
 Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 19, 2015

Holder's Country Inn
998 South DeAnza Blvd, San Jose, CA 95129

Attendees:

Gene Fanucchi	(USA)
Warren Finch	(USA)
Dennis Foggie	(USAF)
Michael Frangadakis	(USA)
John Hassenplug	(USN)
Clyde Horn	(Guest) (USA)
Barbara Johnston	(USA)
Robert Johnston	(USA)
Robert Kadlec	(USAF)
William D. (Bill) Lewis	(USA)
Donald MacDougall	(USA)
James W. McMann	(USA)
James Medeiros	(USA)
Francis McVey	(USN)
Randall Richmond	(USA)
David Sanders	(USAF)
Dennis Whittaker	(USA)
Oleta Willhite	(AVVA)
Reuben Willhite	(USMC)
Cang Kim Dong	(AVVA)

- I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:02 PM (1902 hours) at the Holder's Country Inn. President Sanders led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation and called for a moment of silence in respect for our POWs, MIAs, KIAs and our Brothers and Sisters with health issues or are in dire straights.
- II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:
 - President - David Sanders
 - Vice President - Robert Kadlec
 - Secretary/Treasurer - Barbara Johnston
 - 1-year Board Member - Dennis Foggie
 - 2-year Board Member - Gerald Arnold (Excused)
 - 3-year Board Member - Randy Richmond
- III. Guests:
 - Clyde Horn (USA) {New Member}

IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the September 23rd meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Motion to approve by John Hassenplug and Second by Randall Richmond. The minutes were approved.

V. Correspondence:

- Anonymous donation of \$50.00 received.
- Bill Collier (Captain, USMC) has published a new book titled "The adventures of a Helicopter Pilot, Flying the H-34 in Vietnam for the United States Marine Corps." The book can be ordered on Amazon at: <http://www.amazon.com/The-Adventures-Helicopter-Pilot-helicopter/dp/1500936138> for \$20.00.
- E-mail forwarded by Mike Shaw, from his new home in Thailand, from David Sanchez requested information about his father Dave Sanchez from San Jose, CA. He served in Vietnam and would like to find information so he can better be able to communicate with his father about his past service.

VI. Financial Report:

- Treasurer reported that an Income & Expense report for the period ending August 31, 2015 was completed. There was one discrepancy of \$1.13 which is currently being resolved.
- During the June 15, 2015 Chapter meeting, the membership approved a donation of \$100.00 to the Gold Star Mothers Family Monument (at Arlington National Cemetery) fundraiser. This donation has not been sent because of the lack of a mailing address. Additionally, there is apparent confusion/misunderstanding in this project. The VVA request apparently is the desire that local Chapters conduct fund raising for this project to raise about \$2,000.00 each for construction of the monument instead of merely sending a Chapter donation. This issue will need to be resolved.
- Copy of the Financial Report was distributed. The Treasurer's report gave the income, expenses and balance of the bank account as of October 19, 2015.

Motion to approve by James W. McMann and Second by Randall Richmond.

- Three members will be required to perform an Audit of the Chapter books/finances. Chapter Board of Directors members Dennis Foggie (Lead), Gerald Arnold and Randall Richmond will perform the Audit.

VII. Officer Reports:

President:

- Gerald Arnold was appointed (Chapter Order #7) Veteran Services Officer (VSO) replacing Mike Berliner who resigned from the Chapter.
- Michael Frangadakis was appointed (Chapter Order #8) Chapter Sergeant at Arms replacing Chuck Barber who has moved to Modesto, California.

- The Monterey Bay Rock Cod Fishing Trip Took place on Saturday, October 3rd. Marina American Legion Post provided a spaghetti dinner feed the night before for those who arrived on Friday. After the fishing trip, the Seaside American Legion Post held a BBQ banquet at which awards were presented to fishing participants. The Monterey Presidio Army Housing Office provided accommodations to Disabled Veterans for the fishing trip.
- The San Jose Veterans Center will receive a new flagpole for its new location (440 N 1st St, San Jose, CA 95112). There will be a ceremonial Flag Raising on Saturday, November 7th from 11AM to 1:30PM. All veteran organizations, and the UVC, are encouraged to support this event with their attendance at this ceremony.
- Special thanks to Ruben and Oleta Willhite for the donation of Holiday Cards that can be used at Palo Alto and Menlo Park VA Hospitals during visitations.
- A thank you will be sent to the Sunnyvale Moose lodge for their quarterly donation of \$100.00 to the Chapter to support veterans.

VIII. Board Of Directors Report:

Nothing to report.

IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:

The next CSC Conference will be held in Fresno between 23 and 25 October. President Dave Sanders will be the Chapter Delegate in attendance.

X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Delegates Report

- UVC President Fran McVey reported that there will not be any display of the individual military service logos/emblems during this year's Veterans' Day Parade. This is the result of the Department of Defense enforcement of the regulation requiring a license for the use of these logos/emblems. Without approval, use of the logos/emblems will result in a \$5,000.00 fine for each "illegal" use.
- The City of San Jose approved the flying of the POW/MIA flag at City Hall 365-days a year, now, it is the turn of Santa Clara County to also fly the flag. The UVC has submitted a request to the County and Chapter member Michael Frangadakis, current President of the Santa Clara County Veterans Commission, advised that the Commission is reviewing the request and will forward their recommendation to the County Board of Supervisors for approval.
- The UVC still needs volunteers to help with the Veterans' Day Parade. Because of the increased size of this year's parade (about twice that of last year), use of an additional lot north on Autumn Street will be required for staging. Since UVC President Fran McVey needs to support activities in the Staging Area, UVC Vice President (and Chapter 201 member) Warren Finch will represent the UVC on the Reviewing Stand. A special joint City and County Press/News Conference is planned to be held at the Reviewing Stand at 10:30am, prior to the opening ceremony.
- The UVC will also be holding a "Honor on the Row" event at Santana Row between 2:00PM and 6:00PM following the Parade. There will be a number of historic military vehicles (approximately 20) on the Row and the public is encouraged to have their photo taken with the vehicles. Additionally, there will be several "booths" set up for veteran and military organizations to distributing information and conduct recruiting for their organizations.

- Chapter 201 is scheduled to participate in the UVC Flag Lowering Ceremony on October 25. President Sanders will be attending the CSC Conference in Fresno, therefore, Vice President Kadlec will “officiate” for the Chapter. All are encourage to attend this ceremony and three members will be required for the lowering and folding of the flag. We will also need participation of the AVVA Color Guard.

XI. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee (Robert Johnston, Sr.):	The Chapter currently has 77 members. 63 Life members, 11 Individual member and 3 Incarcerated.
POW/MIA Committee (Robert Johnston, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
Agent Orange Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	<p>The October 15, 2015 issue of the Stars & Stripes newspaper reported that the House and Senate veterans affairs committees quietly allowed a provision of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 to expire on 1 October. Committee staff and the VA agree that the change has not impacted the VA’s authority to decide to expand the list of diseases presumed connected to wartime herbicide exposure. But veteran advocates, and at least one lawmaker, suggest the change is intended to dampen VA cost risks and perhaps ease political pressure on the Secretary and Congress facing a potential tsunami of disability claims.</p> <p>http://www.stripes.com/news/us/agent-orange-law-changes-as-new-cost-fears-surface-1.373413</p>
Constitution/Bylaws (Robert Kadlec):	Nothing to report.
Community Services Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
Government Affairs Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
Employment Training & Business Opportunities (ETaBO) (Randall Richmond):	Nothing to report.
Finance & Fund Raising Committee (Randall Richmond):	Chapter Fund Raiser at Moffett Field Commissary is tentatively planned for 12/13 December 2015. Detail to be addressed at the November meeting.
Public Affairs Committee(Vacant):	Nothing to report.
Veterans benefits Committee (Vacant):	Nothing to report.
San Jose Veterans Center Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
Veterans Incarcerated Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
Women Veterans Committee (Barbara Johnston):	Nothing to report.

XII. Unfinished Business:

- Past Chapter President Bob Johnston, Sr. has delivered several boxes of Chapter material to President Sanders. The material includes a flight suit which might have belonged to Darwin Thomas.

- Joaquin Miller Jr. High Veterans Recognition:
 Joaquin Miller Junior High School (6151 Rainbow Drive, San Jose, CA 95129 408-252-3755) will hold an Annual Recognition for Veterans during Veterans' Day week. Each Veteran participating will be assigned to a student to be escorted on to the football field to be recognized and then escorted to an indoor room to answer questions from the students. This is akin to our Speakers Bureau Program.
- Report from the VVA National Convention on July 21 to 25, 2015:
 - Delegate count at the July Convention was 743-delegates. Elected officers for 2015/2016 were: John Rowan - President (reelected); Marsha Four - Vice President (reelected); Bill Meeks - Secretary (reelected); Wayne Reynolds - Treasurer (reelected); Dick Southern - Region 9 Director (reelected). Additionally, Jerry Yamamoto was elected as California Director at large to the Board of Directors.
 - There were 31 Constitutional amendments and two resolutions proposed during the Convention. Changes to the National VVA Constitution that affect the State and/or Chapter:
 - 1) Clarified that the Chapter levels has "Bylaws," not Constitution.
 - 2) Permit the option to elect officers to either a one-year or two-year term.
 - 3) Delete the reference to "Telegraphic Terminals" for media communications.
 - 4) Change title "Nomination Committee" to read "Election Committee."
 - 5) Chapter Secretaries are responsible for the safekeeping of member DD-214 forms, or other forms of proof of military service.

XIII. New Business:

Nothing to report.

XIV. Good of the Order:

- The AVVA will not be holding BBQs at the VA hospitals in Palo Alto and Menlo Park due to a yet resolved requirement for a "health certificate" for food handling. Instead, there will be "Visitations" planned around the Christmas Holiday period. It is proposed that a visitation to the VA Menlo Park Hospital take place over the 19/20 December time period. Long time Chapter member Ken Cook is currently in building 360, Pod D at Menlo Park. Also, long time Chapter member Earl Edwards is in an Assisted Living facility on Bascom Avenue in San Jose.
- The Chapter might want to consider partnering with American Legion District 13 during their Presidents Day event in February 2016.
- Michael Frangadakis reported that the National Guard Veterans Affairs Commission of Santa Clara County currently has seven (7) members and is looking for three (3) new volunteers for the Commission. The Commission provides a voice to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. The Commission has established a Veterans Memorial Foundation with plans to erect a Veterans Memorial in Los Gatos. Fund raising goal is between \$700 thousand and one million dollars annually.
- The State of California Military Reserve is accepting volunteers. Members would support State activities and would not be deployed outside of the State. There is no age limit for membership; however, all volunteers must pass a military physical. Benefits include free education at a State college or university for children of members over the age of 18.

- Dennis Whittaker reported on the Joaquin Miller Jr. High Veterans Recognition Day: Joaquin Miller Junior High School (6151 Rainbow Dr, San Jose, CA 95129 408-252-3755) will hold an Annual Recognition for Veterans during Veterans' Day week. Each Veteran participating will be assigned to a student to be escorted on to the football field to be recognized and then escorted to an indoor room to answer questions from the students. This is akin to our Speakers Bureau Program.
- Bill Lewis Reported on the "California Challenge" Ride 2 Recovery six-day bike ride for recovering California Veterans to be held between 17 and 24 October 2015. The first leg of the ride is from the Palo Alto VA Hospital to Santa Cruz. For more information on the "Ride 2 Recovery," go to: <https://ride2recovery.com/event.php?ID=709>.
- Randall Richmond reported that the Mountain View Surplus on Bascom Avenue in Campbell will be closing by December 2016. Therefore, they are holding discount sales as they draw down the business.
- The documentary film "Of Men and War" will be screening daily at Camera Cinemas (201 S 2nd St.) from November 13th - 19th. The film provides a look into the lives of twelve returned veterans and follows their efforts to recover from PTSD and depicts the refuge found in fellow veterans and support providers. Involvement of VVA members at one or multiple screenings is encouraged by the producers (Alice Films). For more information, contact Hannah Campbell, Outreach Manager, Matson Films: hannah@matsonfilms.com or phone at 213-232-0135.
- The VVA National Headquarters and the California State Council continues to solicit support from VVA membership regarding encouraging your representatives sponsorship of the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 -- H.R. 1769 and S.901. The Legislative Action site is at: <http://capwiz.com/vva/home/>.

XV. Closing Ceremony

- The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday November 16, 2015 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM. The Chapter will pay for dessert for those arriving at 6:00 PM.
- Chaplain Randall Richmond provided the closing benediction and Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Frangadakis retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:38PM (2038 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed

Barbara Johnston, Secretary
 Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
 Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Holder's Country Inn
998 South DeAnza Blvd, San Jose, CA 95129

Attendees:

Warren Finch	(USA)
John Hassenplug	(USN)
Clyde Horn	(USA)
Barbara Johnston	(USA)
Robert Kadlec	(USAF)
James Medeiros	(USA)
Francis McVey	(USN)
Sherry Oppenheim	(Guest)
David Sanders	(USAF)
Mary Sessler	(Guest)
Randall Sessler	(USA)
Jack Wells	(USMC)
Oleta Willhite	(AVVA)
Reuben Willhite	(USMC)

- I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:05 PM (1905 hours) at the Holder's Country Inn.
- II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:
 - President - David Sanders
 - Vice President - Robert Kadlec
 - Secretary/Treasurer - Barbara Johnston
 - 1-year Board Member - Dennis Foggie (Excused)
 - 2-year Board Member - Gerald Arnold (Absent)
 - 3-year Board Member - Randy Richmond (Absent)
- III. Guests:
 - Sherry Oppenheim
 - Mary Sessler
- IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the October 19th meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Motion to approve by John Hassenplug and Second by Bob Kadlec. The minutes were approved.
- V. Correspondence:
 - Received a copy of the Chapter 223 (Redwood City) newsletter. Copies the State newsletter (Zephyr) can be obtained on the CSC web site (www.vvacalsc.com).

VI. Financial Report:

- Copy of the Financial Report was distributed. The Treasurer's report gave the income, expenses and balance of the bank account as of November 16, 2015.

Motion to approve by John Hassenplug and Second by Randy Sessler. Motion passed.

- Barbara Johnston will be traveling over Thanksgiving but will be available for an audit of the Chapter books/finances during the first two weeks in December.

VII. Officer Reports:

President:

- A ceremonial Flag Raising for the San Jose Veterans Center's new flagpole at their new location (440 N 1st St, San Jose, CA 95112) was held on Saturday, November 7th from 11AM to 1:30PM.
- Participated in the UVC Veterans' Day Parade in San Jose, the City of Santa Clara Memorial Ceremony and the UVC Honor on the Row event at Santana Row on November 11th.

VIII. Board Of Directors Report:

Nothing to report.

IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:

The CSC Conference was held in Fresno between 23 and 25 October. President Dave Sanders attended as the Chapter Delegate.

- VVA Northern District Director Dean Gotham is working with Congressman John Garamendi on California homeless issues. Dean is our contact at the CSC for Veteran homeless issues.
- The next CSC Conference will be held between 29 and 31 January 2016 in Fresno.
- The next State VVA Convention will be held between 23 and 26 June 2016 (location to be determined).

X. United Veterans Council Report

- On 25 October, about twenty Chapter 201 VVA and AVVA members participated in the UVC Flag Lowering Ceremony at Oak Hill Memorial Park to honor deceased Veterans. UVC Past President, and Chapter 201 member, Gene Fanucchi acted as the Master of Ceremonies while Chapter 201 Vice President Bob Kadlec officiated for the VVA. Chapter 201 member Dennis Foggie, AVVA Chapter 201 Vice President Cang Dong and Chapter Chaplain Randy Richmond lowered and folded the flag at the Veterans Section of Oak Hill Memorial Park while members of AVVA Chapter 201 provided the Honor Guard for the Ceremony.
- UVC After Action Veterans' Day "debriefing" will be held on Tuesday, 24 November at American Legion Post 318 at 6:30PM.

- Prior to the Veteran’s Day Parade, and the Armistice Day Ceremony, San Jose Mayor [Sam Licardo](#) and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors President Dave Cortese held a News Conference for the Media. The subject was the initiation of a City and County homeless project putting together a team to raise funds with a goal to eliminate homelessness by the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day in 2018. This project will probably incorporate the San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera’s “Veterans Empowering Veterans” project (which the UVC is a member) and local corporations representation on the Silicon Valley Leadership Group. One initiative is for the City of San Jose to provide rental subsidies to fill the gap in cost for section 8 cap rents. The Housing Authority and the City will be holding a meeting within the next two weeks to address the benefits for landlords. Additionally, the City has purchased a hotel in San Jose which will be renovated and devoted to housing for Veterans.

XI. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee (Robert Johnston, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
POW/MIA Committee (Robert Johnston, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
Agent Orange Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Education Brochures have been produced with funding from the HGDP.
Constitution/Bylaws (Robert Kadlec):	To be addressed after the Holidays.
Community Services Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Working with the San Jose Vet Center.
Government Affairs Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Working with the City and County on Veteran homeless issues.
Employment Training & Business Opportunities (ETaBO) (Randall Richmond):	Nothing to report.
Finance & Fund Raising Committee (Randall Richmond):	Chapter Fund Raiser at Moffett Field Commissary is planned for 12/13 December 2015 from 10:00am - 3:00pm.
Public Affairs Committee(Vacant):	Nothing to report.
Veterans benefits Committee (Vacant):	Nothing to report.
San Jose Veterans Center Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Nothing to report.
Veterans Incarcerated Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Will provide copies of recent Chapter meeting minutes to incarcerated Chapter members.
Women Veterans Committee (Barbara Johnston):	Nothing to report.

XII. Unfinished Business:

- The Chapter will partner with American Legion District 13 during their Presidents Day event in February 2016 for visitations to the VA Hospitals.

XIII. New Business:

- President Dave Sanders made a motion to renew Chapter membership on the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County at \$20.00 for annual dues. Motion seconded by Reuben Willhite. Motion passed.
- In accordance with the Chapter Constitution/Bylaws, the Chapter membership is required to elect a nominating committee, hereafter known as the "Election Committee," to identify and nominate individuals for the Annual Election of Officers to be held in April each year. We will need three individuals on this committee. The following were "elected" as members on the Election Committee:

John Hassenplug
Francis McVey
Randall Sessler

Anyone interested in an officer position should let their desires be know to anyone of the members of the Election Committee.

- The Chapter currently has a web site that was created and maintained by Past Chapter President Mike Shaw. Recently Mike suggested that the Chapter identify someone else to develop/maintain a web site for the Chapter since it is a bit difficult for him to continue doing it from his new residence in Thailand.

Therefore, an individual who has developed several web sites (primarily the Sons of Union Veterans) has indicated a willingness to develop a new Chapter web site as well as maintain it.

A new web site, with the possible URL of www.VVA201.org, can be created with an estimated cost to develop and maintain it at approximately **\$72 per year** (with a three-year contract

Motion to develop a new Chapter web site was made by Bob Kadlec, seconded by Reuben Willhite. Motion passed.

- Jack Wells reported that an Army veteran in the Bellingham, Washington VVA Chapter is participating in a program to provide scholarships, or financial aid, to school children in Vietnam. Jack made a motion for the Chapter to sponsor two Vietnamese children at \$130.00 each for the 2016 calendar year (total \$260.00) from HGDP funds. Motion seconded by John Hassenplug.

XIV. Good of the Order:

- The Chapter might want to consider partnering with American Legion District 13 during their Presidents Day event in February 2016.
- **Our next Chapter meeting has been canceled in lieu of a holiday dinner at Harry's Hof Brau on Saturday, 19 December 2015. We will gather at Harry's Hof Brau and the Chapter would pay for a Senior Dinner for all those who wish to attend. Essentially all "formal" business would be postponed until January in lieu of the Holiday festivities.**

- President Dave Sanders reported that Chapter Member Jack wells authored an excellent book titled "Class of 67: The Story of the 6th Marine Officer's Basic Class of 1967." In the book, Jack delivers a moving and fitting eulogy to the forty-three lieutenants who were in Marine Officers Basic Class 6-67, and who died in Vietnam, plus one classmate captured in Lebanon in 1988 and hung by Muslim terrorists. The book is a memorial to those men who made the ultimate sacrifice for their men and country. In telling their story, and the battle action that caused their death, the book provides a capsule history of the war as seen by those who served in Central Vietnam.

Amazon is selling the book \$45.95 plus tax in paperback. Jack has copies for anyone interested at \$32.00 (tax paid). If you are interested in a copy, contact Jack at: jwellsca1@earthlink.net.

- Warren Finch provided information on obtaining M1 Garand rifles for the Chapter AVVA Honor Guard through the Civilian Marksmanship Program. Orders for a maximum of 15 rifles can be placed through the AMVETS. Storage is at the Discretion of the Chapter in accordance with all State and local laws/regulations (must be in a lockable, 3-bolt, safe). The rifles remain the property of the U.S. Government. The Government will pay/reimburse the cost of any necessary repairs. They must be returned to the Government when no longer needed. President Dave Sanders will coordinate with the Chapter 201 AVVA regarding ordering the rifles and Chapter 201 will provide the blanks for use by the Honor Guard.
- The Moose organization has a program called "Tommy Moose" that provides "stuffed" moose to local police and fire departments for distribution to children. The Chapter might want to obtain some of these Tommy Moose for distribution at the VA Hospitals.

XV. Closing Ceremony

- **The next VVA Chapter 201 gathering will be at Harry's Hof Brau on Saturday, 19 December 2015 at ~~4:00pm~~ 12:00 noon.** (Time change)
- Acting Chaplain Sherry Oppenheim provided the closing benediction and Acting Sergeant-At-Arms John Hassenplug retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:07PM (2007 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed

Barbara Johnston, Secretary
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, December 19, 2015

Harry's Hof Brau • 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, California

In lieu of the December Chapter 201 social and business meeting, thirty-one members, prospective members, and guests gathered at Harry's Hof Brau Restaurant in San Jose at 12:00 Noon on Saturday, 19 December for a Holiday luncheon. Since this was an informal "social" gathering, no VVA or Chapter business was discussed. However there were a couple presentations and announcements.

- I. **President David Sanders** reported on recent fund raising efforts to support various Chapter activities. These include a successful fundraiser held at the Moffett Field Commissary and a significant donation to the Chapter by the American Legion's Mission City Charities and Santa Clara Post 564.
- II. **President David Sanders** reported that Chapter Chaplain Randy Richmond and AVVA Chapter 201 Vice President Cang Dong were noticeably absent from the luncheon since they were conducting a "Visitation" at the Palo Alto Veterans Administration Hospital handing out cards and holiday cheer to the patients.
- III. Chapter 201 member **James Barker** enlightened the gathering with his recent bicycle journey through Vietnam and Hanoi.
- IV. Chapter 201 member **Fran McVey**, in his position as the current President of the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County (UVC), presented the Chapter, President David Sanders and Vice President Bob Kadlec with Certificates of Recognition for the support provided to the successful Veterans' Day events in Downtown San Jose and at Santana Row on behalf of the UVC.
- V. Prospective new Chapter 201 member, retired Army **Major General Robert Ostenberg** presented Vietnam Veteran 50th Anniversary lapel pins to all Vietnam and Vietnam Era veterans who gathered for the Holiday Luncheon.
- VI. Chapter 201 member **Jack Wells** offered copies of his book titled "Class of 67: The Story of the 6th Marine Officer's Basic Class of 1967." The book is a memorial to those men who made the ultimate sacrifice for their men and country.

A rejuvenated Chapter 201 ended a successful year with the 2015 Holiday Luncheon and reminded all that the next gathering will be the monthly social and business meeting on the third Monday of the month on January 18, 2016 at Holder's Country Inn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert J. Kadlec, Vice President
Acting Secretary,
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
Vietnam Veterans of America