

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 18, 2016

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

Attendees:

Edward Aki	(USMC)
Gerald Arnold	(USN)
Cang Dong	(AVVA)
Gene Fanucchi	(USA)
Warren Finch	(USA)
Dennis Foggie	(USAF)
Michael Frangadakis	(USA)
John Hassenplug	(USN)
Clyde R. Horn	(USA)
Barbara Johnston	(USA)
Robert Kadlec	(USAF)
Francis McVey	(USN)
James Medeiros	(USA)
Randall Richmond	(USA)
Carmen Sanders	(AVVA)
David Sanders	(USAF)
Mary Sessler	(AVVA)
Randall Sessler	(USA)
Jack Wells	(USMC)
Dennis Whittaker	(USA)
Oleta Willhite	(AVVA)
Reuben Willhite	(USMC)

I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:02 PM (1902 hours) at the Holder's Country Inn. Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Frangadakis 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
3-year Board Member - Randy Richmond

III. Guests:

Gwen Lee Arnold
Alexa Aki
Paul Davis (USA) - S.J. Vet Center
Hannelore Foggie
Don Havens (USMC)
Daniella Johnston
Casimiro Morin
K.D. Poynter (USAF)
William Thai (AVVA)

IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the November and December 2015 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership.

November Minutes Roll Call Change: Gerry Arnold was excused vice absent from the meeting.

Gerry Arnold reported the Change of the name of the Chapter Government Affairs Committee to read "Homeless & Government Affairs Committee."

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected by John Hassenplug and Second by Warren Finch. The minutes were approved.

V. Correspondence:

- Message from the Department of Veterans Affairs recognizing Martin Luther King Day (18 January).
- Motions made and approved at the VVA National Board of Directors meeting:
 - Remove and refrain the use of the terminology Vietnam ERA Veteran and use Vietnam Veteran or Vietnam Generation instead.
 - Life Membership dues at \$100 regardless of age effective January 1, 2016.

VI. Financial Report:

- Outgoing Treasurer Barbara Johnston reported that a copy of the Financial Report, covering the November 16, 2015 through January 18, 2016 was distributed. The Treasurer's Report gave the income, expenses and balance of the bank account as of January 18, 2016.
- Motion to approve Treasurers Report by Dennis Foggie and Second by Michael Frangadakis. Motion passed.
- Motion made to reimburse Dennis Foggie \$127.76 for the purchase of Quicken Application and instruction manual upon assumption of duties as the new Chapter Treasurer. Seconded by Randy Richmond. Motion approved.

VII. Officer Reports:

President:

- On 19 and 20 December 2015 the Chapter, and Associates, held visitations at the Palo Alto and Menlo Park VA Hospitals. President David Sanders presented Certificates of Appreciation to Cang Kim Dong (AVVA-201 Vice President) and Randy Richmond (Chapter-201 Chaplain) in appreciation for their outstanding performance during the 2015 Holiday "Visitation" at the Palo Alto and Menlo Park VA Hospitals
- Fund Raising:
 - American Legion Mission City Charities made a donation to the Chapter.
 - Cyber CSI (Computer Solutions International) made a significant donation to the Chapter.
 - Moffett Field Fundraiser on December 12th raised over \$200. The Sunday (13 December) fundraiser was rained out.
 - The Sunnyvale Moose Lodge will make quarterly donations to the Chapter.
- Plan to reinstitute the Chapter-201 newsletter (Observation Post) as soon as possible. Volunteers to help with the newsletter are most welcome.
- Chapter Member Don MacDougall (Past Vice President) will undergo knee surgery in the next two weeks.
- Not to forget that May 2016 is Veteran Appreciation Month.
- President David Sanders reported that the Chapter AVVA has done considerable work with its VA hospital activities and its expenses have exceeded \$4,000.00 over the past year. A motion was made to donate \$500.00 to the AVVA. Motion seconded by Michael Frangadakis. Motion Passed.

- New Chapter Treasurer:
 - The Chapter Board of Directors has accepted the resignation of Barbara Johnston from the position of Treasure and has published Chapter Order number nine which recommends that the Chapter Membership approve the appointment of Dennis Foggie to fill the position of Treasure until the Annual Elections on 18 April. Additionally, Dennis Foggie will be relieved of his position on the Board of Directors since, as Treasurer, he would automatically hold a Director position on the Board. I therefore request a motion to approve the Board's recommendation to appoint Dennis Foggie as the Chapter Treasurer until 18 April 2016. Motion by David Sanders, Second by Michael Frangadakis, Motion Passed
- Visits by the Chapter President:
 - Roxie Toy Overseas Deployment Party at the home of the Commander of the 129th Rescue wing.
 - Ken Cook at the Menlo Park VA Hospital and Earl Edwards.
 - Past President Robert Beresford in the Vista Manor Nursing Center and gave him one of the Moose Lodge "Tommy Moose."
 - Attended the funeral of World War II Veteran, and 8-time President of the United Veterans Council, Ernie Glave.
 - Delivered Holiday Greeting Cards, provided by Rubin and Oleta Willhite, to the San Jose Vet Center.
- VVA Household Goods Distribution Program (HGDP):
 - The Chapter is required to submit its annual report on the disbursement of HGDP funds that have been provided between April 1, 2015 and February 29, 2016 no later than 15 March 2016. Between April and August 2015 the Chapter received and reported the distribution of \$1,925.00. The March 15th Annual report will include this amount and the additional \$2,310.00 it will receive by 29 February. The additional Chapter expenditures, that meet the distribution criteria, for the period ending 29 February are:
 - 1) \$33.00 for Agent Orange Education Brochures.
 - 2) \$600.80 for Community Service (\$240.00 for the Sunnyvale Moose Lodge and \$360.80 for the Veterans Alliance of Santa Clara County).
 - 3) \$610.20 for a three-year contract to create and maintain the Chapter's new web site.
 - 4) \$520.00 for Scholarships for four Vietnamese children.
 - 5) \$546.00 for travel associated with the October 2015 and February 2016 CSC Conferences.

VIII. Board Of Directors Report:

Chapter Order Number 9, series 2015-2016, published recommending the appointment of Dennis Foggie as replacement for Barbara Johnston who has resigned as Chapter Treasurer.

IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:

The next CSC Conference will be held in Fresno between 5 and 7 February. President Dave Sanders will attended as the Chapter Delegate.

X. United Veterans Council Report

- United Veterans Council (UVC) President Fran McVey reported that the UVC had a successful 2015 with both Memorial Day in May and the Veterans' Day activities in November. Fund raising activities need to begin to raise between \$55,000 and \$60,000 that will be needed for the 2016 Veterans' Day Parade.

- UVC President Fran McVey presented an update on the City of San Jose and Santa Clara County Homeless Initiatives:
 - The local Veterans Homeless activities by the City and County are the result of a Nation-wide project launched by Michelle Obama. The mayor's of major U.S. cities are challenged to end veteran homelessness and the City of San Jose and Santa Clara County have set a goal to end veteran homelessness by November 11, 2018 (the Centennial of Armistice Day). The challenge initiatives include:
 - 1) Shelter from adverse weather.
 - 2) Health Care & Mental Health Care System.
 - 3) Job/Employment Assistance.
 - 4) Affordable Housing
 - One person is to be hired to manage the City & County effort that will be funded jointly by the VA, City of San Jose, Santa Clara County and the Housing Authority. Interestingly, there will be no staff, no budget and no power over anyone to bring 35 to 40 organizations together to solve the issues. The challenge will be great to get all to agree to what they do to support the initiative.
 - It is reported that there are about 300 beds available for about 5,000 homeless in the County. There are 273 homeless veterans with housing vouchers but, to date, there are no landlords willing to take the vouchers to provide housing. The City has \$5 million and the County has \$1.5 million to design an incentive program to get the landlords to support the voucher program.
 - Anyone willing and able to assist Fran McVey, and the UVC, on the Veteran Homelessness issue can contact Fran at: mrmac1@sbcglobal.net.

XI. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee (Robert Johnston, Sr.) -- Life memberships \$100 retroactive to 1 January 2016. Chapter membership stands at ten (10) individual members, three (3) incarcerated and 63 life members for a total of 76.

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):	Work in progress.
Community Services Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Working with the San Jose Vet Center.
Homeless & Government Affairs Committee: (David Sanders, Sr. & Gerry Arnold)	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):	Another Chapter Fund Raiser at Moffett Field Commissary will be planned for the Spring or Summer time frame as well as possible BBQ at the San Jose Vet Center or a local park.
Public Affairs Committee(Vacant):	Nothing to report.
Veterans benefits Committee (Vacant):	Nothing to report.

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

Paul Davis from the San Jose Vet Center advised that he is assisting veterans in need of employment and is working with the "Work For Warriors" program which is very aggressive in finding jobs for veterans..

Veterans Incarcerated Committee
(David Sanders, Sr.):

Nothing to report.

Women Veterans Committee
(Barbara Johnston):

Nothing to report.

XII. Unfinished Business:

- Motion made by Barbara Johnston to pay \$91.11 to Holder's Country Inn for deserts provided during tonight's Chapter meeting. Seconded by Gerry Arnold. Motion passed. Future Chapter payments for dessert will be addressed at a future time..
- **ELECTION COMMITTEE:** In Accordance with the VVA Chapter 201 Constitution, the elected Nominating Committee (hereafter known as the Election Committee) "shall prepare a slate of Officers and Directors and submit the list for consideration by the Chapter members one month prior to the election." Since the annual elections will be held on 18 April 2016, the Election Committee shall submit their Officer and Director nominations to the Chapter membership no later than the 21 March 2016 Chapter meeting. Additionally, the membership is NOT constrained by the Election Committee's slate of nominations. Any member at the Annual Meeting on 18 April 2016 may nominate additional persons.

The members of the Election Committee, John Hassenplug (Hassenplug1@comcast.net), Francis McVey (Mrmac1@sbcglobal.net) and Randall Sessler (Rhinofb@yahoo.com), will accept recommendations for any elected position **before 21 March 2016**.

- **WEB SITE:** Data Files for the new Chapter web Site (www.VVA201.org) have been provided to the developer/Webmaster. A contract will be provided before the February meeting at which time a check for \$610.20 for the three-year web site contract (\$16.95 per month) will have to be issued. The funding for the web site will be paid for out of HGDP funds under the "Education Category" and not Chapter budgeted monies. It is estimated that the new web site could be on-line by the first of March 2016.

XIII. New Business:

Nothing to report.

XIV. Good of the Order:

- Chapter Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Gerry Arnold has met with the San Jose Vet Center. He advises that the San Jose Vet Center will help veteran who are having difficulties with their VA Claims.
- Chapter VSO Gerry Arnold advised that he is available to provide assistance for all who may have issues with the VA Palo Alto Health Care System.
 - The VA Choice Cards have been increased from 60-days to 365-days of authorization.
 - The formal opening of the Menlo Park VA Housing will be from 10:00am to noon on February 18, 2016.
 - The Ground Breaking for the new San Jose Clinic (to replace the Great Oaks Facility in about two years) will take place on April 14, 2016 (time to be determined) at 5855 Silver Creek Valley Place in San Jose.

- Chapter Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Frangadakis (Santa Clara County Commissioner for Veterans and Board President) advised that he, and new Chapter member MGen Robert Osterberg (USA, ret) conducted their annual visitation to the Palo Alto VA Hospital Polytrauma Units on Christmas Day.
- Chapter Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Frangadakis suggested that the Chapter consider putting on slide show presentations by Chapter members addressing their experiences in Vietnam for families and friends. Perhaps this could be done during a quarterly meeting perhaps during the "dinner hour."
- KD Poynter advised that the Willows Housing at the Menlo Park VA is looking for furniture, utensils, etc. for the veterans who have been provided housing at the Willows.
- AVVA Chapter 201 Vice President introduced William Thai who will be a AVVA Liaison with VVA Chapter 201.

XV. Closing Ceremony

- The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday February 15, 2016 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.
- Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the closing benediction and Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Frangadakis retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM (2045 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Johnston

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, February 15 2016

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

Attendees:

David J. Ackerman	(USA)	James Medeiros	(USA)
Edward Aki	(USMC)	K.D. Poynter	(USAF)
Gerald Arnold	(USN)	David Sanders	(USAF)
Cang Dong	(AVVA)	Mary Sessler	(AVVA)
Gene Fanucchi	(USA)	Randall Sessler	(USA)
Warren Finch	(USA)	William Thai	(AVVA)
Dennis Foggie	(USAF)	Jack Wells	(USMC)
Michael Frangadakis	(USA)	Dennis Whittaker	(USA)
John Hassenplug	(USN)	Oleta Willhite	(AVVA)
Robert Kadlec	(USAF)	Reuben Willhite	(USMC)
Francis McVey	(USN)		

- I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:03 PM (1903 hours) at the Holder's Country Inn. Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Frangadakis led the Pledge of Allegiance and Acting Chaplain Gene Fanucchi 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 straits.
- II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:
 - President - David Sanders
 - Vice President - Robert Kadlec
 - Secretary - Barbara Johnston (Excused)
 - Treasurer - Dennis Foggie
 - 1-year Board Member - (Vacant)
 - 2-year Board Member - Gerald Arnold
 - 3-year Board Member - Randy Richmond (Excused)
- III. Guests:
 - Christina Ackerman
 - Alexa Aki
 - Hannelore Foggie
 - Anthony Frangadakis
 - Ponce Gonzalez (Chapter-464 and CSC Public Affairs Committee Chair)
 - David Sanders (Goodwill Industries in Silicon Valley)
- IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the January 2016 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership.

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected by John Hassenplug and Second by Michael Frangadakis. The minutes were approved.
- V. Correspondence:
 - Letter from an incarcerated VVA member (back East) about the sale of hand made holsters.

VI. Financial Report:

- Treasurer Dennis Foggie reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed. The Treasurer's Report gave the income, expenses and balance of the bank account as of February 15, 2016.
- Motion to approve Treasurers Report by Dennis Whittaker and Second by John Hassenplug. Motion passed.

VII. Officer Reports:

President:

- On 25 December 2015 Chapter members MG Robert Ostenberg and Michael Frangadakis, held an annual visitation to the Polytrauma Units at the Palo Alto VA Hospital. President David Sanders presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Michael Frangadakis in appreciation for his commitment during the 2015 Holiday visit to the Palo Alto VA Hospital. A certificate will also be presented to MG Robert Ostenberg at our next meeting.
- Chapter 201 Certificates of Appreciation will also be presented to Past Chapter President Robert Johnston, for his 27-years of service to the VVA, and Sunnyvale Moose Lodge 2049 for their support to veterans.
- Letters containing a copy of the Chapter's January minutes, along with the current VVA Chapter 201 brochure will be forwarded to the Chapter's three incarcerated members.
- President David Sanders and Treasurer Dennis Foggie attended an event with the Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing and presented a donation, in the name of Chapter 201, to the Wing's 130th Rescue Group to support Guards members returning from overseas deployment.
- President David Sanders presented several "Tommy Moose" at the American Legions Presidents Day Event at the Menlo Park VA Hospital.

VIII. Board Of Directors Report:

President David Sanders, Vice President Robert Kadlec and Treasurer Dennis Foggie will meet next week to review the Chapter's financial accounts, the Household Goods Distribution Program, and other matters that will effect the Chapter as we enter the new fiscal year.

IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:

President David Sanders attended the CSC Conference held in Fresno between 5 and 7 February as the Chapter Delegate.

- The IRS 990N reports are due on February 29, 2016. However, the IRS is in transition as they assume responsibility for the reports from a contractor who has been handling them in the past. The consensus at the CSC Conference is to wait until after 29 February to file to give the IRS an opportunity to get everything set up.
- CSC Central District Director, Richard Segovia, discussed the All Veterans Day event that will be held in Sacramento on March 30, 2016. All VVA members are encouraged to attend. Registration will be accepted up to the day before, however, attendees are asked to sign up by the 15th of March. Chapter member MG Ostenberg has advised that he will attend.
- It was announced that Al Sickles has replaced Chapter 201 Past President Robert Johnston as the CSC POW/MIA Committee Chair.
- The 15th Cal Con (VVA California State Convention) will be held in Fresno between 23 and 25 June 2016.
 - Chapter 201 should have two delegates eligible to vote.
 - Any VVA member can attend the Convention and are encouraged to do so since this is a good opportunity to meet fellow members throughout the State and learn what is going on with the VVA in California.

- Three motions passed by the VVA National Board of Directors during their January 2016 meeting were reported:
 - Remove and refrain from use of the terminology “Vietnam Era Veteran” and begin using terms such as “Vietnam Veteran” or “Vietnam Generation.”
 - Amend Life Membership dues deleting the age brackets and setting Life Membership dues at \$100.00 regardless of age retroactive to January 1, 2016.
 - Approved the revised VVA Election Report form (Jan 2016) as presented by the Membership Affairs Committee.
- President Sanders participated in five “Tier Group” Meetings:
 - Public Affairs
 - Veterans Benefits
 - Membership
 - Household Goods Distribution Program
 - PTSD

X. United Veterans Council Report

- United Veterans Council (UVC) President Fran McVey reported that the UVC needs to encourage more veteran organizations to renew their membership on the UVC.
- The time has arrived to begin fund raising for the 2016 Veterans’ Day parade. The UVC (Veterans Alliance) has sent out 300 solicitation letters.
- It is also time for the UVC to begin planning for this year’s Memorial Day ceremonies at Oak Hill Memorial Park.
- Fran McVey reported on the Spirit of 45 National Leaders Conference that was held at History Park in San Jose between 12 and 14 February 2016.
 - Spirit of 45 was begun in San Jose by Warren Hegg in 2007 and is now Nationwide to honor World War II Veterans. The Spirit of 45 event is celebrated on the second Sunday in August each year.
 - There are plans for the next five-years to honor the anniversaries of various key battles as we approach the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in 2020. Local historic sites/venues such as the S.S. Jeremiah O’Brien Liberty ship in San Francisco, the Moffett Field Museum, etc. might be appropriate locations for activities. Additionally, establishment of bus tours to historic sites in the Bay Area has been proposed.
 - VVA Member Edward Aki advised that on December 7, 1941, he was six years old in Hawaii when Pearl Harbor was attacked.
- Fran McVey reported that “All The Way Home” is the name of the nationwide project set up to try to resolve the homeless issue. Santa Clara County and the City of San Jose have pledged support to the goal to end veteran homelessness in the County by November 11, 2018, the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. The major issue in the County is housing because of the high cost in the Bay Area.
 - The Willows project at the Menlo Park VA Hospital has provided housing for 56 homeless veterans who were selected on a lottery basis. Their apartments include access to community rooms, computer classes, cooking classes, etc.
 - Material donations are need now for the Willows in the form of furniture, pots & pans, etc. since the apartments are not furnished (money is NOT wanted). Anyone willing and able to assist can contact Fran McVey at: mrrmac1@sbcglobal.net.
 - The VA will open another facility called SAMM Hill in June 2016 which will add about 77 more units for veterans in the Menlo Park area.
 - A major issue for homeless veterans is transportation to VA facilities.

- Chapter President David Sander’s son, David Sanders advised that he is on the Board of Goodwill Industries in Silicon Valley. He stated that Goodwill has a history of helping disabled veterans and the homeless with employment and recommends that they be referred to Goodwill for help and assistance.

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):	Work in progress.
Community Services Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Working with the San Jose Vet Center.
Homeless & Government Affairs Committee: (David Sanders, Sr. & Gerry Arnold):	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):	Nothing to report.
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.):	Copy of the Chapter’s January minutes, will be forwarded to the Chapter’s three incarcerated members.
Women Veterans Committee (Barbara Johnston):	Nothing to report.

XII. Unfinished Business:

- **VA Veteran ID Cards:** Gerry Arnold is a representative on the VA Focus Council and reported on developments with Veteran ID card issue:
 - Public Law 114-31 established Veteran Affairs (VA) Identification cards for veterans who do not qualify for VA Health Benefits ID cards. However, they have yet to be issued. Congressperson Zoe Lofgren is attempting to determine why the VA has not issued any ID cards.
 - Some States will include veteran identification on drivers’ licenses and states/counties are providing veteran ID cards eliminating the need for veterans to carry copies of their DD-214. California charges a \$5.00 fee for inclusion of the “veteran” identification on drivers’ licenses. Santa Clara County will provide veteran ID cards free of charge.
- **San Jose VA Veteran Clinic:** Gerry Arnold reported that the ground breaking for the new “Combined Base Outreach Clinic” on Silver Creek Valley Place will take place on April 19, 2016. One issue yet to be resolved is transportation for veterans. It is about three-miles from the nearest light rail station. There is a need to identify possible shuttles and/or VTA solutions.

- **Election Committee:** The Chapter Election Committee will present their nominations of officers at the March 21st Chapter meeting. Anyone interested in an elected position should let their desires be known to the members of the Election Committee before the next meeting. Remember, the Committee members are: John Hassenplug, Fran McVey and Randy Sessler,”
- **Web Site:** The new Chapter web Site (www.VVA201.org) is on-line as of 3:00PM on 15 February 2016.

XIII. New Business:

- Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Frangadakis presented proposals for Chapter consideration:
 - 1) The Chapter prepare packages for the homeless veterans with information on how to obtain help.
 - 2) Provide certificates of appreciation to General’s Ostenberg and Hillhouse at a Chapter meeting for their support of veterans.
 - 3) Procedures on how to get material aid to Menlo Park VA veterans at the Willows. Volunteer Services at the VA has a list of their needs.
 - 4) Host/sponsor a monthly Chapter dinner at the Palo Alto VA Hospital Polytrauma Unit. The cost would be about \$500.00 and about seven people would be needed to volunteer support (food to be purchased outside and delivered to the hospital -- i.e., pizza).
 - 5) Invite former Hanoi Hilton POW Dennis Chambers to a Chapter meeting.
- Gerry Arnold suggested that the VTA be approached to provide veteran passes like other California Counties are doing.
- Memorial Day activities will be held at Oak Hill on May 30, 2016. The Chapter will need volunteers to participate in the service to be held at the Field of Honor. The Chapter 201 AVVA Honor Guard will fire the salute.

XIV. AVVA Report:

Cang Kim Dong reported that Chapter-201 AVVA escorted the funeral procession of Past Chapter President Robert Beresford from San Jose to the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery on February 8, 2016.

XV. Good of the Order:

- All Veterans Day event that will be held in Sacramento on March 30, 2016. This is the same date as Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Day.
- The S.S. Jeremiah O’Brien “Liberty Ship” will hold a cruise from San Francisco’s Pier 45 on July 16, 2016 in Honor of Vietnam Veterans. The Ship will depart Pier 45 at 9:00am and return at 1:00pm. The cost for Vietnam Veterans is \$62.00. All others pay \$125.00 before April 1st and \$140.00 after that date.
- Ponce Gonzalez, CSC Public Affairs Committee Chair, reported on the “Mission 22 West Coast Ride” that will take place Between September 11 and October 30, 2016. Four-wheeled motorcycles driving 2,200 miles from Washington State to San Diego and ending in Fresno will conduct the ride. The distance is in recognition of the 22 plus suicides that take place each day in the United States. The organization sponsors a ranch/camp in Fresno area for veterans and their families. For more information, see: www.ourheroesdreams.org/our-heroes-dreams-blog/mission-22-west-coast-ride/.
- Edward Aki mentioned that the American Legion and VFW participate in the annual Independence Day Parade in Redwood City. Chapter 201 has had a “unit” in past parades but has not participated in a number of years.

XVI. Closing Ceremony

- The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday March 21, 2016 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.
- Acting Chaplain Gene Fanucchi provided the closing benediction and John Hassenplug retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM (2050 hours).

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

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CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 21 2016

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

Attendees:

Edward Aki	(USMC)	Francis McVey	(USN)
Cang Dong	(AVVA)	James Medeiros	(USA)
Warren Finch	(USA)	Casimiro Morin	(AVVA)
Dennis Foggie	(USAF)	Carmen Sanders	(AVVA)
Michael Frangadakis	(USA)	David Sanders	(USAF)
John Hassenplug	(USN)	Mary Sessler	(AVVA)
Clyde R. Horn	(USA)	Randall Sessler	(USA)
Robert Kadlec	(USAF)	William Thai	(AVVA)
William D. (Bill) Lewis	(USA)	Dennis Whittaker	(USA)

I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:02 PM (1902 hours) at the Holder's Country Inn. Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Frangadakis led the Pledge of Allegiance and Acting Chaplain Edward Aki 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 - Barbara Johnston (Resigned)
Treasurer - Dennis Foggie
1-year Board Member - (Vacant)
2-year Board Member - Gerald Arnold (Excused)
3-year Board Member - Randy Richmond (Excused)

III. Guests:

Alexa Aki
Paul Davis (SJ Vet Center)
Hannelore Foggie
Larry Lisser
Bill McCorquadale
Rich Veit
Ron Wong

IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the February 2016 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership.

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected by Michael Frangadakis and Second by Dennis Foggie. The minutes were approved.

V. Correspondence:

- Letter (E-mail) of resignation from Treasurer Barbara Jihnston who has moved out of State (Reno, NV).
- Marvin McCrary, student at San Jose State, regarding Military History Project (see Good of the Order).
- Thank you letter Nancy Letter, Director of the Children of Vietnam, for donation to Vietnamese children Scholarships.

VI. Financial Report:

- Treasurer Dennis Foggie reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed. The Treasurer's Report gave the income, expenses and balance of the bank account as of March 17, 2016.
- Motion to approve Treasurers Report by Dennis Whittaker and Second by John Hassenplug. Motion passed.

VII. Officer Reports:

President:

- There is a committee from the Fleet Reserve Association that is planning an "All Veterans Ball" to be held at American Legion Post 564 about a week after Veterans Day in November. This is in lieu of the annual Marines Ball."
- The Blue Star Moms recently provided President Dave Sanders with a home-made quilt for his service to Veterans.

VIII. Board Of Directors Report:

The Board of Directors held a meeting on February 26, 2016 to finalize the Household Goods Distribution Program (HGDP) annual Report and to vote on the draft budget for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year. Three of seven Board Members were present while two were contacted electronically and one via mail for a quorum of six. The HGDP report was forwarded to the California State Council on March first. The proposed budget will be presented under New Business..

IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:

- The next CSC Conference will be held in Fresno on 29 and 30 April, 2016.
- The 15th Cal Con Biennial State Convention will be held in Fresno between 23 and 25 June 2016. The deadline for registration and reservations is May 24,2016.

X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:

- Fran McVey (President of the UVC) advised that planning is underway for this years Memorial Day Ceremony on May 30th at Oak Hill as well as the annual Veterans' Day Parade in San Jose on November 11th. The UVC is looking for volunteers to support both of these events. Additionally, fund raising the Parade is also underway.
- Fran McVey provide an update on the National "All The Way Home" project that has the goal to resolve the veteran homeless issue by Veterans' Day 2018. There are two components to the project in Santa Clara County: 1) A faith-based initiative - program from the San Jose Mayor's Office, and 2) Landlord initiative program to secure housing for homeless veterans. The UVC is an active participant in both initiatives.
- Fran McVey (representing the UVC) participated in the 25th anniversary memorial ceremony at Moffett Field on March 20th to remember those lost in the 1991 mid-air collision of two Navy P-3/Orion aircraft off the coast of San Diego with the loss of all personnel.
- Fran McVey (representing the UVC) is working with several groups who are attempting to provide a solution to saving the Mount Umunhum Radar Tower in the Santa Cruz Mountains which is the last symbol of the Cold War in Santa Clara Valley. The Mid-Peninsula Open Space District has the final decision in what will happen to the tower and is seeking input/suggestions from groups/organization that have an interest in its status. The several groups with competing proposals range from tearing the tower down and making the site open space to preserving it as a historical site include Native American to environmentalists to Veterans to National elected officials. The objective is to come up with a compromise that will be acceptable to all concerned.
- Fran McVey has accepted the appointment as a Commissioner on the National Guard Veteran Affairs Commission of Santa Clara County (Chapter 201 member Mike Frangadakis is the current Chairman of the Commission).

XI. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee (Vacant):	Nothing to report.
POW/MIA Committee (Vacant):	Nothing to report.
Agent Orange Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Education Brochures have been produced with funding from the HGDP.
Constitution/Bylaws (Robert Kadlec):	Work in progress.
Community Services Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Working with the San Jose Vet Center.
Homeless & Government Affairs Committee: (David Sanders, Sr. & Gerry Arnold):	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):	Donations are being provided to worthy causes.
Public Affairs Committee(Vacant):	Nothing to report.
Veterans benefits Committee (Vacant):	Nothing to report.
San Jose Veterans Center Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	Donation(s) to be provided.
Veterans Incarcerated Committee (David Sanders, Sr.):	January minutes, were forwarded to the Chapter's three incarcerated members.
Women Veterans Committee (Vacant):	Nothing to report.

XII. Unfinished Business:

- **Election Committee:** The Election Committee (John Hassenplug, Fran McVey and Randy Sessler) presented their nominations of Chapter officers for the April 18th meeting. The following have accepted nomination for the positions indicated:
 - David Sanders President
 - Bob Kadlec Vice President
 - Dennis Foggie Treasurer
 - Randy Sessler Three-year Board member

The position of Secretary remains open and a volunteer is STRONGLE encouraged to step forward. Additionally, anyone interested in any elected position may also be nominated from the floor at the April 18th meeting.

- **Memorial Day:** The Chapter will participate in the UVC Memorial Day Ceremony at the Veterans Section at Oak Hill on 30 May. We will need two volunteers to post the Chapter Colors during the opening ceremony. Vice President Bob Kadlec will place the Vietnam wreath during the ceremony

Following the UVC Ceremony, the Chapter will conduct the annual Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day Service at the Oak Hill Field of Honor. Chapter Vice President Bob Kadlec will officiate during the ceremony. The AVVA Honor Guard will post the colors for this service, place the wreaths and fire the three-volley salute. We will need someone to play Taps (using an electronic bugle), plus we could use three other volunteers to participate in the POWMIA ceremony.

- **Independence Day:** The membership decided that last months suggested to participate in the Redwood City Fourth of July Parade was not agreed to. The AVVA will be Participating in the Rose, White and Blue Parade in San Jose and will nit be available. Chapter members might be able to team up with the AVVA, however, the three-mile route might be too long for walking. Therefore, since more advance planning in participation in various events, Chapter participation is being held in abeyance for this year.
- **Monthly VA Dinner Sponsorship:** Last month Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Frangadakis proposed that the Chapter sponsor a monthly dinner at the Palo Alto VA Hospital Polytrauma Unit. The cost would be about \$500.00 and about seven people would be needed to volunteer support (food to be purchased outside and delivered to the hospital -- i.e., pizza). The Chapter should be able to financially handle this, at least once, under the Community Service Program HGDP funding. Michael Frangadakis will coordinate the Chapter participation in this project, perhaps later in the year, which would normally be held on a Wednesday evening.
- **POW Dinner Proposal:** The Chapter will work with American Legion Post 564 and Tony Rollis (Air Force Sergeants Association) to hold a POW/MIA Dinner at Post 564 to honor former Air Force Captain Carl Dennis Chambers who was shot down over North Vietnam in 1967 and held at the Hanoi Hilton as a POW until 1973. It is proposed to hold the dinner on September 17, 2016, POW/MIA Day.

XIII. New Business:

- The Board of Directors voted to recommend approval of the Draft Budget for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year. The Budget proposes the expected revenue during the Fiscal Year and reflects the income sources and projected expenses that will balance the Budget. The Chapter membership should review this Draft Budget which they will need to vote approval on at the April 18th Annual Election Meeting.
- President Dave Sanders made a motion to donate \$250.00 to the Point Man International Ministries. Phil Kinsey is a past President of Chapter 201 and is now the Ohio State Coordinator for a program to provide a BBQ for wounded warriors at the Fort Belvoir Virginia Hospital and a picnic for dependent children whose parents are serving overseas. Motion Seconded by Dennis Foggie. Motion passed.

XIV. Good of the Order:

- The Burdick Military History Project at San Jose State University will host a presentation by San Jose State alumnus Al Conetto, a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran, this Thursday, March 24. Members of VVA Chapter 201 have been invited to attend this event.
- The 2nd Annual All-Veterans Day will be held in Sacramento at the California Department of Veterans Affairs Medal of Honor Room on March 30, 2016. The VVA California State Council (CSC) is one of the sponsors of this event.
- For those not attending the All-Veterans Day event, the San Jose Vietnam War Memorial Foundation will be holding their third anniversary of the Sons of San Jose Vietnam Veterans War Memorial Commemoration Ceremony at the Memorial on Santa Clara Street between Delmas and Guadalupe Expressway on Wednesday, March 30th at 6:30pm.
- The eleventh annual Veteran's Resource Fair, will take place on Saturday, April 9th between 10:00am and 3:00pm at the Santa Clara Fair Grounds. Disability benefits, employment information, and education information are among the things that will be availability. The Chapter will have a table set up at the Resource Fair to answer questions and hand out information on the Vietnam Veterans of America.
- The Veterans Supportive Services Agency (VSSA) will hold its second annual Armed Forces Day Festival at Lake Cunningham Park on Sunday, May 21st between 10:00am and 4:00pm. Those who would like to take part in the five or ten K run, or the one-mile walk, will need to be in place no later than 8:00am.

- Journey For Change will sponsor a 200-mile walk from Santa Cruz to Sacramento between May 23rd and June 7th. The walk's aim is to provide awareness about PTSD and support a reduction in veteran suicides through community action and awareness. Dennis Whittaker moved to donate \$25.00 to Journey For Change, Seconded by Michael Frangadakis Motion passed.
- Dennis Whittaker reported:
 - The Central Coast Cemetery is accepting applications but will not be ready for burials until 2021.
 - American Legion Post 642 (Cupertino) is spear heading the local area Wreaths Across America program to be held on December 17, 2016 at the Gates of Heaven Cemetery. At least 200 wreaths will be placed at a cost of between \$3,000 to \$4,000 (at ~~\$30.00~~ \$15.00 each). Post 642 will be soliciting donations to support this program.
- Bill Lewis reported that the Palo Alto Polytrauma Unit is sponsoring a cycling program. The program is conducted on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:00am and lasts about an hour. Off campus events include to the park at Fort Ord.
- John Hassenplug reminded all that the S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien "Liberty Ship" will hold a cruise from San Francisco's Pier 45 on July 16, 2016 in honor of Vietnam Veterans. Cost is \$62 for Vietnam Veterans and \$125 for non-veterans (\$140 after April first).

XV. Closing Ceremony

- The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be the annual election meeting to be held on Monday April 18, 2016 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.
- Acting Chaplain Edward Aki provided the closing benediction and Sergeant At Arms Michael Frangadakis retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:19PM (2019 hours).

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

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 18 2016

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

Attendees:

Edward Aki	(USMC)	Donald MacDougall	(USA)
Gerald Arnold	(USN)	Francis McVey	(USN)
Tito Cortez	(USA)	Randall Richmond	(USA)
Cang Dong	(AVVA)	Carmen Sanders	(AVVA)
Lawrence Doutherd	(USA)	David Sanders	(USAF)
Warren Finch	(USA)	Mary Sessler	(AVVA)
Dennis Foggie	(USAF)	Randall Sessler	(USA)
Michael Frangadakis	(USA)	William Thai	(AVVA)
John Hassenplug	(USN)	Jack Wells	(USMC)
Clyde R. Horn	(USA)	Oleta Willhite	(AVVA)
Robert Kadlec	(USAF)	Reuben Willhite	(USMC)
William D. (Bill) Lewis	(USA)	Dennis Whittaker	(USA)

I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:02 PM (1902 hours) at the Holder's Country Inn. Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Frangadakis 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 - (Vacant)
Treasurer - Dennis Foggie
1-year Board Member - (Vacant)
2-year Board Member - Gerald Arnold
3-year Board Member - Randy Richmond

III. Guests:

Alexa Aki
Jeff Driskell
Bill McCorquadale
Penny Segovia (AVVA)
Richard Segovia (CSC)
Rich Veit
Kanitta Wells

IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the March 2016 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Dennis Whittaker corrected Good of the Order Item on Wreaths Across America program -- Cost is \$15.00 per wreath, not \$30.00.

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected by John Hassenplug and Second by Randall Richmond.
The minutes were approved.

V. Correspondence:

San Jose Vietnam War Memorial Foundation advised that no one from VVA Chapter attended their anniversary ceremony on March 30th. They were advised that the Chapter had a previous commitment at the VVA sponsored All Veteran's Day event in Sacramento. The San Jose Foundation stated that they would not change their dates in the future therefore the Chapter will have a continuing conflict since the All Veteran's Day event is on the same date each year.

VI. Financial Report:

- Treasurer Dennis Foggie reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed. The Treasurer's Report gave the income, expenses and balance of the bank account as of April 16, 2016.
- Motion to approve Treasurers Report by John Hassenplug and Second by Randy Richmond. Motion passed.

VII. Officer Reports:

Nothing to report

VIII. Board Of Directors Report:

The Board of Directors held a meeting on 14 April to consider proposed Chapter expenditures. The board recommended four expenditures totaling \$1,900 that will need individual approval by the membership under New Business.

IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:

- The next CSC Conference will be held in Fresno on 29 and 30 April and 1 May 2016.
- The 15th Cal Con Biennial State Convention will be held in Fresno between 23 and 25 June 2016. The deadline for registration and reservations is May 24,2016.

X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:

Fran McVey (representing the UVC) provided an update on saving the Mount Umunhum Radar Tower in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Several groups have submitted competing proposals range from tearing the tower down and making the site open space to preserving it as a historical site. The National Guard Veteran Affairs Commission of Santa Clara County (Mike Frangadakis is the current Chairman and Fran McVey is a newly appointed Commissioner) will hold discussion on April 21st to discuss proposals. There will be a public hearing to determine the final disposition on May 10th. The Mid-Peninsula Open Space District has the final decision in what will happen to the tower.

XI. Committee Reports:

Committee Reports were postponed until the May 16th meeting

XII. Unfinished Business:

- **BUDGET:** Motion to approve the Budget for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year was made by Michael Frangadakis and Second by Gerald Arnold. The Budget for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year is approved.
- **MEMORIAL DAY:** Vice President Bob Kadlec will place the Vietnam wreath during the UVC ceremony at the Veterans Section at Oak Hill in the morning of May 30th. Following the UVC Ceremony, the Chapter will conduct the annual Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day Service at the Oak Hill Field of Honor. Chapter Vice President Bob Kadlec will officiate during the ceremony.

XIII. New Business:

- The annual election of officers for the coming year was held with the membership voting on the individuals nominated by the Election Committee as well as additional nominations from the floor. The results of the voting are as follows:

President	David W. Sanders, Sr. (reelected)
Vice President	Robert Kadlec (reelected)
Secretary	Warren Finch
Treasurer	Dennis Foggie (reelected)
Three-year Board Director	Randall Sessler
CSC Delegate	David W. Sanders, Sr.
CSC Alternate Delegate	Dennis Foggie
CSC Alternate Delegate	Robert Kadlec
CSC Convention Delegate	David W. Sanders, Sr.
CSC Convention Delegate	Dennis Foggie
Election Committee: Gerald Arnold, John Hassenplug and Randall Sessler	

- VVA California State Council Central District Director Richard Segovia officially installed the newly elected officers. Position and committee appointments will be announced at the May 16th meeting. Following the installation, President David Sanders presented Richard Segovia with a certificate of appreciation for his services on behalf of the membership of Chapter 201.
- The Chapter voted approval of four expenditures recommended by the Board of Directors:
 - 1) Donation of \$1,000 to a fellow Chapter member who is currently in financial distress as a result of serious medical issues of his spouse (allocated from the "Veteran Service Officer Programs" category of the HGDP funds). Motion by: Dennis Whittaker, Seconded by: Michael Frangadakis.
 - 2) Purchase of a voice recording system to be used by the Secretary to record Chapter meetings, and other significant gatherings not to exceed \$400 (allocated from the Chapter's budgeted "Administrative Expenses). Motion by: John Hassenplug, Seconded by: Francis McVey.
 - 3) Donation of \$250 to Veterans Supportive Services Agency, Inc. (VSSA) to support their veterans and families programs (allocated from the "Community Service Programs" category of the HGDP funds). Motion by: Randall Richmond, Seconded by: Donald MacDougall.
 - 4) Donation of \$250 to Adopt a Military Mom Program consisting of 25 Gold star and 45 Blue star moms (allocated from the "Community Service Programs" category of the HGDP funds). Motion by: Donald MacDougall, Seconded by: Lawrence Doutherd.
- The Chapter voted approval of \$261.69 to reimburse Gerry Arnold for attendance at the VVA Sponsored All Veterans Day event in Sacramento on March 30th (allocated from the "Travel to VVA Sponsored Programs" category of the HGDP funds). Motion by: Michael Frangadakis, Seconded by: Dennis Whittaker.

XIV. AVVA Report:

- Chapter 201 AVVA will be holding their election meeting on April 24th.
- Penny Segovia, AVVA California State Council, reported that the AVVA has reduced the AVVA Life Member fee to \$100. She also reported that Elayne Mackey (wife of VVA CSC President Steve Mackey) has been elected as the Vice President of the National AVVA.

XV. Good of the Order:

- Ground Breaking for the new San Jose VA Clinic, to be located at 5855 Silver Creek Valley Place, will take place on April 25th.
- Monterey Bay Veterans, Inc. will hold their annual Salmon derby on Saturday, May 7th. For information, and registration, see: <http://mbv.org/programs/salmon-derby/>.
- The Palo Alto Fisher House with 21 rooms for families of veterans in the Palo Alto VA Hospital is currently full. They are looking for anyone willing and able to "loan" a home to provide accommodations for family members of injured patients at the Palo Alto VA Hospital. Contact Michael Frangadakis (mikethegreek@earthlink.net) for additional information.
- The Veterans Supportive Services Agency (VSSA) will hold its second annual Armed Forces Day Festival at Lake Cunningham Park on Sunday, May 21st between 10:00am and 4:00pm. Those who would like to take part in the five or ten K run, or the one-mile walk, will need to be in place no later than 8:00am.
- Journey For Change will sponsor a 200-mile walk from Santa Cruz to Sacramento between May 23rd and June 7th. The walk's aim is to provide awareness about PTSD and support a reduction in veteran suicides through community action and awareness. (<http://eventful.com/santacruz/events/journey-change-/E0-001-090155463-4@2016052409>)
- Gerry Arnold reported that the new VA Identification Cards are now available. To obtain your new card, contact the VA Business Office.

XVI. Closing Ceremony

- The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday May 16, 2016 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.
- Chaplain Randall Richmond provided the closing benediction and Sergeant At Arms Michael Frangadakis retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM (2014 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Kadlec, Acting 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 16 2016

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

Attendees:

Dave Ackerman	(USA)	Bob Johnston, Sr.	(USA)
Edward Aki	(USMC)	Robert Kadlec	(USAF)
Gerald Arnold	(USN)	Donald MacDougall	(USA)
Cang Dong	(AVVA)	Bill McCorquodale	(USN)
Lawrence Douthard	(USA)	Francis McVey	(USN)
Jeff Driskell	(USA)	Randall Richmond	(USA)
Warren Finch	(USA)	Carmen Sanders	(AVVA)
Dennis Foggie	(USAF)	David Sanders	(USAF)
Angelo Guevaro	(USA)	William Thai	(AVVA)
John Hassenplug	(USN)	Richard Viet	(USA)
Clyde R. Horn	(USA)	Dennis Whittaker	(USA)

I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:01 PM (1901 hours) at the Holder's Country Inn. John Hassenplug 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 – Warren Finch
Treasurer - Dennis Foggie
3-year Board Member – Randy Sessler (excused)
2-year Board Member - Gerald Arnold
2-year Board Member - Randy Richmond

III. Guests:

Dodry Guevaro
Joyce Douthard
Sherman Finley (USAF)
Marie Finley

IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the March 2016 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership.
Motion to approve the minutes as corrected by John Hassenplug and Second by Randall Richmond. The minutes were approved.

V. Correspondence:

Email received Arthur Samuel in Pennsylvania who is a patch collector. He is looking for patches if anyone is interested in sending some.

VI. Financial Report:

- Treasurer Dennis Foggie provided the financial which gave the income, expenses and balance of the bank account as of May 16, 2016.
- Motion to approve Treasurers Report by Donald MacDougall and Second by Dennis Whittaker. Motion passed.

VII. Officer Reports:

The Chapter website has been updated to include the list of new elected and appointed 2016-2017 officers; updated Chapter Orders; meeting minutes through April 2016; updated 2016 events schedule; additional Internet website links; and a new page containing Board of Directors Reports.

VIII. Board Of Directors Report:

The Board of Directors will need to schedule a meeting to address a change to the Chapter Budget in view of a significant reduction in income from the VVA HGDP Program. During 2015 the Chapter received \$385 per month. For 2016, through February 2017, the Chapter will receive less than \$117 per month, a reduction of \$268 a month in income.

IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:

- The CSC Conference was held in Fresno on 29 and 30 April and 1 May 2016.
- Dick Southern said that HGDP was in good shape, however, we received a reduction. Ken discussed the toxic exposure legislation.
- Discussed veterans incarcerated and trying to find them.
- August 26-27 will be the next CSC meeting. We have to send representatives or we get no money.
- Discussed membership and the use of social media.
- Discussed making Native Americans a priority.
- There is a move out to get rid of all of the VA hospitals. We will need to fight that.
- HGDP payments went to a quarterly payment instead of monthly.
- The 15th Cal Con Biennial State Convention will be held in Fresno between 23 and 25 June 2016. The deadline for registration and reservations is May 24, 2016.

X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:

- Chapter Order Number 3, series 2016-2017 was published on May 3, 2016 and listed the appointment of the following Delegates to the UVC:

Gerald Arnold
Randall Sessler
Jack Wells

- Fran McVey (representing the UVC) reminded all that we need to be fund raising for the Veterans Day Parade. He provided an update on the homeless issue. The incentives to property owners is progressing. We do not have something set up for donations of items for homeless vets. We may want to set something up. Fran talked about the Gold Star Families memorial. He gave an update on the Mt. Umunhum Radar Tower. The group working on the tower issue is starting to look at different locations for a museum for Cold War information somewhere on the valley floor.

- Pastor Bill gave a brief update on how the faith based community are working with the city on the homeless issue. He is working closely with City Team Ministries. City Team is dedicating a number of beds specifically for homeless vets.

XI. Committee Reports:

Chapter Order Number 3, series 2016-2017 was published on May 3, 2016 and listed the appointment of the following Committee Chairs:

Membership Committee Chair:	Warren Finch
POW/MIA Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Agent Orange Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Constitution/Bylaws Chair:	Robert Kadlec
Community Services Committee Chair:	Michael Frangadakis
Government Affairs Committee Chair:	Fran McVey
Finance & Fund Raising Committee Chair:	Dennis Foggie
Public Affairs Committee Chair:	Robert Kadlec
Veterans benefits Committee Chair:	Gerald Arnold
Veterans Incarcerated Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.

XII. Unfinished Business:

MEMORIAL DAY: Vice President Bob Kadlec will place the Vietnam wreath during the UVC ceremony at the Veteran’s Section at Oak Hill in the morning of May 30th. Jack Wells has been invited to have the honor of raising the flag at the Veterans Section Ceremony at the end of the UVC Ceremony in Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the War in Vietnam. We could use two volunteers to post the Chapters flags as part of the opening ceremony. Those participating should be in place no later than 10:00am.

Following the UVC Ceremony, the Chapter will conduct the annual Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day Service at the Oak Hill Field of Honor. Chapter Vice President Bob Kadlec will officiate during the ceremony. Those participating at the Field of Honor Ceremony should be in place no later than 12:30pm.

- The script has been prepared.
- The AVVA, under the leadership of AVVA-201 Vice President Cang Kim Dong, will post the Colors; place the wreaths of remembrance; fire the Salute and play Taps.
- Chaplain Randy Richmond will provide the Invocation and Benediction.
- UVC President Fran McVey has been invited to provide a few words in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the War in Vietnam.
- Dennis Foggie has volunteered to conduct the POW/MIA Missing Man Service. Chapter member Lynn Malasnic , a SGT with 5th Special Forces and a Bronze Star and Purple Heart Recipient will assist Dennis in the placing of the items on the table as Dennis reads the service.

XIII. New Business:

- Dennis Whittaker talked about Wreaths Across America, December 17th. His American Legion post is trying to start the ceremony at Gates of Heaven. They need \$3500.00 which has already been raised but would like for the VVA to donate \$100.00.
- Motion to donate \$100.00 to Wreaths Across America made by Dennis Whittaker, seconded by John Hassenplug. Motion carried.
- Motion to reimburse Dennis Foggie for postage made by Dennis Whittaker, seconded by Fran McVey. Motion carried.

XIV. AVVA Report:

Membership in AVVA is over 100 and 99% are life members. Preparing for the color guard on Memorial Day.

XV. Good of the Order:

- Gerald Arnold gave a brief report on the Focus group at VA Palo Alto. Vets the were tired of waiting 30 days for VA got tired of waiting 6 months for Tri-West and are coming back to VA.
- Dave Sanders received an invitation to the Vietnamese Armed Forces Day celebration at the County Offices. The date is June 19th.
- The Veterans Supportive Services Agency (VSSA) will hold its second annual Armed Forces Day Festival at Lake Cunningham Park on Sunday, May 21st between 10:00am and 4:00pm. Those who would like to take part in the five or ten K run, or the one-mile walk, will need to be in place no later than 8:00am.
- Journey For Change will sponsor a 200-mile walk from Santa Cruz to Sacramento between May 23rd and June 7th. The walk's aim is to provide awareness about PTSD and support a reduction in veteran suicides through community action and awareness.
- Gerry Arnold reported that the new VA Identification Cards are now available. To obtain your new card, contact the VA Business Office.

XVI. Closing Ceremony

- The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday May 16, 2016 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.
- Chaplain Randal Richmond provided the closing benediction and John Hassenplug retired the Colors.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM (2014 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,
Warren Finch, 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 20, 2016

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

Attendees:

Gerald Arnold	(USN)	Casimiro Morin	(AVVA)
Warren Finch	(USA)	David Sanders	(USAF)
Mike Frangadakis	(USA)	Mary Sessler	(AVVA)
Bob Johnston, Sr.	(USA)	Randy Sessler	(USA)
Robert Kadlec	(USAF)	Rich Veit	(USA)
Bill McCorquodale	(USN)	Jack Wells	(USMC)
Francis McVey	(USN)		

- I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:00 PM (1900 hours) at the Holder's Country Inn. Mike Frangadakis led the Pledge of Allegiance and Bill McCorquodale 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 – Warren Finch
 - Treasurer - Dennis Foggie (excused)
 - 3-year Board Member – Randy Sessler
 - 2-year Board Member - Randy Richmond (absent)
 - 1-year Board Member - Gerald Arnold
- III. Guests:
 - Burton Smith (USA)
- IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the March 2016 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Motion to approve the minutes as corrected by Rich Viet and Second by Mike Frangadakis. The minutes were approved.
- V. Correspondence:

Email received from VVA National President John Rowan announcing Wednesday, June 22nd, as the Call in Day on Capitol Hill for Toxic Exposure Legislation.

Due to lack of ticket sales the cruise on the Jeremiah OBrian has been cancelled.
- VI. Financial Report:

Treasurer Dennis Foggie reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed:
Motion to approve Treasurers Report by Mike Frangadakis and Second by Fran McVey.
Motion passed.

VII. Officer Reports:

Nothing to report.

VIII. Board Of Directors Report:

The Board of Directors (BOD) met on May 19, 2016 to propose a change to the Chapter Budget in view of a significant reduction in income from the VVA HGDP Program. The report of the BOD Meeting is being handed out.

VIX. California State Council (CSC) Report:

The CSC has forwarded information on a proposed misleading initiative for California's November ballot.

Controversial activist Michael Weinstein has proposed a measure that would prohibit the state from entering into contracts to purchase prescription drugs unless the prices are the same or lower than the special discounts provided to the VA. The CSC, in addition to other state veteran organizations, strongly opposes this measure as being flawed and could significantly increase health costs for veterans and their families by undermining special price considerations provided to the VA.

The 15th Cal Con Biennial State Convention will be held in Fresno from 23 through 25 June, 2016. President Dave Sanders and Treasurer Dennis Foggie are official Delegates to the Convention from Chapter 201. Vice President Bob Kadlec will be attending as a "Delegate At Large."

X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:

Fran McVey (representing the UVC) reminded all that we need to be fund raising for the Veterans Day Parade. He provided an update on the homeless issue. He gave an update on the Mt. Umunhum Radar Tower. The group working on the tower issue is starting to look at different locations for a museum for Cold War information somewhere on the valley floor.

XI. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee Chair:	Warren Finch
POW/MIA Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Agent Orange Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Constitution/Bylaws Chair:	Robert Kadlec
Community Services Committee Chair:	Michael Frangadakis
Government Affairs Committee Chair:	Fran McVey
Finance & Fund Raising Committee Chair:	Dennis Foggie
Public Affairs Committee Chair:	Robert Kadlec
Veterans benefits Committee Chair:	Gerald Arnold
Veterans Incarcerated Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.

XII. Unfinished Business:

Nothing to report.

XIII. New Business:

We need to do three or four fund raising weekends this year to make up for the smaller HGDP. Since the year is half over, we need to get started. We need to schedule a Moffett Field Commissary fund raising event for the 16th and 17th or the 23rd and 24th of July. It was decided to schedule the fund raising for the 16th and 17th of July.

XIV. AVVA Report:

Nothing to report.

XV. Good of the Order:

The Rose White & Blue parade will be held on the 4th of July. An air-conditioned bus will be available for veterans who wish to participate but are unable to walk the mile and a half route.

The 8th Annual "Hot San Jose Nights" Science, Technology, Engineering, Aviation and Mathematics, or STEAM Festival, will be held at Reid-Hillview Airport on July 9th between 10:00am and 4:00pm.

The UVC, Oak Hill Memorial Park and Spirit of 45 are sponsoring a Santa Clara County and Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation initiative to develop the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument that will be located at Oak Hill Memorial Park. The handout illustrates the design of the proposed monument which solicits sponsorships and donations for the monument's construction.

Golf Tournament for the San Jose Vietnam War Memorial Foundation, Inc. on Monday, August 1st at Coyote creek Golf Club. The start is 1200 shotgun.

XVI. Closing Ceremony

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday July 18, 2016 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Bill McCorquodale provided the closing benediction and Mike Frangadakis retired the Colors.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM (2016 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

Warren Finch

Warren Finch, 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 18 2016

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

Attendees:

Edward Aki	(USMC)	James Medeiros	(USA)
Gerald Arnold	(USN)	Casimiro Morin	(AVVA)
Larry Douthard	(USA)	Randy Richmond	(USA)
Cang Kim Dong	(AVVA)	Carmen Sanders	(AVVA)
Jeff Driskill	(USA)	David Sanders	(USAF)
Gene Fanucchi	(USA)	Mary Sessler	(AVVA)
Warren Finch	(USA)	Randy Sessler	(USA)
Dennis Foggie	(USAF)	Burton Smith	(USN)
Mike Frangadakis	(USA)	William Thai	(AVVA)
John Hassenplug	(USN)	Steve Thompson	(USN)
Clyde Horn	(USA)	Rich Veit	(USA)
Robert Kadlec	(USAF)	Jack Wells	(USMC)
Don MacDougall	(USA)	Oleta Willhite	(AVVA)
Bill McCorquadale	(USN)	Ruben Willhite	(USMC)
Francis McVey	(USN)	Dennis Whittaker	(USA)

- I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:00 PM (1900 hours) at the Holder's Country Inn. Mike Frangadakis led the Pledge of Allegiance and Acting Chaplain Bill McCorquadale 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.

President Sanders asked all to remember those who have lost their lives over the past few weeks.

II. Roll Call of Chapter Officers:

President - David Sanders
Vice President - Robert Kadlec
Secretary - Warren Finch
Treasurer - Dennis Foggie
Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Frangadakis
3-year Board Member - Randy Sessler
2-year Board Member - Randy Richmond
1-year Board Member - Gerald Arnold

III. Guests:

Alexa Aki
Joyce Douthard
Gwen Lee
Connie Thompson

IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the June 20, 2016 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Motion to approve the minutes as corrected by Dennis Foggie and Second by Randy Richmond. The minutes were approved.

V. Correspondence:

President Sanders received a copy of a book written by a Vietnam vet. The book will be raffled off at a future meeting of the VVA.

Received a letter from York who started a chapter that helps disabled Vietnamese children. President asked Jack Wells if he would mind checking the information and reporting back to see if it is something that we would like to support.

Due to lack of ticket sales the cruise on the Jeremiah OBrian has been cancelled.

VI. Financial Report:

Treasurer Dennis Foggie reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed: Motion to approve Treasurers Report by John Hessenplug and Second by Fran McVey. Motion passed.

VII. Officer Reports:

President Sanders recognize Bob Kadlec for the award he received called Images of Bravery. The award is for support of others from in-country and not in-country veterans that help better their community.

President reported on the fund raising at Moffett Field.

VIII. Board Of Directors Report:

Nothing To Report

IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:

The CSC has forwarded information on a proposed misleading initiative for California's November ballot.

Controversial activist Michael Weinstein has proposed a measure that would prohibit the state from entering into contracts to purchase prescription drugs unless the prices are the same or lower than the special discounts provided to the VA. The CSC, in addition to other state veteran organizations, strongly opposes this measure as being flawed and could significantly increase health costs for veterans and their families by undermining special price considerations provided to the VA.

The 15th Cal Con Biennial State Convention was held in Fresno from 23 through 25 June, 2016. -See attached report by Bob Kadlec

The CSC forwarded information on the Veterans First Act. "The Veterans Service Organizations who are most often called before Congress for testimony on the state of Veterans Affairs, known in D.C. as "The Big 6," are joining together to call on the Senate to vote on the Veterans First Act. While each has been engaged separately in traditional methods of calling for votes--such as letter-writing and email campaigns-- they're maximizing the power of social media to expand their outreach and get more veterans engaged."

On July 7th Veterans Health Administration released new data about veterans suicides,

based upon examination of over 55 million veteran records from 1979 to 2014, from every state in the nation and U.S. territories. Since 2001 the rate of adult civilian suicides rose 23 percent while those of veterans rose 32 percent. In 2014, 65 percent of those who committed suicide were 50 or older. The VA said that on average, 20 veterans commit suicide per day. Six of those who commit suicide were or had been under the care of the VA while the other 12 had not. "These statistics are tragic, said John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America. They shock and disturb us. These numbers also suggest a variety of questions that ought to be asked if we are to find some of the answers: How many of those who take their life is homeless? Did they have meaningful employment, fair housing, health problems, relationship or financial issues? What seems to be the common trigger, if any?"

X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:

Fran McVey (representing the UVC) reminded all that we need to be fund raising for the Veterans Day Parade. He said the UVC is working on the staging area with the city due to a convention at the SAP Center. The Veterans Alliance had been suspended and he was working on getting the paperwork straightened out.

XI. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee Chair:

Warren Finch

Five new members in the last month.

POW/MIA Committee Chair:

David Sanders, Sr.

Agent Orange Committee Chair:

David Sanders, Sr.

Gave some orange poppies this past weekend.

Constitution/Bylaws Chair:

Robert Kadlec

Community Services Committee Chair:

Michael Frangadakis

The Los Gatos memorial was approved. They hope to have the nicest memorial in the Bay Area. It will have a Statue of Liberty flame and a soldier's cross.

Government Affairs Committee Chair:

Fran McVey

Fran asked if we could send out information on bills to the membership when we receive them.

Finance & Fund Raising Committee Chair:

Dennis Foggie

Had a fund raising at Moffett Field where we raised \$362.00. We also received a \$100.00 anonymous donation.

Public Affairs Committee Chair:

Robert Kadlec

Bob submitted two article to the Zepher.

Veterans benefits Committee Chair:

Gerald Arnold

Veterans Incarcerated Committee Chair:

David Sanders, Sr.

XII. Unfinished Business:

Review and discussion on the revised budget due to the loss of funds from HDGP funding from the state. Motion by Dennis Whittaker seconded by Randy Richmond to approve. Motion carried.

XIII. New Business:

Next fundraising at Moffett Field is August 27 and 28.

XIV. AVVA Report:

Still looking to replace their rifles. They are looking at the AR-15 rifles.

XV. Good of the Order:

The UVC, Oak Hill Memorial Park and Spirit of 45 are sponsoring a Santa Clara County and Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation initiative to develop the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument that will be located at Oak Hill Memorial Park. There is some modifications to the design of the memorial.

VA Palo Alto Health Care System is having a Mental Health Summit on Friday August 19th from 09:00 AM – 3:00 PM. If you want to attend you must RSVP by August 1st to Christina Bondi at Christina.bondi@va.gov.

On June 30 the Commission on Care released the final report on recommendations for transforming veterans' health care. To view the final report go to [https://commissiononcare.sies.usa.gov/2016/07/commission-on-care final-report_063016_for-web.pdf](https://commissiononcare.sies.usa.gov/2016/07/commission-on-care-final-report_063016_for-web.pdf).

Mike Frangadakis asked everyone to let younger vets that they know about membership the State Military Reserve.

Dave Sanders talked about a vet that had problems at the Vet Center. Dave was going to do some investigating and will report on the results.

Bob Kadlec let everyone know that the reason we did not get any money for HGDP is that there is not enough donations of goods, etc. being made to VVA in our area.

XVI. Closing Ceremony

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday July 18, 2016 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Randy Richmond provided the closing benediction and Mike Frangadakis retired the Colors.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM (2016 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed

Warren Finch, Secretary
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
Vietnam Veterans of America

CALCON 15 REPORT 24-25 JUNE 2016 • FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

The 15th CalCon Biennial State Convention was held in Fresno, California from 23 through 25 June, 2016. There were a total of 97 authorized delegates for this year's convention -- 84 from California Chapters and 13 at large. Actual attendance was 76. President Dave Sanders and Treasurer Dennis Foggie were Delegates to the Convention from Chapter 201. Vice President Bob Kadlec attended as a "Delegate At Large." The keynote speaker was CalVet Secretary Dr. Vito Imbasciani, MD.

There were four "Tiers" to address major issues brought before the Convention:

- **Tier 1 - Veterans Incarcerated.**

A resolution was introduced to request that during intake process to either a prison or jail, the Department of Corrections should advise veterans of their right to request access to a VSO. There was much discussion on who should do what to make this happen but there was no apparent resolution on how since the Department of Corrections is not forthcoming in doing anything.

- **Tier 2 - Agent Orange.**

The major emphasis was to encourage Chapters to hold "Town Hall Meetings" to address Agent Orange issues with the veteran community to present information on health problems of dependents of all veterans regardless of time and place of service.

- **Tier 3 - Amendments**

There were 15 Amendments to the CSC Constitution presented at the Convention. Seven were minor corrections such as stilted wording, typos or gender references. Four Amendments failed. The remaining four Amendments that were passed included establishing the number of CSC Directors; Directors must reside in the District they represent, and the District boundaries were realigned to redistribute Counties in the three Districts.

- **Tier 4 - Resolutions**

There were two resolutions presented: 1) request the Department of Corrections advise veterans of their right to request access to a VSO during intake process to either a prison or jail, and 2) Encourage Chapters to hold "Town Hall Meetings" to address Agent Orange issues.

The CSC Treasurer held a session to address financial issues that all chapters must adhere to. These included: Definition of Restricted and Designated budget funds; finance committees within chapters; Fidelity Bonding; raffle legal issues; and how financial reviews should be conducted within the chapters. The following VVA members elected as CSC Officers were during the Convention:

President: Steve Mackey (reelected)

1st Vice President: Dean Gotham

2nd Vice President: Dick Southern (reelected)

Treasurer: Barry Schoffel (reelected)

Secretary: Tom Hohmann (reelected)

At-Large Director: Richard Segovia

Northern District: Butch Frederickson

Central District: Al Sickle

Southern District: Mike Kennedy.

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 15 2016

Holder's Country Inn

998 South DeAnza Blvd, San Jose, CA 95129

Attendees:

Edward Aki	(USMC)	Bill McCorquodale	(USN)
Gerald Arnold	(USN)	Francis McVey	(USN)
Cang Dong	(AVVA)	Carmen Sanders	(AVVA)
Gene Fanucchi	(USA)	David Sanders	(USAF)
Warren Finch	(USA)	Mary Sessler	(AVVA)
Dennis Foggie	(USAF)	Randy Sessler	(USA)
John Hassenplug	(USN)	William Thai	(AVVA)
Robert Kadlec	(USAF)	Dennis Whittaker	(USA)
Clyde Horn	(USA)	Oleta Willhite	(AVVA)
Don MacDougall	(USA)	Ruben Willhite	(USMC)

I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:00 PM (1900 hours) at the Holder's Country Inn. John Hassenplug led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ed Akai 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 - Warren Finch
Treasurer - Dennis Foggie
Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Frangadakis (Absent)
3-year Board Member - Randy Sessler
2-year Board Member - Randy Richmond (excused)
1-year Board Member - Gerald Arnold

III. Guests:

Alexa Aki
Maya Esparza
Rita Hitching,

Motion by Fran McVey, seconded by Dennis Foggie to amend the agenda to allow the guest speak first. Motion carried.

Rita Hitching from the VA Palo Alto. She talked about a study taking place at PAVA for those who may be having sleep issues related to PTSD. The study is six weeks long. Individuals are taught relaxation techniques. Participants will be paid at the end of the study. A copy of the information was given to Kadlec who will email to the members.

Donald McDougall spoke about Veterans Voices. He had written an article for is and encouraged others to write an article if they desired.

Maya Esparza gave a presentation on Measure A that is a bond to fund housing for the less fortunate including veterans. She asked for support from VVA 201 on the measure. The presentation was given before the official start of the meeting.

IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the July 2016 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership.

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected by John Hassenplug and Second by Dennis Foggie. The minutes were approved.

V. Correspondence:

Received a letter from American Legion Post 642 thanking VVA 201 for their donation to Wreaths Across America for Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Email from Dick Southern about money available for stand downs this year. President will take the info to the Vet Center.

VI. Financial Report:

Treasurer Dennis Foggie reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed:

Motion to approve Treasurers Report by Dennis Whittaker and Second by John Hassenplug. Motion passed.

VII. Officer Reports:

Last month President visited the County of Santa Clara Veterans Center to see what was going on. He met with Marion Moses who said that she would check to see what happened. She said that if someone had a problem to go see her directly.

Went to visit Ken Cook and Earl Edwards.

VIII. Board Of Directors Report:

Nothing to report

IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:

The next CSC Conference will be held in Fresno on 27 and 28 August, 2016. Randy Sessler will attend as the VVA Delegate from Chapter 201 and Mary Sessler will attend as the Chapter Associate (AVVA) Delegate.

X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:

Fran said that the Veterans Alliance issues have been resolved. The parade is still a problem due to the change in the staging location for this year. Fran met a person who was involved in NAMI (National Association of Mental Illness). There will be some classes offered for caregivers and others. He talked about the Gold Star Memorial. Oak Hill managed to get their marble supplier to come down on the price of the marble.

XI. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee Chair:	Warren Finch
We have 91 members in VVA 201 and 130 in AVVA 201. The sign-in should have everyone's name. You only need to initial net to your name and make any changes.	
POW/MIA Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Coming up in September	
Agent Orange Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Constitution/Bylaws Chair:	Robert Kadlec
Community Services Committee Chair:	Michael Frangadakis
Government Affairs Committee Chair:	Fran McVey
Finance & Fund Raising Committee Chair:	Dennis Foggie
Public Affairs Committee Chair:	Robert Kadlec
Veterans benefits Committee Chair:	Gerald Arnold
Veterans Incarcerated Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.

XII. Unfinished Business:

Day in the Park on October 1. No one volunteered to go.

Had a fund raiser at Moffett. The next one is August 27 and 28.

Going to have a chapter BBQ on September 3rd at 1200.

XIII. New Business:

A motion was made by Gerald Arnold and seconded by Steve Thompson to support Measure A for the upcoming election. Motion passed with one abstention.

XIV. AVVA Report:

Cang starting to get household goods donations at his house. When he receives a good amount he will call for the items to be picked up.

XV. Good of the Order:

Oak Hill is having a special service in remembrance of 9/11 on Sunday September 11 at 1100. There are flyers in the back of the room with the information. If you attend, wear your caps or other insignias for VVA or other veteran organization to, " Let the public know we are in the community and we appreciate public official commitment for our well-being." (quote from Gene Fanucchi)

A handout of VA Summer 2016 Information was available for members at the meeting.

There is a new movie "Citizen Soldier." This is a documentary type movie of soldiers from the Oklahoma Army National Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team during duty in Afghanistan. The movie will be available on DVD and Blue-ray as well as cable/ satellite OnDemand providers on August 30th. National VVA President John Rowan strongly endorses this movie.

VVA will be providing a tent at Santana Row. Motion by Dennis Whittaker and seconded by Gerald Arnold to have a tent at Santana Row after the parade. Warren Finch will be at the VVA tent.

XVI. Closing Ceremony

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday Sep 19, 2016 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Ed Akai provided the closing benediction and John Hassenplug retired the Colors.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM (2016 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed

Warren Finch, Secretary
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 19 2016

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

Attendees:

Edward Aki	(USMC)	Bill McCorquodale	(USN)
Gerald Arnold	(USN)	Francis McVey	(USN)
Cang Dong	(AVVA)	Casimiro Morin	(AVVA)
Jeff Driskill	(USA)	Randall Richmond	(USA)
Gene Fanucchi	(USA)	Carmen Sanders	(AVVA)
Warren Finch	(USA)	David Sanders	(USAF)
Dennis Foggie	(USAF)	William Thai	(AVVA)
Angelo Guevara	(USA)	Rich Veit	(USA)
John Hassenplug	(USN)	Jack Wells	(USMC)
Robert Kadlec	(USAF)	Dennis Whittaker	(USA)

- I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:00 PM (1900 hours) at the Holder's Country Inn. John Hassenplug led the Pledge of Allegiance and 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 – Warren Finch
 - Treasurer - Dennis Foggie
 - Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Frangadakis (Absent)
 - 3-year Board Member – Randy Sessler (excused)
 - 2-year Board Member - Randy Richmond
 - 1-year Board Member - Gerald Arnold
- III. Guests:
 - Alexa Aki
 - Jennifer Fannuchi
 - Richard Paulson (new member)
 - Gwen Lee
- IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the August 15 2016 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Motion to approve the minutes as corrected by John Hassenplug and Second by Fran McVey. The minutes were approved.
- V. Correspondence:

Gold Nugget Army Surplus is closing business after 33 years of business.

VI. Financial Report:

Treasurer Dennis Foggie reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed:
Motion to approve Treasurers Report by John Hassenplug and Second by Randy Richmond.
Motion passed.

VII. Officer Reports:

Last Friday was the POW/MIA Day. The Chapter participated in the American Legion District 13 Riders and Post 564 Fire Watch. Cang and the AVVA started it off with their Color Guard. The Fire Watch ended on Saturday morning at 0700. All went well.

VIII. Board Of Directors Report:

Bob Kadlec gave the report from the September 8th Board of Directors meeting.
The BOD's has proposed the following dates for meetings to address amendments/updates to the Chapter 201 Bylaws:
13 October 2016
17 November 2016
16 January 2017

IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:

Randy Sessler went the last CSC meeting. He is at a reunion and will be back next month.
Gerald Arnold will be going to the CSC meeting next month.

X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:

Fran McVey and John Hassenplug placed the Pentagon wreath for the 9/11 observance that was held at Oak Hill Memorial Park.
The staging area is changed for this year's Veterans' Day Parade and the final plans are being worked on.
There will be a free breakfast for veterans this year, prior to the Veterans' Day Parade, sponsored by the Opening Doors 2020 organization. A flyer will be sent out when available.
Walt Carbaugh (Sarge) got Fran McVey a "foot in the door" with Accu Bore. McVey was able to speak longer since the main speaker was a no show.
Fran McVey was invited to be part of the team for Measure A (Santa Clara County Affordable Housing Initiative).

XI. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee Chair:	Warren Finch
We have two new members in VVA 201 as of tonight.	
POW/MIA Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Coming up in September	
Agent Orange Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Constitution/Bylaws Chair:	Robert Kadlec
Community Services Committee Chair:	Michael Frangadakis
Government Affairs Committee Chair:	Fran McVey
Finance & Fund Raising Committee Chair:	Dennis Foggie
Public Affairs Committee Chair:	Robert Kadlec

Veterans benefits Committee Chair: Gerald Arnold
Veterans Incarcerated Committee Chair: David Sanders, Sr.
Unable to find the three members at Quentin.

XII. Unfinished Business:

A fundraiser was held at Moffett Field on August 27 and 28.

XIII. New Business:

NTR

XIV. AVVA Report:

Cang has found enough funds to buy seven AR-15 to replace their older rifles for their Honor Guard.

XV. Good of the Order:

There is a Non-Service Connected Emergency Care Claims fact sheet on the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) ruling that invalidated a VA regulation governing reimbursement or payment for unauthorized emergency treatment of a Veteran's non-service-connected condition furnished by a non-VA provider. Prior to the ruling, VA's regulation barred reimbursement or payment when the Veteran has other health insurance (OHI), including Medicare and employee-sponsored and private health insurance, in addition to their VA health care benefits.

VVA California State Council has a call for nominations for the 2016 California "Legislator of the Year." Criteria includes the Legislator's actions on key veteran legislation, service with distinction on veterans' committees, how they serve veterans in their district, do they have a veterans advisory committee, and do they attend veterans events in their district.

The annual Wheelchair Rock Cod Fishing Derby to be held in Monterey Bay on October 1, 2016. The event is open to all veterans with at least a forty (40) percent physical disability. A disabled veteran is permitted to have one non-fishing attendant if required. Those wishing to participate should submit their application as soon as possible.

There is additional information available on the No on Proposition 61. It includes things veterans can do to help defeat Proposition 61 which is described as "a deceptive, deeply-flawed measure that would be bad for patients, harmful for veterans and expensive for taxpayers." It would be expected to result in an increased cost of VA prescriptions if passed.

We have information on a few California Legislative Bills that are currently on the Governor's desk for signature. Retired Army LTC Pete Conaty, VVA California State Council Legislative Representative, provided information that might be of interest to VVA Chapter 201 members.

American Legion Post 642 announced that the Wreaths Across America Ceremony to be held at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Los Altos on December 17, 2016 at 10:00AM. Chapter 201 donated \$100.00 to Post 642 for at least six wreaths back in May of this year.

Motion by Gerald Arnold and seconded by Randy Richmond to give \$250.00 to Monterey Bay Veterans in support of the fishing trips. Motion carried.

XVI. Closing Ceremony

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday October 17, 2016 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Randy Richmond provided the closing benediction and John Hassenplug retired the Colors. Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM (2016 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

Warren Finch

Warren Finch, 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 17, 2016

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

Attendees:

Jeff Driskill	(USA)	Randall Richmond	(USA)
Cang Kim Dong	(AVVA)	Walter Sarroll	()
Laurence Douthard	(USA)	Mary Sessler	(AVVA)
Gene Fanucchi	(USA)	Randy Sessler	(USA)
Warren Finch	(USA)	Burton Smith	(USN)
Dennis Foggie	(USAF)	William Thai	(AVVA)
Angelo Guevara	(USA)	Stephen Thompson	(USN)
Robert Kadlec	(USAF)	Rich Veit	(USA)
Bill McCorquadale	(USN)	Jack Wells	(USMC)
Francis McVey	(USN)	Olita Willhite	(AVVA)
Casimiro Morin	(AVVA)	Ruben Willhite	(USMC)

I. The meeting was called to order by President David Sanders at 7:00 PM (1900 hours) at the Holder's Country Inn. John Hassenplug 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 – Warren Finch
Treasurer - Dennis Foggie
Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Frangadakis (Absent)
3-year Board Member – Randy Sessler
2-year Board Member - Randy Richmond
1-year Board Member - Gerald Arnold (excused)

III. Guests:

Jerry Cederholm
Jennifer Fanucchi
Dory Guevara,

IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the August 15 2016 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership.

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected by Rich Veit and Second by Dennis Foggie.
The minutes were approved. Correct under item 10, Fran and Gene carried the wreath.

V. Correspondence:

Thank you letter from President Sanders to Dennis Whittaker for his donations to help cover the cost of the replacement flag poles.

VI. Financial Report:

Treasurer Dennis Foggie reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed:

Motion to approve Treasurers Report by Randy Richmond and Second by Bill McCorquadale. Motion passed.

VII. Officer Reports:

Visited the San Jose Vet Center and was appraised that the landlord is restricting the number of cars that can be parked there to seven (7). He has locked the gate to enforce the restriction. Any more than seven cars in the lot, he has been trying to charge \$7.00 per car.

Ken Cook is still in Denali Building at Menlo Park, Earl Edwards is still in assisted living on Bascom.

VIII. Board Of Directors Report:

The Board of Directors met on 13 October. The following items were discussed and voted on:

First Review of Chapter Bylaws Update; Suggested Chapter Policy CP-2016-001 on Chapter Committees; and Update of the Chapter Income & Expense Statement.

IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:

See attached reports by Randy Sessler for August and Gerald Arnold for the October reports.

X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:

The Veterans' Day Parade staging area is changed for this year and the final plans are being worked on. Gene Fanucchi is trying obtain use of the old Greyhound Bus lot. Start time moved to 1030 for news conference by local politicians.

Official opening of the Fort Ord Cemetery was held last Tuesday. They are taking reservations.

Fran McVey is taking over as Chairman of the National Guard and Veterans Commission. The commission is trying to find a place for a museum honoring Cold War Veterans and businesses.

XI. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee Chair:	Warren Finch
POW/MIA Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Agent Orange Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Constitution/Bylaws Chair:	Robert Kadlec

BOD received the suggested amendments to the By-Laws for review. The Board will meet on November 17th to vote on the amendments before bringing to the membership.

Community Services Committee Chair:	Michael Frangadakis
Government Affairs Committee Chair:	Fran McVey
Finance & Fund Raising Committee Chair:	Dennis Foggie
Public Affairs Committee Chair:	Robert Kadlec
Veterans benefits Committee Chair:	Gerald Arnold
Veterans Incarcerated Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.

Unable to find the three members at Quentin.

XII. Unfinished Business:

Dave asked if there was anyone who wanted to march in the parade as part of a color guard. Dave will have at least four to carry the colors.

Tents will be provided at Santana Row for the event so VVA-201 will use the provided tent.

October 30 is VVA201's turn for the flag lowering at Oak Hill. Need at least two for the flag lowering and folding.

XIII. New Business:

Nothing to report

XIV. AVVA Report:

Cang Kim Dong is changing the visitation to VA Hospital to the Christmas time. Will need to get the exact date later. Will also visit Menlo Park.

XV. Good of the Order:

There was additional information available on the No on Proposition 61. It includes things veterans can do to help defeat Proposition 61 which is described as "a deceptive, deeply-flawed measure that would be bad for patients, harmful for veterans and expensive for taxpayers." It would be expected to result in an increased cost of VA prescriptions if passed.

We have information on a few California Legislative Bills that are currently on the Governor's desk for signature. Retired Army LTC Pete Conaty, VVA California State Council Legislative Representative, provided information that might be of interest to VVA Chapter 201 members. The list is 23 pages long. The info was emailed to the

members by Bob Kadlec.

American Legion Post 642 announcement of the Wreaths Across America Ceremony to be held at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Los Altos on December 17, 2016 at 10:00AM.

Chapter 201 donated \$100.00 to Post 642 for at least six wreaths back in May of this year.

Fran McVey, Randy Sessler, and John Hassenplug are the Election Committee members who will accept nominations for the election of the 2017 Chapter officers.. Please let them know if you are interested in running for office.

For the Holiday dinner this year members will receive their free their meal ticket when they sign in on the attendance log.

XVI. Closing Ceremony

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be held on Monday November 21, 2016 at Holder's Country Inn. Social hour and dinner begins at 6:00 PM with the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the closing benediction and John Hassenplug retired the Colors.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM (2016 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed

Warren Finch, Secretary
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

Chapter 201 Report to CSC August 2016 Conference

August 26-28, 2016

- Participated in the Veterans Supportive Services Agency (VSSA) second annual Armed Forces Day Festival at Lake Cunningham Park in San Jose May 21st. The Chapter's booth provided educational information on Agent Orange and the Vietnam Veterans of America.
- Participated in a community meeting at the Los Gatos City Hall supporting the construction of the Statue of Liberty Flame and a Soldier's Cross memorial in the front of the City Hall and Los Gatos Museum. The Memorial was approved and contract for its construction will be prepared.
- Held two Fundraising events at Moffett Field in Mountain View in July and two more are being held this weekend. The purpose is to raise funds to support the chapter's philanthropic activities including scholarships for Vietnamese children. We are currently supporting four children in Da Nang.
- Philanthropic activities include: Assistance to a veteran in dire straits; donation to the American Legion sponsored "Wreaths Across America" program to place wreaths at Veterans' graves; and the "Journey For Change" 200-mile walk from Santa Cruz to Sacramento designed to provide awareness about PTSD and support a reduction in veteran suicides through community action and awareness.

Respectfully Submitted

Signed

Randall Sessler

Director

Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201

Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America
Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

Chapter 201 Report to CSC Conference
October 14-16, 2016

- Held two Fundraising events at Moffett Field in Mountain View in August. This comes to five fund raising events that Chapter 201 has held this year. The purpose was to raise funds to support the Chapter's philanthropic activities including scholarships for Vietnamese children and assisting veterans in dire straits.
- Chapter 201 approved the funding of two additional scholarships at the September meeting for Vietnamese children. This makes a total of six children that the Chapter is sponsoring in Da Nang.
- Chapter 201 partnered with American Legion District 13 Riders and Mission City Post 564 in Santa Clara to hold a BBQ and Fire Watch on the occasion of the National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The event began at 6:00pm on September 16th and concluded at 7:00am on September 17th. Again this year, AVVA Chapter 201 provided the Honor Guard for the opening ceremony.
- Philanthropic activities include a donation to the annual Wheelchair Rock Cod Fishing Derby held in Monterey Bay on October 1, 2016. The event was open to all veterans with at least a forty (40) percent physical disability

Respectfully Submitted

Signed

Gerald Arnold

Director

Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201

Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 21 2016

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

Attendees:

Ed Aki	(USMC)	James Medeiros	(USA)
Gerald Arnold	(USN)	Francis McVey	(USN)
Jeff Driskill	(USA)	Casimiro Morin	(AVVA)
Gene Fanucchi	(USA)	Randall Richmond	(USA)
Warren Finch	(USA)	Burton Smith	(USN)
Dennis Foggie	(USAF)	William Thai	(AVVA)
John Hassenplug	(USN)	Stephen Thompson	(USN)
Robert Kadlec	(USAF)	Dennis Whittaker	(USA)
Bill McCorquadale	(USN)		

- I. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Robert Kadlec at 7:03 PM (1903 hours) at the Holder's Country Inn. John Hassenplug led the Pledge of Allegiance and 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 – Warren Finch
Treasurer - Dennis Foggie
Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Frangadakis (absent)
3-year Board Member – Randy Sessler (absent)
2-year Board Member - Randy Richmond
1-year Board Member - Gerald Arnold

III. Guests:

Jennifer Fanucchi, Bernie Arcy, Alexa Aki

IV. Reading of Minutes:

Minutes of the October 17, 2016 meeting were forwarded electronically to the membership. Copies were available.

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected by Dennis Foggie and Second by Ed Aki. The minutes were approved.

V. Correspondence:

Received certificate of appreciation with coin from AL Post 642 for donation to Wreaths Across America at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

VI. Financial Report:

Treasurer Dennis Foggie reported that a copy of the Financial Report was distributed:

Motion to approve Treasurers Report by John Hassenplug and Second by Dennis Whittaker. Motion passed.

VII. Officer Reports:

VVA 210 President Dave Sanders had knee replacement surgery on 15 November. He participated in the Veterans Day Parade on the 11th prior to the surgery. He went home last Thursday; however, he is in significant pain. He said that he will be at the Holiday Luncheon.

AVVA-201 Vice President Cang Kim Dong had successful surgery on 5 November and was able to participate in the Veterans' Day Parade.

VIII. Board Of Directors Report:

The Board of Directors met on 17 November. The following items were discussed:

Second Review of Chapter Bylaws Update was held. The final BOD Review of Chapter Bylaws will be January 12, 2017. A vote will be taken at that time. The final draft will then be presented to the membership at the January meeting for their review. The membership will have 90 days to review prior to voting for approval at the April meeting.

The treasurer reported on donations received from Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War of \$130.00 which will go the support of the Vietnam students. American Legion Post 562 donated \$1560.00.

After the board meeting, the treasurer checked the mail and found another check for \$130.00 from the Dr. Mary Walker Auxiliary of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War. This will be used to cover the expenses of another student. VVA 201 is currently sponsoring 6 students.

IX. California State Council (CSC) Report:

The next CSC Conference will be held between 27 and 29 January 2017. Randy Sessler will represent the Chapter.

Gerald Arnold gave additional information from his prior report (Oct 14-16 CSC Conference). Spouses are being reached out to determine if they have PTSD.

X. United Veterans Council (UVC) Report:

Reports from the public were favorable about the parade. There appears that UVC will have a carryover for next year's parade.

Had a mock-up of the Gold Star Memorial for Oak Hill Cemetery at Santana Row. Also, had the cockpit of the Hornet at Santana Row.

XI. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee Chair:

Warren Finch

October VVA-210 Membership at 94 (16 individual, 75 live & 3 incarcerated).

October AVVA-201 Membership at 129 (12 individual & 117 life).

POW/MIA Committee Chair:

David Sanders, Sr.

Agent Orange Committee Chair:

David Sanders, Sr.

Constitution/Bylaws Chair:

Robert Kadlec

By-Laws under BOD review for presentation to membership at 16 January meeting.

Community Services Committee Chair:

Michael Frangadakis

Government Affairs Committee Chair:

Fran McVey

Finance & Fund Raising Committee Chair:

Dennis Foggie

Fund Raising resulted in donations from the American Legion (\$1,564) & Sons of Union Veterans (\$260).

Public Affairs Committee Chair:

Robert Kadlec

Veterans benefits Committee Chair:

Gerald Arnold

Gerald Arnold walked the area at 80 Great Oaks and the UVC made recommendations which were discarded by the officials. VTA, Kaiser, and veterans' organizations were involved in setting up transportation. Kaiser was doing transportation but it was pulled after a short time. Gerald-recommends getting all parties involved and "Locking them in a room" to work out transportation issues for vets to get them to the new facility that is being built. Gerald did a PSA for KBAY, and said that all the veterans' organizations got together to show up at meetings and pushed for a resolution to the transportation issues for 80 Great Oaks and the same thing needs to happen to get the transportation issues resolved for the new facility. Gerald said that VA shows that the nearest bus stop is 2.8 miles from the new facility. Gerald said that there are several vans sitting at 80 Great Oaks and not being used to transport veterans to and from appointments. This is something that the UVC should coordinate with all veterans' organizations.

Veterans Incarcerated Committee Chair:

David Sanders, Sr.

XII. Unfinished Business:

- o VVA and AVVA-201 conducted Flag Lowering for the UVC on October 30th at Oak Hill.

- VVA and AVVA-201 members participated in the annual UVC Veterans Day parade in downtown San Jose. Color Guards from both the Chapter and AVVA were honored to post the colors during the opening ceremony on the 50th Anniversary of the war in Vietnam. The Chapter Color Guard was composed of VP Kadlec, Steve Thompson, Bill McCorquadale and Casimiro Morin. Chaplain Randy Richmond gave the commands. AVVA member William Thai brought members of the AVVA Honor Guard as part of the opening ceremony joint color Guard.
- During the opening ceremony, President Dave Sanders presented outgoing San Jose Vice Mayor Rose Herrera with a Vietnam War 50th anniversary certificate and commemorative medal. Rose Herrera honorably served our country in the United States Air Force, Security and Intelligence Service from 1972 to 1975 while station on Okinawa.
- Members of both the VVA and AVVA-201 marched in the parade. The Chapter Color Guard in the parade was composed of VP Kadlec, Steve Thompson, Gerald Arnold and Casimiro Morin. This is the first time the Chapter has participated in the UVC Veterans' Day Parade in several years, although the AVVA has been represented by a large contingent of its members for years.
- Do not forget that the Chapter annual elections will be held on 24 April. Be sure to advise members of the Chapter the Election Committee your desire to be nominated for an office and/or your recommendation for officer nominations. The Election Committee members are, Fran McVey, John Hassenplug and Randy Sessler.

XIII. New Business:

Annual Chapter 201 Holiday extravaganza will be held on Sunday, December 18 at 11:30am at Harry's Hof Brau. Richard Brummett, a member of the VVA Chapter 165 in Bellingham, Washington will provide a presentation on the Dragoon Vietnamese Scholarship Fund.

The Vet Center at 440 N. 1st^t street is having trouble with the landlord. The landlord does not want more than 7 cars parked for the vet center at any one time. The Vet Center is looking to move before there is a permanent location, Gerald Arnold made a motion that we draft a resolution to present to the VA regarding the Vet Center in San Jose. Seconded by Randy Richmond. Motion passed with two nays.

XIV. AVVA Report:

Cang is changing the visitation to VA Hospital to the Christmas time. Will need to get the exact date later. Will also visit Menlo Park.

XV. Good of the Order:

The UVC Pearl Harbor 75th anniversary Remembrance Day Ceremony will be held at Oak Hill on Wednesday, December 7th at 9:00AM.

American Legion Post 642 announcement of the Wreaths Across America Ceremony to be held at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Los Altos on December 17, 2016 at 10:00AM. Chapter 201 donated \$100.00 to Post 642 for at least six wreaths back in May of this year.

For the Holiday dinner, this year members must pick up their meal ticket when they sign in to get their free senior meal.

Dennis Whittaker talked about the event at Miller Middle School in San Jose on November 10th where they honor Veterans. Dennis is a contact for the event.

Alexis Aki crochets hats that are given to veterans in hospice. Randy Richmond will deliver them to the VA Hospital.

Ed Aki asked about the speakers' bureau that VVA used to have. There had not been any requests coming in so it stopped. Steve Thompson, Fran McVey and Randy Richmond volunteered to look into restarting the speakers' bureau.

CSC sent out an email looking for input on how to continue the VVA when all the eligible members have passed.

XVI. Closing Ceremony

The next scheduled VVA Chapter 201 meeting will be our annual Holiday Luncheon which will be held on Sunday, December 18th at Harry's Hof Brau on Saratoga in San Jose beginning at 12:00 noon.

Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the closing benediction and John Hassenplug retired the Colors.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM (2016 hours).

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed

Warren Finch, Secretary
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America

Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, December 18, 2016

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

In lieu of the December Chapter 201 social and business meeting, fifty-five members, prospective members, and guests gathered at Harry's Hof Brau Restaurant in San Jose at 12:00 Noon on Sunday, 18 December for a Holiday luncheon. Since this was an informal "social" gathering, no VVA or Chapter business was discussed, however, several presentations were made.

- I. **President David Sanders** introduced Vietnam Veterans of America California State Council Central District Director Al Sickle and his wife Toni who provided Holiday greetings.
- II. **Chapter member Jack Wells** introduced **Richard Brummett**, a member of VVA Chapter 165 in Bellingham, Washington and founder of the Dragoon Scholarship Fund. Richard provided a slide presentation on his service in the Army's 1st Armored Cavalry in Vietnam between 1967 and 1968 and when he returned to Vietnam in the summer of 1970 as a freelance photographer. In 2011 Richard came up with the idea, in partnership with the NGO, the Children of Vietnam, to make small scholarships available for the children of the village of An Son, a few miles west of where Richard served on Hawk Hill (Hill 29) in the former Quang Tin Province.
- III. **President David Sanders**, ably assisted by **Secretary Warren Finch**, presented Certificates of Appreciation to several individuals:
 - A. Life Chapter 201 member **Jack Wells** was honored for his work with The "Dragoon Scholarship Fund" and was instrumental in coordinating scholarships from Chapter 201 for six Vietnamese children in the village of An Son in the former Quang Tin Province this year.
 - B. Life Chapter 201 member **Major General Robert Ostberg** was honored for his tireless and continuing commitment to visits with hospitalized veterans at the VA Palo Alto health Care System Polytrauma Units.
 - C. **Tad Campbell**, past National Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, was honored for his work in the design and development of the web site for the Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201 of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Tad was out of State and unable to attend the Luncheon. He will receive his certificate at a later date.
 - D. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to **William McCorquadale**, **Casimiro Morin**, **Randall Richmond** and **William Thai** in appreciation of their participation in the VVA and AVVA 201 Color Guards during the United Veterans Council Veterans' Day Parade on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the War in Vietnam. **Gerald Arnold** and **Stephen Thompson** were not present and will receive their certificates at a later date.

IV. **Carmen Sanders**, accompanied by her husband Chapter 201 President Dave Sanders Sr., presented Treasurer Dennis Foggie with a generous donation to the Chapter from their son David W. Sanders.

V. **President David Sanders** adjourned the 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 16, 2016 at Holder's Country Inn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed

Warren Finch
Secretary,
Darwin J. Thomas Chapter 201
Vietnam Veterans of America