

Minutes of the Vietnam Veterans of America Washington State Council meeting of 22 April 2017 held in Yakima Washington.

President Francisco Ivarra opened the meeting at 1305 hours with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

The meeting agenda was presented to the council for approval. Bob Nichols motioned and Ande Mitchell 2nd to accept the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

Roll Call: A quorum of chapters are present. 1 absent, 319 Snoqualmie

No guests

The minutes for the meeting held 29 October 2016 were read by Secretary Pete Sill. Bob Nichols motioned and Roosevelt Ward 2nd to accept the minutes as read. Motion passed.

By-laws Committee: No changes

Treasurers Report: See handout from Treasurer Odis Warren (attached). Gene Goldsmith motioned and Bob Nichols 2nd to approve the Treasurers report. Motion passed. A draft budget has been handed out to the State Council members (attached).

VSO Report: Mike Harris reported that Washington State is number one for submitting claims for Veterans. VVA is following the VA's lead in going paperless. All files will need to be input into VETPRO and then shredded. We currently have 13 accredited state VSO's, 2 pending and 6 in training. Our contract with WDVA expires in June and we are working to have that renewed. The contract will probably renew for two years. We have applied for a 20K grant from VVA National to help fund our VSO programs and training.

Our new Chief Service Officer, Sara Walker, introduced herself and presented her plan for future training of VSO's. There is an annual training requirement for current VSO's and a 5-year re-certification requirement by the VA.

Membership: Roosevelt Ward presented a copy of the January 2017 roster. There are currently 518 members at large. Chapter Presidents were encouraged to contact these individuals. We have 1183 members in the state. Expect a 90 day delay on new members showing up on your rosters due to understaffing at national and the influx of new members with the \$100.00 Life membership program.

Legislative: Odis Warren shared information on the Washington State Attorney General's office having assigned 4 pro-bono lawyers to strictly assist veterans. There are currently 7 or 8 veteran's legislative bills on the governor's desk awaiting signature.

CHAPTER Reports:

1109: We participated in the second annual "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" parade and ceremonies held at The American Legion Post 43 in Sedro Woolley. We held our 2nd "Agent Orange" awareness town hall in March which was a huge success. Our annual picnic will be 5 August 2017 at Andes' place in Sedro Woolley.

512: Our Christmas party was a huge success with 180 people attending. Our election report was turned in to the State Secretary.

Ellensburg VSO: They got a van donated to assist in transporting Veterans to different functions.

165: Our annual car show has been moved to Barclay Village and will be on 23 July 2017. There will be a Memorial Day ceremony at Hovander Park. Gene is to be honored as "Veteran of the Year" by "The Daughters of the Revolution". They have released 14K to scholarships to date and will give out 3 \$750.00 scholarships this year to Bellingham Technical College students.

423: Hosted the "Hero's Café" last Tuesday of the month veterans social. This social is from 11-3 every last Tuesday.

879: We hosted a Super Bowl Pizza party for the veterans. We are continuing with our Ice Cream socials. We handed out three \$500.00 scholarships last year and will be handing out two more this year.

State Council President:

Membership is growing and we would like to see more chapters standing up.

There will be more "Agent Orange" awareness town-hall's coming to Walla Walla and Republic.

Sara Walker has been hired as the new Chief Service Officer.

Joe Gallaway, renowned author. Would like to interview Vietnam Veterans. Please send contact information to Francisco.

Updates on our national legacy:

- A. Transition – How do we transition before the last man standing?
- B. Assets/Funds – What do we do with these once we disband?

National convention will be in New Orleans in August. Host hotel is \$115.00 a night. Call 800-266-9432 for reservations.

The state now has a 501(c3) to accept donations.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Ross Walker was released as the Chief Service Officer for health reasons.

WASC will pay 1 delegate to attend national convention.

Good of the Order

The 2019 National convention will be held in Spokane

The next meeting will be October 21st, 2017 to be held at the Snoqualmie Pancake House at 10 AM. If you want breakfast please show up early.

A motion to adjourn was entertained. Pete Sill motioned and Gregg Del Santos 2nd. Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 1530 hours.

Submitted for approval:

Pete Sill

VVA WASC Secretary