

ViệtNow
National Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, February 15th, 2017

President Lewis called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

Roll Call of Officers and Directors

Board Member	Present/Absent	Arrived	Departed
President Joe Lewis	Present		
Vice President Ed Banach	Absent	3:32 PM	
Secretary Darrell Gilgan	Present		
Treasurer Steve Rucki	Present		
Director John Bates	Present		
Director John Davis	Present		
Director Boorsma	Present		
Director Spencer	Present		

All board members were present except for Vice President Banach. Secretary Gilgan led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Treasurer Rucki read the ViệtNow prayer.

Membership

Six membership packets were mailed to six states. Our organization has gained four new members and associates from three states. One Chapter startup packet was sent to Vice President Banach. President Lewis met with a group in North Carolina that might be interested in starting a Chapter. He met with the new president of Surry County Chapter about their situation. Two additional groups in the Mocksville and Cleveland areas of North Carolina may be interested in starting Chapters. Nearly all of our Chapters have completed all revalidation requirements for the next year. Surry County Chapter continues to get back on track. Their members will not be allowed to vote in the upcoming National elections. Members at Large Chairman Bob Gutsche reported that he mailed the quarterly newsletter to Members at Large and Associates at Large. He mailed welcome packets to Members at Large and Associates at Large from five states. Vice President Banach reported that he has been looking at Chapter startup requests for the past several years.

Vice President Banach joined the meeting by phone at 3:32 PM.

President Lewis made a motion to go into executive session at 3:35 PM. The motion was seconded by Director Bates and passed with a unanimous vote of those present.

We returned to the agenda at 3:57 PM.

President Lewis made a motion to hire Tina Carlson as a full time employee, with the title of Executive Assistant. The motion was seconded by Director Bates and passed with a unanimous vote of those present.

Board Reports

President Lewis reported that he has been in direct contact with everyone either by phone or email since the last meeting. President Lewis and Tina Carlson have been in daily contact working on membership, telemarketing, and the many other functions of the ViêtNow National Headquarters.

Vice President Banach reported that he has been working with Tina Carlson on several membership related items. He is still searching for E5 insignia for the U.S. Coast Guard. Metal insignia for the other branches of service has been received by ViêtNow National Headquarters. Vice President Banach has been tasked with purchasing ViêtNow logo pens. He will order 250 pens.

Secretary Gilgan presented the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, January 18th, 2017. Presentation of the minutes is the motion to accept them. The motion was seconded by Director Spencer and passed with a unanimous vote of those present. Copies of the most recent approved minutes and a copy of the most recent approved balance sheet were emailed to each Chapter contact and to each committee Chair. Secretary Gilgan traveled to ViêtNow National Headquarters on several occasions to sign checks, contracts, payables and other items. In addition, he made bank deposits on several occasions when Treasurer Rucki was on vacation. Tina Carlson and Secretary Gilgan have been working on ways to facilitate the upcoming election for ViêtNow National officers and directors. She is looking at the cost of mailing ballots and other necessary items to our members. Secretary Gilgan had conversations with Vice President Banach, President Lewis, Treasurer Rucki and other people about several items.

Treasurer Rucki presented the most recent balance sheet for approval. Presentation of the balance sheet is the motion to accept it. The motion was seconded by Secretary Gilgan, and passed with a unanimous vote of those present. Treasurer Rucki made weekly trips to ViêtNow National Headquarters since the last meeting to sign payables and make deposits. Treasurer Rucki transferred \$10,000.00 from the "VeteransNow" account to the General account.

Director Bates contacted his assigned Chapters. Written report submitted.

EMHC Chapter's sponsor reported that the Chapter will hold a meeting on Friday, February 17th. The sponsor will have the Chapter's revalidation information completed.

TSCI Chapter's representative was questioned about starting up the Chapter.

Fort Bloomfield Chapter's President reported that the Chapter is still waiting for their registration with the State to be returned.

VIP West Chapter's sponsor referred Director Bates to another person.

VIP East Chapter's sponsor stated that a new sponsor has been assigned to the Chapter.

SCRI Chapter's sponsor reported that not much is going on. An outside group would like Chapter members to partner with them to make American flags.

Director Davis contacted his assigned Chapters. Written report submitted.

Greater Chicago Chapter's President reported that all is well, and there is nothing to report.

Rockford Charter Chapter's President reported that the next Chapter breakfast will be held at the Spring Garden Restaurant in Loves Park on Saturday, February 18th. The Tuskegee Airmen will be at Memorial Hall in Rockford on Saturday, February 18th. Rockford Charter Chapter members provided final military honors for two of their members during the past few weeks. The Chapter will provide a meal at the Veterans Drop-In-Center on Thursday, February 23rd. Members will take part in a Vets Roll fundraiser on Saturday, February, 25th.

DuPage County Chapter's President reported that the Chapter may try to put together a Chapter picnic this year. They are looking at doing more flag sales this year.

Surry County Chapter's President did not return calls.

Director Spencer contacted his assigned Chapters. Written report submitted.

Badger Chapter's President reported that there is nothing new going on.

Berwyn-Cicero Chapter's President reported that members are working on a fundraiser for Hines Hospital. The next "Bingo for Vets" event is being planned. The next candlelight bowl fundraiser is in the planning stage. Chapter members are planning for this year's parades and other events.

DeKalb County Chapter's President reported that they have no projects planned at this time.

Freeport Chapter's President reported that the Chapter will host their annual dance at the Eagles Club in Freeport on Saturday, March 11th. The Chapter averages two funerals each week. Chapter members are working on the upcoming Memorial Day Parade and related ceremony. Several members plan to attend the upcoming ViệtNow National Convention. The Chapter received their Life per capita check from ViệtNow National Headquarters. The Chapter membership chairman will verify that amount and number of life members and life associates is correct.

Rock River Valley Chapter's President reported that nothing is going on this month. Some of the guys are getting together to go out to dinner.

Director Boorsma attempted to contact his assigned Chapters. Written report submitted.

Pacific Northwest Chapter's President reported that members are discussing this year's membership goal. During a recent breakfast meeting at a local restaurant another patron asked if all of the people at the table were Veterans, and then paid for all of their meals.

Walworth County Chapter's President reported the Chapter's Pizza Party is scheduled for April 1st, 2017 at 4:15 PM in Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

Macon County Chapter's President reported that when the Chapter treasury is depleted, the Chapter will fold.

McHenry County Chapter's President did not return phone calls.

National Committee Reports

(Reports are due in March, May, September and December)

Agent Orange, Sandy Davis: Sandy reported on her recent activities.

Convention 2017, Barney Spencer: Director Spencer presented a tentative agenda and notes from last year's convention about items that can be improved on for this year. The convention cup/mug will be considered. John Davis is in charge of putting the delegate books together. The deadline for submitting delegate book information is April 1st. Treasurer Rucki is responsible for the banquet tickets, breakfast tickets and name tags. Secretary Gilgan will provide copies of the ViêtNow National bylaws, Policy and Procedure manual and a new Organizational manual. This year's silent auction will be managed by Rose Lewis and Char Rucki. Secretary Gilgan will be responsible for getting necessary items to and from the convention. Linda Gilgan, Lynn Berg and Linda Wilkinson will be responsible for the registration table. Char Rucki will be responsible for the Hospitality room on Friday night. We will consider having an extension of the hospitality room after the banquet on Saturday night. Much discussion took place about other items.

Convention 2018, John Bates: Director Bates presented information about Jumer's Chateau in Bloomington, Illinois. The dates will be May 10th to May 13th, 2018. President Lewis made a motion to approve a tentative contract with the hotel. The motion was seconded by Director Spencer and passed with a unanimous vote of those present. President Lewis presented samples of glasses that could be given out to delegates and guests. Director Bates will continue to look into glasses or cups.

The meeting was recessed at 5:23 PM and resumed at 5:35 PM.

Gulf War, Anthony Barthel: President Lewis reported that Anthony has resigned from his position. A replacement will be considered.

Nominating/Election 2017, Darrell Gilgan: Tina Carlson and Secretary Gilgan have been working on ways to facilitate the upcoming election for ViêtNow National officers and directors. Candidate bios will be placed on the website. Director Boorsma declined the nomination for National Vice President. Director Bates has accepted the nomination for the office of National Vice President, Treasurer Rucki has accepted the nomination for National Treasurer and Director Davis has accepted the nomination for National Director.

Parliamentary, Darrell Gilgan: A revision of the ViêtNow National Policy and Procedure Manual to clarify that in order for a member to run for any ViêtNow National office they must be a member in good standing of a Chapter is being considered.

POW/MIA, John Bates: Director Bates gave a verbal report on his recent activities.

Scholarships, National Headquarters: One inquiry was received.

VA Hospitals, Bob Gutsche: Bob reported on his activities during the past month. Written report submitted.

Building/Maintenance

President Lewis made a motion to approve an amount of up to \$800.00 to have Pearson plumbing to repair a drain problem in the rest room in the ViêtNow National area. The motion was seconded by Director Boorsma and passed with a unanimous vote of those present. Director Bates replaced a ceiling light and switch in the back office area. President Lewis commented that we can expand our security system to include a camera pointing at the entry door so that Tina can see who is there before she goes to the door. Secretary Gilgan reported that it would be a simple matter for President Lewis give Tina access to the existing ADT cameras, and reposition one of them to give a good view of the door.

Magazine

The deadline for the spring issue is February 17th.

Public Relations

Donations: Vice President Banach made a motion to donate \$750.00 in support of the Fisher House Foundation. The motion was seconded by Secretary Gilgan and passed with a unanimous vote of those present.

Telemarketing: Several contracts and scripts have been processed.

Web Site

Tina Carlson has been trained to enter items under the “News” tab of ViêtNow National Website. She has entered a few items

Old Business

Much discussion took place about re-starting the Chapter Grant program with an amount not to exceed \$500.00 per year. The grants will be “Internal”. The funds will be used by the Chapter, and not given to someone else to spend.

New Business

Secretary Gilgan made a motion to produce and mail dues reminder post cards for an amount of \$430.00. The number of post cards purchased will be 1,000. The motion was seconded by Director Bates and passed with a unanimous vote of those present.

The consensus of the board is to use the proceeds from the silent auction at the convention to help fund the ViêtNow National Scholarship program.

Board Meeting dates for 2016-2017

July 20 th , 2016	Wednesday	3:00 PM
August 17 th , 2016	Wednesday	3:00 PM
September 21 st , 2016	Wednesday	3:00 PM
October 19 th , 2016	Wednesday	3:00 PM
November 16 th , 2016	Wednesday	3:00 PM
December 17 th , 2016	Saturday	10:00 AM
January 18 th , 2017	Wednesday	3:00 PM
February 15 th , 2017	Wednesday	3:00 PM
March 22 nd , 2017	Wednesday	3:00 PM
April 19 th , 2017	Wednesday	3:00 PM
May TBD, 2017	TBD	TBD
June 21 st , 2017	Wednesday	3:00 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM with a motion by President Lewis and a second by Director Boorsma.

Respectfully submitted,
Darrell L. Gilgan, Secretary