

ViệtNow
National Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, March 22nd, 2017

Vice President Banach called the meeting to order at 2:59 PM.

Roll Call of Officers and Directors

Board Member	Present/Absent	Arrived	Departed
President Joe Lewis	Present		
Vice President Ed Banach	Present		
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. Director Boorsma led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Treasurer Rucki read the ViệtNow prayer.

President Lewis made a motion to go into executive session at 3:03 PM. The motion was seconded by Director Spencer and passed with a unanimous vote of those present.

We returned to the agenda at 3:48 PM.

Secretary Gilgan presented the minutes of the Executive Session that took place on Wednesday, February 15th, 2017. Presentation of the minutes is the motion to accept them. The motion was seconded by Director Bates and passed with a unanimous vote of those present.

Membership

Eight membership inquiries were received from seven states. Our organization has gained one new Life Associate who will moved to Member status as soon as his DD214 is received. Four new annual members and associates joined from four states. Vice President Banach reported on the status Chapter startups. Members at Large Chairman Bob Gutsche reported on new and prospective Members at Large.

Board Reports

President Lewis reported that he has been in contact with everyone on the National Board through phone calls or emails since our last meeting. He has had conversations with some of our committee chairs and with the ViệtNow National magazine editor over

the past month. President Lewis and Tina Carlson have been in daily contact working on membership, telemarketing and the many functions of National Headquarters

Vice President Banach reported that he had phone or email contacts with President Lewis, Tina Carlson, Secretary Gilgan and Director Boorsma since the last meeting. He read numerous email messages from many others about more than a few subjects. Vice President Banach commented on the donation we made to Fisher House. He passed out ViêtNow National magazines at the Allentown out-patient clinic, the Bath out-patient clinic and the Wilkes Barre VA Hospital, all in Pennsylvania.

Secretary Gilgan presented the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, February 15th, 2017. Presentation of the minutes is the motion to accept them. The motion was seconded by President Lewis 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 two occasions when Treasurer Rucki was on vacation. Secretary Gilgan traveled to ViêtNow National headquarters to reposition one of the ADT cameras to give Tina a good view of the entrance door. He had conversations with Treasurer Rucki, President Lewis and other people about several items.

The agenda was suspended at 3:59 PM for a presentation by meeting guest Paul Muhleback.

Mr Muhleback made a presentation about a program that he would like to start that would provide housing and employment opportunities for Veterans.

We returned to the agenda at 4:25 PM.

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. In addition to the balance sheet Treasurer Rucki presented a Budget versus Actual report for February 2017, and a Budget versus Actual report for the fiscal year July 1st, 2016 through June 30th, 2017. Treasurer Rucki made weekly trips to National Headquarters since the last meeting to sign payables and make deposits. He transferred \$5,000.00 from the Veterans-Now account to the general account.

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

EMHC Chapter's sponsor reported that things are going well with the State's budget.

SCRI Chapter's sponsor reported that all is well, and members are preparing for Chapter elections.

VIP West Chapter's sponsor reported that members are working on the Chapter elections. Meeting attendance has been low because of internal issues. Chapter members are looking to restart their movie night.

VIP East Chapter's sponsor did not return phone calls.

Fort Bloomfield Chapter's President reported that the Chapter has received their registration information from the State. Their representatives will not be able to attend the upcoming ViêtNow National Convention.

TSCI Chapter's representative has not returned phone calls.

Director Davis contacted his assigned Chapters. Written report submitted.

Surry County Chapter's President reported that he is working on the Chapter's 990. Members are working on having a fundraiser during the summer.

Greater Chicago Chapter's President reported that nothing is going on, and the Chapter has no issues.

Rockford Charter Chapter's President reported that the Chapter Color Guard presented colors at a Vets Roll Fundraiser at Rascal's Bar and Grill in Loves Park, Illinois on Saturday, February, 25th. Several Members attended the event. The most recent Chapter breakfast took place on Saturday, March 18th, at Café 411 in Loves Park. The Chapter will provide a meal at the Veterans Drop-In-Center on Thursday, March 23rd.

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

Director Spencer contacted his assigned Chapters. Written report submitted.

Badger Chapter's President reported that there is nothing new to report.

Berwyn-Cicero Chapter's President reported that the Chapter will hold a combined Veterans' Memorial Day ceremony on May 30th. Several members volunteered at Hines VA Hospital. The Chapter is putting together a Memorial page for the delegate book.

DeKalb County Chapter's President reported that there is nothing new to report.

Freeport Chapter's President reported that the Chapter hosted their annual dance at the Eagles Club in Freeport on Saturday, March 11th. The Chapter averages three funerals each week from the end of February until now. At least five members and their spouses will attend the upcoming ViêtNow National Convention.

Rock River Valley Chapter's President reported that nothing is going on. Members are waiting for spring and the upcoming ViêtNow National Convention.

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

Macon County Chapter's President reported that members are not doing anything at this time.

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

Walworth County Chapter's President reported the Chapter's pizza party will take place on April 1st, 2017 in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. The membership meeting will follow the pizza party.

Pacific Northwest Chapter's President reported that members attended a breakfast meeting at a local restaurant. The Chapter gained five new members.

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 for the convention. President Lewis led discussion on guests who have been invited. Director Davis will be responsible for assembling the delegate books. He will be assisted by Secretary Gilgan, their wives and other volunteers. All information must be submitted by April 15th. Secretary Gilgan will rent a van to transport necessary items to and from the convention site. Discussion took place about using the van for other purposes. Vice President Banach stated that van should be used for transporting necessary items. Transporting guests will be accomplished by other means. Quartermaster items will be inventoried and transported to and from the convention. This year's silent auction will be managed by Rose Lewis and Char Rucki. Linda Gilgan, Lynn Berg, Linda Wilkinson and other volunteers will be responsible for the registration table. The registration table will be open Thursday evening and during the day on Friday and Saturday. Char Rucki will be responsible for the Hospitality room on Friday and Saturday nights. Treasurer Rucki will be responsible for creating the meal tickets and name tags. Director Boorsma will be responsible for placing pens and note pads on each table for every delegate. The consensus of the board was to invite Jim Sampers and his wife Rhonda to represent SDIT. We will pay Jim and Rhonda's air fare this year and discuss other options for the future. Secretary Gilgan will obtain American Gold Star Mothers President Candy Martin's contact information. President Lewis made a motion to accept the convention logo as revised. The motion was seconded by Secretary Gilgan and passed with a unanimous vote of those present. Director Bates made a motion to approve the purchase of mugs to be distributed at the convention. The cost will be about \$3.00 each. The motion was seconded by Secretary Gilgan and passed with three "No" votes by President Lewis, Vice President Banach and Treasurer Rucki. Vice President Banach made a motion to purchase 250 pens at a cost of \$.60 each plus a \$15.00 setup fee. The total cost will be \$165.00. The was seconded by Secretary Gilgan and passed with a unanimous vote of those present. Treasurer Rucki contacted

the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce. They will provide goody bags to be distributed at the convention.

Convention 2018, John Bates: President Lewis signed a preliminary contract with Jumer's Chateau in Bloomington, Illinois.

Finance, Steve Rucki: Treasurer Rucki presented information on bonding ViêtNow National officers and directors. The limit of liability will be \$1,000,000.00. President Lewis made a motion to spend up to \$1,500.00 to purchase the bond. The motion was seconded by Vice President Banach and passed with a unanimous vote of those present.

Nominating/Election 2017, Darrell Gilgan: The Mail-in ballots have been produced and sent out. The process is working well. Vice President Banach asked why the Chapters knew who was on the ballot before the ballots were distributed. Director Davis stated that there is no good reason for that information to not be distributed. He commented that during municipal elections voters typically know who is running for office long before the election takes place.

Parliamentary, Darrell Gilgan: Secretary Gilgan distributed a revision of the ViêtNow National Policy and Procedure manual that clarifies the use of mail-in ballots. President Lewis made a motion to table the discussion until the July board meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Boorsma and passed with a unanimous vote of those present. Secretary Gilgan commented that it would be a good idea to move forward on the revision to get past any possible misunderstandings in the future. Director Davis was the Nominating/Election co-chairman for the 1991 election, the year that we had a mail-in ballot. A revision of the ViêtNow National Policy and Procedure Manual clarifying that in order for a member to run for any ViêtNow National office they must be a member in good standing of a Chapter has been prepared. The policy may be considered in the future.

POW/MIA, John Bates: A written report was submitted.

Scholarships, National Office: Three inquiries were received from three states.

VA Hospitals, Bob Gutsche: Bob reported on his recent activities.

The meeting was recessed at 6:30 PM and resumed at 6:39 PM.

Quartermaster

Tina Carlson and Vice President Banach: Tina Carlson will order Black POW shirts. She will do an inventory of our Quartermaster supplies.

Building/Maintenance

Director Bates replaced several fluorescent light fixtures with LED fixtures. President Lewis commented that we will continue to use the same lawncare company as in the past few years.

Magazine

The next issue is in the mail.

Public Relations

President Lewis

Donations: No donations were presented.

President Lewis presented a packet on the Better Business Bureau. He requested that every board member review the information. President Lewis commented on the need to make sure that our donations are for Veterans related issues. Several comments were made about other types of donations.

Telemarketing: President Lewis reported that several contracts and scripts have been processed.

Old Business

We will revisit the possibility of restarting the Chapter grant program at the July 2017 Board meeting.

New Business

President Lewis received an invitation from Harry Sawyer to attend a planning meeting for the upcoming Illinois State Fair.

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 18 th , 2017	Thursday	TBD
June 21 st , 2017	Wednesday	3:00 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM with a motion by Director Bates and a second by Director Spencer.

Respectfully submitted,
Darrell L. Gilgan, Secretary