

**ViệtNow  
National Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes  
Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

President Lewis called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

**Roll Call of Officers and Directors**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Present/Absent</b>	<b>Arrived</b>	<b>Departed</b>
President Joe Lewis	Present		
Vice President Ed Banach	Absent		
Secretary Darrell Gilgan	Present		
Treasurer Steve Rucki	Present		
Director John Bates	Present		
Director John Davis	Present		
Director Boorsma	Absent		
Director Spencer	Present		4:10 PM

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

**Membership**

Seven membership inquiries were received from five states. Our organization has gained one new Life Member. Fourteen new annual members and associates joined from nine states. One Chapter start up packet was requested. Much discussion took place about charging all incarcerated members \$5.00 dues to help defray the cost sending the ViệtNow National magazine to them. Secretary Gilgan made a motion to charge each incarcerated member and associate \$5.00 dues. The motion was seconded by Director Bates, and passed with a unanimous vote of those present. President Lewis commented that we are still in need of a Veterans Incarcerated Chair. He has a person in mind. Much discussion took place about the future of our Incarcerated Veterans program.

President Lewis made a motion to go into Executive Session at 4:07 PM. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Rucki and passed with a unanimous vote of those present.

We returned to the agenda at 4:13 PM.

Secretary Gilgan presented the minutes of the Executive Session that took place on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

President Lewis made a motion to present the 2017 ViệtNow Veteran of the year award to Brian Jopek. The motion was seconded by Secretary Gilgan and passed with a unanimous vote of those present.

## **Board Reports**

President Lewis was in contact with all of the National Board through phone calls or emails since the last meeting. President Lewis has been communicating with a person who represents a potential probationary Chapter. He and Tina Carlson have been in daily contact working on membership, telemarketing and the operation of National Headquarters.

Secretary Gilgan presented the minutes of the special meeting that took place on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Secretary Gilgan presented the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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. Secretary Gilgan had conversations with Treasurer Rucki, President Lewis and other people about several items. He traveled to ViệtNow National Headquarters on several occasions to sign checks, payables and other items. In addition, he made bank deposits when needed.

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 ViệtNow National Headquarters to sign payables and make deposits. He transferred funds from the Veterans-Now account to the general account. Treasurer Rucki met with our accountant to make some adjustments on the balance sheet.

Director Bates attempted to contact his assigned Chapters. He sent out several emails about POW information. Written report submitted.

EMHC Chapter's sponsor reported that he sees things getting better, but it will take time to get back to normal. He will bring his son to the convention.

SCRI Chapter's sponsor reported that not much is going on. They are gathering art items for a project. They are planning for their elections. The results will be sent to ViệtNow National Headquarters.

Fort Bloomfield Chapter's President reported that the Chapter is trying out a new meeting place. Discussion took place about elections and the upcoming ViệtNow National Convention.

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

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TSCI Chapter's new representative reported that the facility is no longer on lock down, and that no veterans as far as they know were involved in the disturbance.

Director Davis contacted his assigned Chapters. Written report submitted.

Greater Chicago Chapter's President reported that the Chapter has no issues, and there is nothing to report.

Rockford Charter Chapter's President reported that the most recent Chapter breakfast was at Mary's Market on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. The most recent Adopt-A-Road cleanup took place on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Chapter will have a fundraiser at Portillo's Restaurant on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. The Chapter will provide a meal at the Veterans Drop-In-Center on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

DuPage County Chapter's President reported that everything is O.K. The Chapter is looking into a fundraiser.

Surry County Chapter's President reported that that the Chapter is having no issues at this time.

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 Color Guard participated in an Easter parade. Several members volunteered at Hines Veterans Hospital. The Chapter is working a memorial page for the delegate book.

DeKalb County Chapter's President reported that the Chapter will hold a food drive.

Freeport Chapter's President reported that the Chapter participated in a couple of funerals. Five Chapter members and their wives will attend the upcoming ViêtNow National Convention. Members are getting ready for their Chapter elections and membership meeting. The Chapter is working on Memorial Day activities, parade, and a retirement service at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens.

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

### **National Committee Reports**

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

Convention 2017, Barney Spencer: Director Davis is in charge of assembling the Delegate books. He will set up a date to do the job. A few corrections to the agenda will

be made. The convention preparations are on track. Treasurer Rucki will have copies of the convention logo made for the delegate books. Secretary Gilgan commented on items that will be transported to and from the convention. Rockford Charter Chapter's flags will be used for the opening ceremony. Treasurer Rucki will finish preparing the budget for 2017/2018 in time for it to be presented to the delegates.

Convention 2018, John Bates: Discussion took place about a motto for the convention. Secretary Gilgan made a motion to accept the motto "Veterans working for a better tomorrow." The motion was seconded by Director Bates and passed with a unanimous vote of those present.

Finance, Steve Rucki: Discussion took about ViêtNow National Headquarters' tax information with the state of Illinois.

Nominating/Election 2017, Darrell Gilgan: Secretary Gilgan commented that two ballots were not mailed back to the address on the return envelope. One of them was handed to Tina at National Headquarters. The consensus of the board was that since the proper procedure was not followed, both ballots will be considered "Spoiled" and will not be counted.

Parliamentary, Darrell Gilgan: Secretary Gilgan presented a new headquarters policy that establishes a specific guideline for the review and certification of seated officers and directors DD 214s or their equivalents. Secretary Gilgan made a motion to accept the new policy. The motion was seconded by Director Bates and passed with a unanimous vote of those present. Secretary Gilgan presented a revision of the ViêtNow National Policy and Procedure Manual that clarifies the use of mail-in ballots. Secretary Gilgan made a motion to accept the new policy with revisions. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Rucki and passed with a unanimous vote of those present.

POW/MIA, John Bates: A verbal report was presented.

Scholarships, National Office: Imogene Brasic will sanitize the applications and will send them to the rest of the committee to be rated.

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

### **Public Relations**

President Lewis:

Donations: President Lewis made a motion to donate \$500.00 to Living Word Christian Ministries. The motion was seconded by Secretary Gilgan, and passed after some discussion with a unanimous vote of those present.

President Lewis made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the Ryan Jopek Memorial Scholarship fund. The motion passed with a unanimous vote present.

Telemarketing: President Lewis presented a “Purpose Statement” for use when filing annual renewals in each state where ViêtNow National Headquarters raises funds. President Lewis updated the board on the situation in the state of Michigan.

**Web Site**

President Lewis: The message board was hacked and has been shut down for now. We will change to another server.

**Board Meeting dates for 2016-2017**

July 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Wednesday	3:00 PM
August 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Wednesday	3:00 PM
September 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	Wednesday	3:00 PM
October 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Wednesday	3:00 PM
November 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Wednesday	3:00 PM
December 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Saturday	10:00 AM
January 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Wednesday	3:00 PM
February 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Wednesday	3:00 PM
March 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2017	Wednesday	3:00 PM
April 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Wednesday	3:00 PM
May 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Thursday	6:00 PM
June 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2017	Wednesday	3:00 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 PM with a motion by Director Bates and a second by President Lewis.

Respectfully submitted,  
Darrell L. Gilgan, Secretary