



VVA 776 Minutes
August 23, 2023



Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 1800 hours by President Steve Satre. Officers present are Vice President John Lavelle, Treasurer Joe Wesenberg, and Secretary Tom Lemons. Pledge of Allegiance said and moment of silence for POW/MIA and those still serving in harm's way across the globe.

Introduction: Paula Wesenberg, David Thode, Darrell Thode, Denny Queal, Harold Hanson, Lyle Peterson, Tom Lemons, Louis Gaetz, Ernest Ledtje, Joe Wesenberg, Dale Berger, Shirley Richlen, Steve Satre, John Lavelle, Judith Hildebrand, Edwin Hildebrand, Mike DeGeeter, Ron Sebastian, Leon Dahl, Jim Meurs, Jack Kirchhoff, and Richard Wahlstrand.

Louis Gaetz: I left Muscatine in 1965 when I joined the service. I got out in 1969. I served as a Corpsman with the Marines for 13 months. I belong to the VBA chapter in Maryland, where I live. I figured since I'm from Iowa, I'll sign up with you guys. And I will come back for a month occasionally, so I don't know when you'll see me again.

Dale Berger: I grew up near Eldridge on a farm and I graduated from North Scott High School. I was drafted into the Army in 1969 and did my basic training in Louisiana. I went to Vietnam and was stationed near Bangkok Venkat.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve by Richard Wahlstrand and seconded by Ernest Ledtje.

Treasurer's Report: The expenses were higher this month because of mileage and donations. Outstanding check to VVA Chapter in Florida was removed from registry. Treasurer's report filed for audit.

Finance Committee: Veterans Experience Action Center September 29 and 30, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., National Guard Armory on West Kimberly Road. \$400 to purchase a table at the event. Motion by Lyle Peterson and seconded by Ernest Ledtje.

Members hospitalized or in distress: Mark W Braverman recently passed away, he was 68. Robert Behm is at Good Samaritan Nursing Home. Fred Cook.

Correspondence: Quad City Veterans Outreach sent us a thank you for our \$500 donation.

Coin Stories: Dave Thode gave a coin to a tour bus driver in Alaska whose husband was a Vietnam veteran. It turned out that her husband had died, and she was going to pass it on to their son. Richard Wahlstrand gave a coin to an old friend who had served in Vietnam. The friend is having trouble coping with past traumas. He was extended an invitation to come to our meetings.

Membership: 217 members and 23 associate Members.

Honor Guard: Now averaging 4 funerals per week. Golf outing scheduled with \$200 from the Honor Guard fund. Motion by John Lavelle, second by Denny Queal. Motion passed.

Business meeting: Applebee's Report - we received two checks. Elmore Ave. was \$477 and West Kimberly Rd. was \$499 plus miscellaneous contributions, making a total of approximately \$1100. Vets on the River is Saturday, August 26, 2023, with VVA 669 & VVA 299. Ed Hildebrand has set up clover sales on September 8-9 at Hy-Vee, Caseys, and Harlans. Bill Klein made arrangements with Randy's Market in DeWitt for a round up to the next dollar fundraiser. This is from November 13 - 19, 2023.

PX: Shirts for \$15 and hats for \$10. Items are available.

Hospital visit: Still no access to patients.

Standdown: We will be cooking for Standdown, which is at QCCA Expo Center on September 15 @ 10:00 a.m. We have money in our budget to do hot dogs and brats.

Veterans Outreach Center dinner October 8. This will be a dinner, most likely at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds.

Questions were raised about a Bettendorf organization meeting in Davenport. Members were going to investigate other options.

Next meeting, September 27, 2023.

NEW LOCATION

American Legion Post 26, Davenport, at 6 p.m.