



VVA 776 Meeting

September 27, 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.

Christian Care: We're a homeless service provider. We're located in Rock Island, Illinois. We have two shelters; we have a shelter for adult men, and we have a shelter for single women and women with children. Within our shelter for adult men, we have a six-bed veteran's program to provide transitional housing. To qualify for the program the veteran cannot have a dishonorable discharge. All our veterans, when they come into the program, have a very intense multi-disciplinary team that they work with. They've got a case manager and counselor within their shelter and usually someone within the VAHC.

Introduction: Joe Wesenberg, Paula Wesenberg, Lyle Peterson, Dale Bergert, Harold Hansen, Ron Sebastian, Bill Churchill, Arlen Beck, Carolyn Beck, Judith Hildebrand, Ed Hildebrand, Shirley Richlin, Leon Dahl, R. Ernest Ledtje, Bruce Cheek, Jim Meurs, John Lavelle, Tom Lemons, Steve Satre, Dennis Queal, and Roger Granbois.

Rod Kirsten came all the way from Hanson, Minnesota, to attend this meeting.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve by Joe Wesenberg and seconded by Ernest Ledtje.

Treasurer's Report: Totals presented include money raised from Applebee's. Clover sales totals will appear in the September report. Although clover sales were not included; there was discussion about how we can have 200+ members and only 6 members volunteered to help.

We all need to pull together. We're all getting older, and we need to have tolerance for each other and can offer some assistance. Treasurer's report filed for audit.

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee and the board of directors have approved a \$500 donation to Hy-Vee for honor flights. Some of our members participated in a morning fundraiser at the Iowa HyVee stores and collected \$4,400 dollars for the honor flight. Lack of signage was brought up as an issue. Motion to approve the \$500 donation by Lyle Peterson, seconded by Joe Wesenberg.

Members hospitalized or in distress: Greg Paulline, Fred Cook. Darrel Thode. Please include them in your thoughts and prayers.

Correspondence: Thank-you from Unity Point

Coin Stories: Dennis Queal gave a coin to a veteran that had an airborne cap. He got to Vietnam just after the Tet offensive. Ron Sebastian visited with a fellow he worked with 53 years ago at Cameron Bay and gave him a coin. He also gave one to a soldier at Fort Behning. Ernest Ledtje gave a coin to a veteran stationed on an airbase in Vietnam. He was in munitions maintenance and disposal. Ed Hildebrand gave a coin to a widow whose husband was in the same chain of command as he was. Steve Satre gave a coin to Cindi Gramenz from Christian Care. She is an Air Force Veteran. A motion was made by Steve Satre and seconded by Bruce Cheek to donate \$250 to Christian Care.

Membership: 217 Members, 22 associates.

Honor Guard: Since the last meeting we've had 19 funerals and six events. The week before last we had eight funerals in one week. Honorariums that families give are split with 299 and 699, and NAVA based upon participation.

Clovers Report: We've already belabored the clovers report, but we do need to participate in our fundraisers if we're going to continue to spend \$10,000 to \$15,000 every year. We need to generate that income.

Vettes on the River Report: 669 at the behest of the Illinois State Council has decided not to give any money to Iowa. Lyle Peterson is trying to resolve this, but it is difficult when no one returns his e-mails or phone calls.

Standdown Report: More people showed up to help than veterans needing help. There was a chiropractor, a barber, and various vendors.

VEAC: Veterans Experience Action Center, September 29-30, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Veterans Outreach Center: Noon Luncheon, October 21, 2023

Salute to Military Heroes: October 21, 2023, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Bettendorf Veterans Day Ceremony: Bettendorf will hold a Veteran's Day Ceremony on Saturday, November 11, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at Veteran's Memorial Park, 1645 23rd Street.

Welcome Home Veterans Day Dance: November 10, 2023. Edwin and Judith have volunteered to do the 50/50 raffle at Bally's.

Veterans Day Parade: November 11, 2023, steps off at 10:00.

Randy's Market Roundup: DeWitt, November 13-19, 2023. Customers will be asked to round up their total to the next highest dollar amount.

Christmas Party: December 7, 2023, is at the American Legion. We'll eat about 5:30 p.m.

Business meeting: Null.

PX: Edwin does have the PX here. The shirts are \$15. Caps are \$10.

Hospital Visits: Are back on.

Next meeting October 25, 2023, at 6 p.m.

American Legion Post 26