

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting September 25, 2022

By James Donnelly, Secretary

- Meeting called to order by Bert Rice, National Director.
- Invocation by VLOA Chaplin, Erie Isabell.
- Pledge of Allegiance, led by Bob Allen, Deputy National Director
- Bert Rice called for approval of the minutes so motioned by Ernie Isabell seconded by Frank Estes. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
- Treasurers report from Treasurer Frank Estes: On September 30, 2019, the VLOA bank balance was \$35,485.65. During that period there were 36 life members, 17 annual memberships. The reunion silent auction brought in \$4264 and verbal auction netted \$175, the 50/50 raffle produced \$900. Leaving a total balance of \$35,995. Since that time there have been 6 annual memberships, 1 life membership and one life converted to Patriot Life. There were several donations during that period, Josiah Austin donated \$500, Carol Chambers in memory of her husband donated \$500 and Tim Fisch donated \$150.
The quarterly newsletter cost the VLOA about \$820 a quarter, we maintain 6 internet domain names at a cost of \$160 a year and \$260 to maintain the website. Leaving a balance of \$30,365.73.
In order to maintain the VLOA's 501C19 status we must make less than \$50,000 a year and keep 90% of our membership war veterans. Our taxes are filed May 15th each year.
- Director of Communications Newsletter, Bob Sharp. Bob has been doing the newsletter for 10 years. The annual cost is about \$3200 about the same as it was 10 years ago despite that the circulation has increased from 275 to 600 and postage cost have risen sharply. We had 4 overseas newsletters at will be discontinued due to cost. If you want the newsletter in color get it online. Membership thanked Gloria for here help in making the newsletter the stellar publication it is.
- Director of Communications website, Phillip Van Alst. Phil sent a letter to Jim Donnelly which he paraphrased. Phil was honored to have been the webmaster and looks forward to continuing for years to come. He has mostly been keeping up with the Honor Roll and deleting unwanted advertising from the guest book. He asked for input for the website, articles and/or pictures of interest. The website has had 846,983 hits as of September 5, 2022.
- Historian report by Jim Donnelly. History collection started asking for stories, but that effort was met with little response. The collection then became a pictorial history consisting of 17,800 images, 1000 pages of documents, 24 videos and 70 audio files. All materials will be sent to Ft. Rucker and Texas A&M.
- Frank Estes on bylaws and policy changes. 9 changes to policy and constitutional changes which have been posted in the hospitality room. Constitutional change adding Patriot Life membership via \$500 total contribution. Added Quartermaster position and responsibilities and Chaplin's position duties spelled out. Move to adopt the changes as posted by Ernie Isabell, seconded by Bob Sharp and was approved by unanimous voice vote.
- Bob Allen's silent auction report. Goal of \$3800 with auction to close Saturday night. Cash out on Sunday at 2PM with unsold items on the website. There were 130 items for the auction, Bid Early and Bid Often was Bob's closing remarks.
- Quartermaster report by Jim Donnelly. Very little activity with only a few bumper stickers sold.
- Awards Ceremony by Frank Estes. Outstanding Outlaw and Director's Award to be given at Farewell Banquet for those individuals who represent the main stay of the organization

- Bert Rice general discussion of the possible next reunion location. Open to the floor for discussion. Looking for a reunion location which is central to the country so that that many can drive there. Lyle Perry suggested Saint Lewis. Ernie Isabell discussed Daton, Ohio or Cincinnati as possible locations. Discussion continued with request for West Coast locations. Frank Estes stated that the majority of our membership, 60% live east of Mississippi and the vast majority on the coast of California. Show of hands of those attending from West and East of Mississippi it was about even. It was decided that the top three cities be listed on the website to be voted on were, Ohio, Nashville and Branson with write-ins possible. List attractions in each city to be posted. Voting cut-off to be January 30, 2023. Bob Allen discussed having reunion companies bid for our business.
- Bert Rice read a list of slate of officers: National Director Bob Allen, Directors at Large: 64-65 Ernie Isabell. 66-67 Walter Cieslak, 68-69 Eric Ragsdall, 70-71 open, 72-75 Fred Rosenberg, 03-05 Lori Hausenfluke. Secretary-Jim Donnelly, Treasure-Frank Estes, Director of Communications Newsletter-Bob Sharpe, Director of Communications Website-Phil Van Alst, Staff Advisor Terry Khachadourin, Historian-Jim Donnelly, Permanent Advisor-Tom Anderson and Chaplin-Ernie Isabell. Ivan White volunteered from the floor to fill the Deputy Director's position. Motion to approve slate of officers as read by Tom Anderson and seconded by Ernie Isabell, Approved by unanimous voice vote.
- Frank Estes discussed that all the duties and responsibilities for each position are spelled out of the Policy DVD each officer receives. So that means anyone can fill a position by simply following the DVD.
- Bert Rice discussion of remaining itinerary for Sunday.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ernie Isabell and seconded by Bob Sharpe.