

The Spirit of '776



February 28, 2024

Volume 28 Issue 2

VIETNAM VETERANS
OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 776



Meeting at the American Legion

February 28, 2024

"Never Again Will One
Generation of Veterans
Abandon Another."

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Service
Officers
&
Coordinators**

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Ernest Ledtje
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Tom Lemons
563-359-3201
Greg Paulline
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Officers and Board of Directors

President	Steve Satre	210-633-6470	Director	Harold Hansen	563-505-9674
Vice President	John Lavelle	563-355-4213	Director	Greg Paulline	563-650-3055
Treasurer	Joe Wesenberg	309-582-4379	Director	Larry Witt	563-579-6521
Secretary	Tom Lemons	563-359-3201	Director	Ernest Ledtje	563-785-6182
Director	Richard Wahlstrand				

VVA 776 Meeting
February 28, 2024

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by President Steve Satre. Officers present are 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.

Introductions: Joseph Wesenberg, Paula Wesenberg, Rod Kirsten, Harold Hansen, Denny Queal, Darrell Thode, David Thode, Bruce Cheek, Bill Churchill, Edwin Hildebrand, Ernest Ledtje, Russell Risley, Steve Satre, Mike DeGeeter, Judith Hildebrand, Thomas Lemons, Roger Granbois, Ron Sebastian, Shirley Richlen, and Lyle Peterson (Cell Phone).

Secretary's Report: Approved. Motion to accept by Bill Churchill and seconded by Ernest Ledtje.

Treasurer's Report: Filed for audit.

Presentation:

Brooklyn DeCap from Mission Barbeque brought us a flag that she folded herself. Wanted to let us know that Vietnam Veterans Day is coming up on March 29th. Unfortunately, this falls on Good Friday. Mission Barbeque would like to invite Vietnam Era Veterans to come in and get a free sandwich.

Major Andreas Jessen, Military Explorer Commanding Officer. The Iowa Cadet Corps is chartered with the American Legion Explorer Program through Scouts of America for the Cadet Corps. They are learning the fundamentals of marksmanship. They were teaching weapons safety using Airsoft and will take them to the Milan shooting range. The program is year-round and goes from ages 12 to 21 years old.

Members hospitalized or in distress: Lyle Peterson, Greg Paulline, and Steve Satre on his recent loss.

Coin Stories: Ernest Ledtje gave away two coins. One was to a marine in-country. His unit was providing protection for Seabees that were building a bridge. He said that the Marines got C-rations all the time, but the Seabees every Friday got steak and they shared. They actually cooked their steaks over C-4. The other one was an Air Force Veteran. Clark Barnes initially did his claims. He now has stage 4 lung cancer so Ernest did an update. Ron Sebastian gave a coin to his granddaughter's School Resource Officer who served during Iraqi Freedom.

Membership: No change.

New Business: Lola VanDeWalle at the Outreach Center came out and talked to Am Vets about transferring to the new site. A grand opening for the new Center location will be May 18, 2024 at 1 PM. The new location is 4515 North Fairmount Street, Davenport, Iowa (the old Buchanan School). There will be several speakers, refreshments, and tours of the new building.

Fundraising: The QCCA Expo Car Show will be May 18 -19. The Vietnam Veterans of America will have a table. Applebee's will no longer be having non-profit Tuesday. Still looking at late April/early May for orange clover sales. Also being considered is Rock and Roll Bingo.

PX: Edwin has caps for \$10 and shirts for \$15. Also has 2 brand new shirts.

Scholarships: Only one application received to date.

Next Meeting

March 27, 2024, 6 p.m.

American Legion Hall

Submitted By

Thomas Lemons

Secretary