

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
Chapter 123
Merritt Island, Florida 32952

General Membership Meeting Minutes
12 April 2012

Call to Order – Commander Benagh called the meeting to order at 10:30.

Pledge of Allegiance – Commander Benagh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation – Chaplain Hanson gave the Invocation.

Roll Call of Officers – Adjutant Smith reported a quorum was present.

Introduction of Visitors – No visitors.

Minutes of Last Meeting 8 March 2012 – Approved.

Treasurer's Report/Bills against the Chapter

Treasurer Zecman gave the Treasurer's Report – Approved.

Reports:

Senior Service Officer – No change from EXCOM meeting of 5 Apr 12.

Membership/Introduction of New Members:

Adjutant Smith reported that the Chapter had met its membership quota for 2011-2012, with more new members not yet reported by DAV National.

Antoinette Lewis was introduced as a new member.

Legislative:

Legislative Officer Caron reported the following:

He warned the Chapter members to be aware of a scam purporting to provide survivors of deceased service members with information from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service for a fee of \$350. This information from DFAS is available without charge.

Congress is holding hearings on sexual assaults in the services against both women and men.

There are new VA Home Loan limits for high-cost areas such as Hawaii, Alaska, and the Virgin Islands.

Welfare/ Sickness and Distress – No report.

Pelican Post:

Pelican Post Editor Furis reported that the next issue should be out around the end of April.

Forget Me Not – No report.

Others:

Grant Committee Chairman Donovan reported that he is working with BJs to obtain a grant for the Chapter. The Chapter should also receive a small amount from the United Way Campaign, but only because United Way donors have specifically chosen the Chapter to receive their donations. Chairman Donovan was asked to provide an item for the Pelican Post noting that United Way donors from the Chapter should designate the Chapter to receive their donations.

Reading of Communications:

Adjutant Smith noted that there will be a DAV Area 4 meeting on 15 April 12 at the DAV Chapter 16 building in Orlando. Five Chapter 123 members will attend this meeting.

Old Business:

Merritt Island HS and Cocoa Beach HS Awards Ceremonies:

Commander Benagh attended the Merritt Island HS Award Ceremony held on 5 Apr 12 and presented one of the JROTC Cadets with a \$50 check and a Certificate from Chapter 123.

Commander Benagh will attend the Cocoa Beach HS Award Ceremony on 2 May 12 and will present a \$50 check and a Certificate from Chapter 123 to one of the JROTC Cadets.

Vietnam and all Vets Reunion:

Commander Benagh commended Project Officer Bullen on his excellent work on the tent, frame, and banner for the Chapter 123 booth at the Reunion. One of the Chapter 123 attendees on the first day of the Reunion should bring the hold-down “donuts” to keep our handouts from scattering in the wind.

Project Officer Brekke will represent Chapter 123 at the Massing of the Colors at the Reunion on 28 Apr 12.

Past Commander Donovan will present the Chapter 123 Wreath at the Reunion on 23 Apr 12.

Chapter 123 attendees at the Reunion should wear their red Chapter 123 shirt and DAV hat (or other cap showing service in Vietnam or other wars).

Chapter 123 attendees need to bring DAV Membership Forms to the Reunion.

Plaque Inscription – In progress.

Bylaws Changes:

Bylaws Committee Chairman Rathbun reported that the Chapter 123 Bylaws updates were completed.

The Adjutant will be provide the proposed Bylaws to the Chapter 123 Webmaster for posting on the Chapter web site, and will forward them to all members of the Executive Committee.

The Chapter members will vote on approving the new Bylaws at the 10 May 12 General Membership meeting.

DAV Chapter Caps:

Project Officer Rathbun reported that he is waiting for an estimate for embroidering the caps, rather than silk-screening them.

New Business

Annual Election:

Adjutant Smith announced the candidates for the Chapter 123 Elective Officers for 2012-2013, as provided by the Nominating Committee and posted in the Minutes of the General Membership meeting of 8 Mar 12,

and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to have the Adjutant cast a unanimous ballot for the nominated candidates. Adjutant Smith announced that the nominated candidates were duly elected.

Commander Benagh announced his recommendations for Chapter 123 Appointed Officers for 2012-2013, as follows:

Adjutant – Clay Smith
Senior Service Officer – John Bibby
Sergeant-at-Arms – Duane Bennett
Officer of the Day – Don Rathbun
Judge Advocate – Joe Hershey
Legislative Officer – Don Bullen
Webmaster – Dick Malpass
Pelican Post Editor – George Furis

A motion was made and seconded to approve these Appointed Officers, and was approved by the Chapter membership present and voting. Commander Benagh noted that the Chapter Officers Guide contains the duties of each Chapter Officer.

Commander Benagh announced Committee Members for 2012-2013. The list of Committees and their members will be posted in the Pelican Post and on the Chapter 123 web site.

Installation Ceremony:

Treasurer Zecman recommended that the Installation Ceremony for Chapter 123 Elected and Appointed Officers for 2012-2013 be held at the Olive Garden Restaurant on Route 520 in Merritt Island. The restaurant will provide a separate room for Chapter 123. The meeting will start at 11:00 with a short General Membership meeting, followed by the Installation Ceremony and lunch. Immediate Past Commander Donovan will be the Installing Officer.

Delegates to State and National Conventions:

Adjutant Smith reported that the DAV National Convention will be held in New Orleans on 6-9 Aug 12. It was not yet determined if Chapter 123 will send a delegate to this convention.

Adjutant Smith reported that the DAV Department of Florida Convention will be held at the Lake Mary Marriott Hotel on 14-16 Jun 12. Commander Benagh noted that only DAV Department of Florida Executive Committee

meetings are to be held on 14 Jun 12, and that Chapter 123 delegates would not participate in those meetings.

A motion was made and seconded that all Chapter 123 Elective Officers, the Adjutant, and the Immediate Past Commander (Ex Officio) would be authorized to attend this convention, if they were available. The motion was approved by the Chapter members present and voting.

Summer Schedule:

A motion was made and seconded to cancel Chapter 123 General Membership meetings for the months of Jun, Jul, and Aug 2012. The motion was approved by the Chapter members present and voting.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize \$1,500 as a contingency fund to be spent at the discretion of the Chapter Executive Committee during the months of Jun, Jul, and Aug 2012. After discussion, the motion was approved by the Chapter members present and voting.

Annual Budget for 2012-2013:

The Chapter Budget Committee will present a recommended Chapter 2012-2013 Budget at the Chapter Executive Committee meeting on 3 May 12. The Budget will be presented for approval at the General Membership meeting of 10 May 12.

Support for the Viera VAOPC Service Office:

The Chapter approved a donation of \$300 for the Viera VAOPC Service Office. This was in response to a specific request of a donor to the Chapter, who asked that some of his donation go to the Viera VAOPC Service Office.

Support for the Military Order of the Purple Heart:

The Chapter approved a donation of \$200 to the MOPH for the MOPH monument at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Park. This amends the motion approved at the Chapter General Membership meeting of 11 Aug 11.

Liaison to the Brevard Veterans Center Executive Committee meetings:

Commander Benagh appointed the Junior Vice Commander to attend these meetings, or an alternate if the Junior Vice Commander is not available.

New Computer for Chapter Service Office:

Webmaster Malpass recommended that \$1,000 be put in the Chapter Budget for 2012-2013 to purchase a new computer and necessary accessories for the Chapter Service Office in the Brevard County Veterans Center. This was referred to the Chapter Budget Committee for consideration.

Good of the Order:

Immediate Past Commander Donovan noted that the Chapter should be very judicious in approving donations to other service organizations.

Adjournment – Commander Benagh adjourned the meeting at 11:55.

Moment of Silence – The Chapter membership observed a moment of silence.

Prayer – Chaplain Hanson gave the closing Prayer.