

MINUTES

Vietnam Veterans of the 2nd Battalion 1st Marines, Inc.
Annual Business Meeting – Fort Worth, Texas
November 13, 2022
10am – 11:50am

The meeting began with Pledge of Allegiance and called to order by President Tony Kilroy (Fox 69-70). Roll Call of Trustees and Officers. In attendance: President Tony Kilroy, Treasurer Mario Sagastume, Secretary Vinnie Burdziuk, Trustee's Dale Williams, Roy Greenleaf, Jose Perez, Doc Paul Stein, and Jesse Tipton. Minutes of last years meeting will be made available for those who want a copy.

This year we had our midyear meeting here in Fort Worth. We've had some changes in rooms here over the course of the reunion this year and that that was based on a mutual accommodation. The ballroom for tomorrow night, is right next door. Crystal D is set up for 150 people. Right now we have pretty close to 130 meals that were preparing for the banquet. Before we leave, we're going to take one representative from each set of 10 people and pull a number out of a hat to assign that table number to that group of 10.

As a board we're developing a plan where we can get more membership participation in the reunion. Right now we're getting somewhere between 65 and 85 members that come from a total of 1,145. But we're going to talk about that later on in the meeting to get ideas from 60 people instead of 8 and try and get some feedback.

On the website there's a donate button. And though we are, we're solid in our finances right now Mario will give the report on that and we want to encourage everyone to press that Donate Button and maybe make a donation to our organization.

We'd like to do is use that money to defray the cost of the of the reunion for our members. We picked up the tab last year and this year for the bus rides. It costs anywhere depending on the length and where we're going anywhere from \$1,000 to \$3,000 a bus.

What we're trying to do is get a little donation money in, so we can continue to defray that cost. And maybe defray the cost of the meals, too. This year they're 60 bucks. If we could get that down to \$45 a meal I think that would help bring more members to the reunion. Let's see what we can do with the meals, excursions and room rates? it's all about the membership.

The money's there for us to use and to help our members. So if you talk to anybody and they're interested in in donating anything and it can be \$10 bucks or \$100 bucks or whatever, it'd be great.

If 500 members donate \$10 bucks, that's five grand right there and that would be terrific for next year in San Diego because California is a little bit more expensive and hopefully warmer.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Mario's Report with the financials. Sorry, but we usually have a Projector and you would see my financials were kind of moved around. Available if you want them.

It's our financial balance sheet and income statement. It kind of looks like you're like the company. I'm going to read it really quickly. The numbers are not very good for last year. Uh. Success sometimes throws you. We

have been so successful bringing people to our reunions and at one point we had 400 people at one of our banquets and were worried we weren't going to be able to fit everybody.

We have sometime overestimated the number of people who show up. We started trying not charging people a lot of money to make it affordable. I interject one thing here, the fact last year was not so much that we overestimated the people because I look at the room report.

We have had reservations for a lot of people. We made ID cards. And, we had over 50 people that didn't show up last year that had a room reservation and they never showed. We took it financially in the shorts last year.

We got back \$7000. December 30th which is a fiscal year and was at \$24,000. And, remembering when we took over this organization and we had seven or \$8000 less than that. Your generosity and updating our average catch up was around \$3,031 thousand.

Last year my sales were \$270. We sold three bricks, that's \$270. \$1554 worth of raffle tickets, but we spent \$1600 buying items for raffle.

So like Tony Kilroy said, we have two choices. In the past we haven't asked for donations, Since we did the Regiment Garden that's been years ago and we have our monument and just a little history when we built the monument we received \$94,000 and it wasn't all from our membership.

We spent about \$80,000 or something like that. So we had money left-over. Then we told everybody there's nobody we can return money to, so we'll just use that and our general fund. So we've been Rich for a long time and then when we did the Regiment Garden we didn't spend all of that money either.

As you all know we just break even or make a little money everything at the reunions. I hope I don't offend anybody when I say it's fun to raise money and doesn't feel like I'm begging too much. But please be generous like Tony said. We'll start asking people to push that donation button.

We would send a letter if we needed more money and we haven't done that in 20 years. Later we came up with the idea we paid our dues in Vietnam. So, you became a life member and your dues were paid because we all earned it with blood, sweat and tears.

As of now I'm getting about \$100 bucks a month with automatic donations. We don't need anybody to make, big donations. If everyone made small donations than that will make us rich again. We also included donation requests in our newsletter.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

You know, we have to guarantee so many rooms. Here's an example. Like we talked about people not coming this year. We have 18 people that didn't show up. And of those eighteen, six of them had room reservations. That's 18 room nights we were on the hook for. We had to turn our meal report in by noon on Thursday. I got them to make it to end of business on Thursday. We still had 22 people that didn't show up and they didn't have PayPal to order their meals, so we didn't know. What meals they wanted? The default was chicken.

We're negotiating the contract for San Diego right now. We're about ready to sign that contract and we have to make a commitment to the rooms. Based on what we what we do! We make a commitment a year in advance so we can get a discount of maybe 10%.

Room rates are getting higher so we may have to cut it down. Instead of 5 nights we may be doing 4. That will save our members a few hundred dollars. Right now in San Diego we're at \$189 a night and trying to negotiate that rate.

With problems paying ... PayPal works really good for us because not only does it show that you're you paid, it shows the meal count, the ladies luncheon. It gives us a count of how many meals we're going to have so that we can talk and negotiate our banquet event order and things like that.

There's other than money that we use PayPal for such as the spreadsheet. What's nice about PayPal is that I can download and I can play with it if you send me a check. I have to go in and either put it manually or run my general Ledger, put it in there and then download it. So it's a little more bookkeeping, but it's still works good. If you don't use PayPal and prefer to pay by check, try to do it as early as I can.

On those parking we get a 25% discount. Its down to \$24 instead of \$35 or something like that. If you get charged more please let us know?

Using the computer versus the newsletter, I think that's a great idea. But I'll bet you less than 30% look at that. The newsletter is good for those who don't use a computer. We'll take that into consideration. One last thing. We're a 501c3 which means we take donations from anybody. So you can deduct it on your taxes.

How much money do we make on the bricks around their monument. We make \$90 we sell them for \$300. We pay the Association Marine Corps Heritage Foundation \$210. So now we have to remind everybody that, , if you buy a brick, don't buy it from them because they're going put it somewhere where you'll never find it. If you buy it from us, it's going to be placed at our monument and we still have a lot of room.

I got a call from the hotel restaurant and they said, 47 folks come through here and didn't pay anything to the tune of about \$500 bucks. I said It's kind of late to say this, when you go in you can charge it to the room or pay for it, and she said OK, so we got a free breakfast. Your breakfast is \$12.50 plus tax with the discount ticket. If you got charged more let us know and we'll get it taken off the bill.

Well, we'll get in to the PX later. Rude. Do you have a question? First of all, I want to thank all of the guys with everything you've done this, especially behind this reunion.

Hotel choice. Trying to negotiate with the best prices to be able to work with them for our reunions. We have had conversations with Hilton and Sheraton. And its convoluted because of where the property is. They look at fair market price and room participation and everything else. There's a lot of things that go into it.

ELECTIONS

We have two open positions. One trustee and one officer position. Right now Roy Greenleaf took over for Bruce Oliver two years ago and his term is over. This year he is going to run again. is there anyone else that would like to nominate themselves. Or someone to be a trustee. it's a four year term. But before we do that, may I just remind everybody that when you become a trustee, there's no pay.

Its going to cost you money because as we do this on our own time. We gladly do it. You can deduct your expenses on your taxes. When we travel. It's on our dime. We might pick up a meal here or there, but that's about it. But it's worth it.

is there anyone that would like to be nominated for trustee? All right, we have a nomination of Dennis Rude. I have a second. We have a nomination for Roy Greenleaf. We have a second, alright. Let's go ahead and vote

on that. All in favor of Roy, raise your hand. All in favor of Rude, raise your hand. **We have elected Roy Greenleaf for another 4 year term.** Thanks Rude for your participation in this.

Our second election is for Vice President, Tim Dunn is up for nomination. Most of you know. His wife is Michelle has bone cancer, and they were they were planning on driving down from Denver, but they just couldn't make it because she developed a very painful back pain so, keep her in your prayers. He wants to be Vice President for another term. So, I'm nominating Tim Dunn for a 2nd term as Vice President. All in favor of Tim Dunn raise your hands. **Tim Dunn has been reelected as Vice President for another 4-year term.**

FUTURE REUNIONS

Now to the fun part. Next year is San Diego. In 2024 is Milwaukee, WI. Now Milwaukee is going to be in August. We've had a lot of people wanting to go to Milwaukee because it would generate more participation in the reunion from Ohio, Minnesota, Montana, Illinois, Indiana and stuff. So that's why it was there and we didn't really want to do November in Milwaukee. San Diego is November 8th through the 13th and DC in 2025. So we need some nominations for 2026 and 2027.

DC is going to be in May so that we see the H & I doing the Evening Parade Ceremony so that will be about eight to nine months in between. But I think that everybody will really enjoy that parade. Alright, so. It's kind of like I said, Milwaukee year after next 2024 is in August and then the following year 2025 DC in May.

So where we want to go in 2026. I nominate Charleston, South Carolina. We went there in 2014. They had great food, great history and we did a trip to Camp Lejeune.

We also have Olive Branch Mississippi and the other option is Raleigh and a day trip is about 2 hours. Write these down. Charleston is one option. Dales saying Raleigh, NC, is an option that's actually a lot closer. Kenner and Branson are other options.

So right now we have Charleston SC, Raleigh NC, New Orleans, Branson and Puerto Rico. Yeah, the other one is Boston. Nashville but we ended up in Olive Branch. Vegas, Anchorage, were also recommended. I would go to Alaska before I go to Las Vegas. Anyone else have another nomination? We'll vote on these. Five or six that we have. **Members Voted: For 2025, looks like we're going to go to Charleston, SC.**

Jesse said I want to be with the men that I served with. These are the men right here in this room. I think we should discuss it next year because next year is San Diego in November. The following year is Milwaukee in August, so we don't freeze to death in November. Let's think about it and next year we'll bring it up on the agenda. And discuss alternate times and dates.

I agree with Doc Paul Stein its tradition we have our banquet, our reunion over the Marine Corps birthday. Getting the Color guard from the Marine Corps is tough when it falls on the 10th but we have several other alternatives for that. Our reunions usually run somewhere around the 8th or 9th through the 13th or 14th of November. And, we started celebrating the birthday with cake on the 10th. That didn't fall on the banquet. We still have birthday cake in the in the hospitality room. That's how we celebrate it.

We got our own colors. How many of you have Dress Blues? Blues that fit. Now, the reason I asked is I found one that fit in Oceanside. I've been looking for one for years. I found one that fit. So I want to know how many people have Blues available at home for a Color guard? Honor guard? Everybody has a Red Jacket. They could be the Color Guard. It's an option.

The color Guard is supposed to be here from the 8th District Marine Corp. Today's Sunday. So they'll be here tonight. They actually practiced on Thursday, so they'll be here tonight at 5:30.

HOSPITALITY SUITE

I can't satisfy everybody and I beer that most people like. So we can't get everything that you like. But if there's something that you want to request, just let us know and we'll get it. Same with Diet Coke etc.

Please, pick up after yourselves. I enjoy keeping you guys happy. But always let me know if there's something else that I can do for you. And if you miss the show last night, Jose has the best singing voice. You got to listen to him. We're probably going to do Karaoke again in San Diego.

WEBMASTER REPORT

We have any old business? We still got the Webmaster report. This is a report I generated from November 2021 to November 2022. The total visitors to our website during that time was 682,554. We picked up about 10,000 people during the year. We got 40 new postings on our website when you look at the what's new section, and that includes our e-mail updates. We mailed out two newsletters during that time to 1,239 members. We do have a 2/1 blog that you can access from our main page and we have 366 numbers on that. They write to each other, they put up their pictures. Our membership had a total of (9) Taps Cards sent out and posted. We also had (3) members who passed years back and we just found out that we just lost Joseph Ward from the Hotel Company 1970. His wife called me a couple of days ago. He passed away on May 16th. We sent out (5) family sympathy cards. And. for the loss of a family member. We also sent out (9) get well cards. Total. So we lost actually (13) members during that one year time frame. The total domain names per year we spent \$326.84. The total for the blog in our newsletter came out to \$783.12. Total card program cost per year is \$75 and the total printing cost you know, for Post Cards was \$901.36. Total cost to run our website for that year was \$2086.32.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS

Dale Williams on Monument Bricks. We're Pretty much to the backside of our monument. Remember where it is, it's pushing a little forward. It's not halfway back in our site, it's a little forward to that. So we are back to the backside of that monument where we're currently installing bricks that we get. We only got three this year and one still has to be installed. So, my request is when we did this, we laid out a row all the way across of the CO's of the battalion in the sequence of their commands. Tried to get the families to pay for them and in some cases they did. In some cases I had a couple of people donate for some of the ones that we didn't get money for. But we still have, I think it's five blank bricks in that row.

And if I remember right, there was like 13 CO's we had. So what I'd like to do is. Go ahead and spend the money, which would be five times 5 bricks would be \$1,050 to pay for those five bricks to be installed so that we complete that row. Putting them in back to front.

We have a motion to go ahead and do the five bricks. Do we have a second? Question: What do you put on the bricks? We put the CO's name, the dates that he was the CEO. They're blanks in the Battalion Commander Row.

Descendants of these people know of our organization, had an opportunity, and I saw most. I've gotten in touch with a family member. And some responded some didn't respond. There's a couple that I never got in touch with even though I think I found them. They never responded at all. And that was back when we did the monument.

None of the (5) missing are alive. That's why I had to go to family members. The ones there were only (3) that were alive, and I think one of them passed. Excuse me, Glasgow just died. Yeah, that's that's. So we had. We have White and we have Duncan. And I've talked with both of those recently. Bill Duncan isn't in great shape,

but he's still alive. He just wrote the book or just published it. And I talked with Colonel White probably about a year ago. And as far as I know, I think his daughter and I know each other pretty well. And I think she would tell me something.

Tony Kilroy asked for a Vote: Alright, so we have on the floor that we fill out the bricks with the existing Battalion Commanders that are not there. To the tune of about \$1,050 bucks. All in favor, aye. All opposed? The Aye's have it, OK. **Dale Williams:** I'll get it done. It'll be by the next reunion,

FOLLOWUP QUESTION FROM WINSTON KNOWLES: Do we have any say of where the bricks go because when we're in DC there was a lot vacant bricks around the monument. And it was suggested to pay less. So I agreed, but when they sent me the location it looked like they put it out on a sidewalk or something rather than around the monument. I mean, did you buy through them? I thought it should be in our place.

Dale Williams Asked: Did you buy it from us? And since you did, it should have been in our place. The way they do it is fill from front to back, left to right.

(Winston) We got a letter saying that you could buy a brick for \$210. **(Dale)** That's not from us. That's that's a direct mailing because they got your name when you bought a brick. **(Winston)** I wanted to buy a couple of bricks, Coke and Amos a couple of guys that got killed right in front of me. Do you have to have the families name or can you find out if its appropriate if you give me the names? **(Dale)** I can try.

(Winston) Cokes wife was pregnant when he got killed and his daughter showed up in DC. She was 57 years old. I give her a hug. She said it felt like her dad. That gave her hope. **(Dale)** Well, I know it was special for her. So if you, give me the names I'll see if we have a brick for him or not. **(Tony Kilroy)** Winston, We all go through this. It's never over. **(Winston)** Thanks. Thank you.

(Tony Kilroy) You know, Speaking of the bricks, if any, of your Siblings any of your Sons or daughters is looking for a good Christmas present contact Dale. That would be a that would be a very nice Christmas present.

The other thing. We already talked about using PayPal and stuff. We'll put the idea in the newsletter and the e-mail blast and incorporate it, to get it out there, and see what we can generate for San Diego and start getting a commitments from our people.

We're going and staying at the Dana Hotel. it's right on the Bay and it's a nice property. They've knocked off the Resort Fee for us and everything else. Everybody will really enjoy it.

Mario has talked about the PX and our PX sales are really, really down and it's it's expensive for us and to come up with new stuff now everybody in here is probably got one. 15 polo shirts that say Marine Corps and 12 hats and four of these things.

So every year we try and buy something new get something like these are pretty nice you know for this weather here too. And it's getting to the point where we have all this merchandise and we sell 18% of it. So we're looking at some different ways of handling PX sales.

We do have a PX button on the website that we're looking at turning back on and see if we could do with that. We're looking at some alternatives where maybe we can through the Mailer or through the e-mail people can order and we'll have it at the reunion. That way we'll know if we might have some extra hats or maybe some extra T-shirts or something like that. Does everybody like T-shirts with Marine Corps stuff on it versus polo shirts? Because they're a lot, lot less expensive,

But we think that might be a better way to handle it and a little more frugal for organization. But if anybody has any ideas make sure you send them our way on how we can handle that.

It would be good to know how you feel about it and doing it that way will stop the shipping expense. It would save a ton of money if you ordered your merchandise and picked it up at the reunion.

Tony Kilroy asked. Does anybody else have any new business? Anything you'd like to discuss?

Jeff Talked about the Movie Devotion:

There's a new movie coming out called DEVOTION. Maybe you've seen the ads on TV. That's about two pilots during the Korean War. What you don't know is that it's being funded by Fred Smith, the guy that started FedEx. Fred Smith was a mortar man. He has pledged \$65 million of the proceeds of that movie into the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation. Get your friends, buddies, your wives, and everybody else to go see that movie. And one of the things that impressed Fred Smith is that the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation of which we as a group have donated to in the past. So thank you for that. In addition to benefitting the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, the MCSF has been entrusted to use half of the funds to establish the **Brown Hudner Navy Scholarship Foundation**. Named for the subjects of the film *Devotion*, the foundation will award scholarships to the children of Navy Sailors studying science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and health sciences. And so as you know, it covers Marine needs based on making under \$110,000 a year and if you have an honorable discharge other than dishonorable. If you're eligible and your kids are eligible, up to about \$30,000 for a college or a trade school education class, so. And the name of that movie was Devotion. And up to this point. They should have given up over \$185 million. Some of them more than \$30,000 for. Anyway, think about Devotion.

Tony Kilroy Continued:

Thanks, Jeff. One other thing. Last night we had karaoke. Jose played the music and it was a big part as it kind of energized a lot of the conversation and mood in hospitality room. Mario's computer got stolen last night. It was sitting right up front where the registration desk was. The room was all locked up and everything returned. Somebody came in through that back service door. We're not sure, so. If you hear of anything let us know. it was a HP laptop computer.

Jose, you wanna say something? Yes, like a show of hands on the first timers? we usually have at the beginning and FNG's. We had a count of four. **(Jose)** I don't know how much longer I have on my term as trustee. But I will continue being your trustee you as long as you guys will put up with me.

What I'm leading to is that I told myself I was going to do so many years. What I'm getting at is the, you know, brought up just before as far as all the equipment. That we use at hospitality and all the flags, all the banners, all the coffee stuff and everything we have since the time I have taken it over and it's starting to grow. So, I've told myself I want to just do it for a certain period of time, and like I said, I've brought it up twice already the last two reunions.

I'm going to carry all this stuff over to San Diego next year. And I'm looking at to be my last year as far as handling all the gear. Barry Noe said he had some kind of warehouse that he was going to look into it, but we haven't communicated with him on that yet. Barry made a big old crate and everything that we need fits in that crate, with the exceptions of the coolers. Next Year we may have to rent coolers. Instead of diving the full crate 1,000 miles in back of a pick-up truck we're going to ship that box. It will probably cost less than \$500 bucks to ship it. FedEx gave us a one-way price of \$380 dollars. Speaking of Barry Noe he's not here this year because his wife was in an automobile accident and he had to stay home. So, keep her in your prayers.

Tony Kilroy asked. Anybody else got any new business?

(Jose) 2 ½ years ago when I first walked up here looking at the hotels and stuff, they gave me a little tour and actually at that time the hospitality room was going to be for Mario's PX and the hospitality room that we got now was the room for the VIP. And all these certain people could use it. And Mrs Brown said, it wasn't working very well at that time frame. And then with COVID and all this stuff hit she said it may be available by the time you guys get here. Anyway, we did manage to get that room, which I think you guys are using and appreciate it. Its Really nice.

(Tony) I don't know about the future, but I'll tell you because of this room we're going to be a little more demanding from now on because just having a conference room versus this is just fantastic. Whether it be furniture that we put in or whatever, we're going to make it so from now on it's better. Probably won't be as nice as this one. But it will be more comfortable for us.

Jose and Jesse, actually all the board members do quite a bit of work to make this happen. Jesse goes down to Horno a lot and takes care of our liaison with 2/1 Camp Horno with what we have there as far as our plaques for KIA's.

What we're looking at doing is provide a plaque there, not on the same wall, but somewhere at the site for the 13 people that got killed in that terrorist attack in Kabul.

We're looking at that and if we can get that done between now and our San Diego trip. What we'll do is have a plaque installed at Mount Soledad and than we're going to the presentation of the plaque at Camp Horno.

The Mt Soledad plaque is only an 8 by 16. I'll put a picture of it down in the hospitality room. It's really nice. Very nice. Vinnie did a good job on that.

Let me talk about solidarity and what we're going to do. If we can get the Plaque for the Marines, and one Army person that was killed at Kabul. We will go from Mount Soledad and go to Camp Horno for a little presentation. And we'll probably do all that in one day and that'll work out really good for us.

So. we will design the plaque and Dale Williams is going to work on it. Dale's our Plaque man. Monument person. And he's also the headmaster, so if you can't get in the bathroom see Dale.

(Member Asked the Cost of the Plaque)

(Tony) We're looking at that. We'd pay for it out of our funds and through donations.

(Jesse) On Mt Soledad have any of you seen or been there? It's in the city of "La Jolla", It's about 10 miles North of San Diego. Its on the top of a hill where there's a big cross. You go to the top and you have the most fantastic panoramic view of San Diego and the ocean. You can almost see Hawaii that's high you are But the view is the main thing when you go up there. Now when we do our dedication, you will see what I'm talking about. There are plaques up there from World War 2 heroes and Audie Murphy's up there. They're from people that you would be surprised. Even if you wanted to get one for your own self, there's a place for that as well. But the place is fantastic on top of the hill. You'll enjoy it.

Vinnie Burdziuk

Secretary 2/1