

RHODE ISLAND STATE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the Rhode Island State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America held on **Wednesday, September 28, 2011** at One Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island.

The Meeting was called to order at 1940 hrs.

Present were:

John H. Weiss	President RISC/Delegate Chapter 273
Mark S. Spangler	Secretary/Treasurer RISC/Delegate Chapter 325
David E. Smith	VP & Legis. Coord. RISC/Delegate Chapter 818
Robert A. Varesi	President/Delegate Chapter 273
Joseph M. Fusco	President Chapter 325
Fr. Philip G. Salois	President Chapter 818
Eugene J. Gamache	Delegate Chapter 818
Frederick Short	Member Chapter 818

Pledge of allegiance, invocation by Fr. Salois and a moment of silence for POW/MIAs.

The Agenda was approved as submitted.

The Minutes of the meeting held on June 22, 2011 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: The financial report for the period from 6/22/11 to 9/26/11 was approved as submitted.

President's Report: John reported on the National Convention and focused on one of the main issues facing the organization -- what is the long term plan as Vietnam Era Veterans decline in numbers. The alternatives are to become an all purpose veterans organization, merge with another organization or terminate. As part of the discussion, the members concluded that resolution of this issue would be the prime focus of the next convention in two years.

Committee Reports: John would like to form committees, but no chair appointments were made.

Old Business: Dave will send Mark the information needed to purchase a brick at the VAMC, and Mark will process the thank you gift to Patti Foley.

New Business: A discussion concerning a State convention or public meeting was held. Dave Smith proposed that a one day event with refreshments and a few speakers and focusing on some veterans' issues could be held in the spring or fall of 2012, which is an election year. Bob Varesi will check out the

availability of the Kelley & Gazzero Post and what can be provided at that facility.

Chapter 325's petition concerning not receiving the life member rebates due the Chapter for 2011 resulted in a request that Chapters 273 and 818 check on whether they received the life member rebates due them from National and report to Mark. Mark will package the information for John to present at the Conference of State Council Presidents in October.

Fred Short inquired about forming a new chapter, but the geographic parameters of his proposed chapter conflicted with Chapter 273. Following a discussion about the matter, Fred indicated that he would review the possibility of forming a Bristol/Newport County chapter.

Fred also previewed the documentary film festival he is working on. The subjects relate to war and veterans issues.

A motion to fund John's per diem for the CSCP meeting in the amount of \$250.00 was approved.

Rhode Island Vietnam Veterans, Inc.

By motion duly made and seconded, the State Council meeting was suspended while matters involving RIVV, Inc. were considered. The matter addressed related to fundraising and the lack of progress with the Dynamic Marketing Solutions proposal. No actions were taken, but John will follow-up with the Massachusetts program to determine if problems with that effort can be resolved.

Good of the Order and Chapter Announcements:

The need for fundraising at the State level was discussed.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2011.

Adjourned at 2045 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Mark S. Spangler

Mark S. Spangler, Secretary/Treasurer
Rhode Island State Council, VVA