



In Service to America

Vietnam Veterans Of America

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National POW/MIA
Committee

Chairman
Gary Jones.

Vice-Chair
Grant Coates

Committee Members
Jack Devine
Al Cummings
Darrol L. Brown
Bill Duker
James Kuschel
Michael Marks
Bob Johnson
Bob Maras
Patty Darwin
Lee Fisher

Special Advisors
Sharon Hodge (VVA Staff)
Mokie Porter

Kaye Gardner
Associates of Vietnam
Veterans of America,
Inc.

Susie Stephens
National League of Families
of MIA/POWs

National POW/MIA Committee

October 9, 2009

Meeting Report



Gary Jones called the meeting to order at 1100 with present members:

Grant Coates, Bob Johnson, Jack Devine, Al Cummings, James Keuschel, Dave Schofield, Kaye Gardner and Sharon Hodge and guests Rick Rogers and Patty Darwin.

MINUTES

April 2009 minutes were accepted as written and emailed to committee

STAFF ADVISOR REPORT

Sharon Hodge reported on the events for the POW/MIA recognition day. Robert Newberry is the new DPMO Asst. Secretary and it is thought that there will be no problems with that assignment for us. The U.S Russian Joint Commission has no further developments at this time. The DNA laboratory at Rockville is slated for moving and new scientist will be recruited for that.

OLD BUSINESS

POW/MIA trifold: Design was reviewed and accepted. Committee asked Mokie to change color from Green to blue and to get three price estimates for printing.

BUDGET: We have spent only 11% of committee budget at this time. We have \$7,240.00 in donation funds on the book. Chapter 55 in Ohio had sold the POW items from the National Store and presented the committee with \$1,000.00.

COINS: Michael Marks has sold all of his POW challenge coins and Gary sent him the remainder of the coins. Darrol Brown and Al Cummings were not available to report sales yet.

Bob Johnson will head up the POW coin program and will check out cost of a new order and advise the committee.

“ONCE ENEMIES”: The documentary was a success at the Convention. The committee has asked that we produce 1000 copies for distribution to the BOD, State Presidents and other VIP’s as determined and for sale to others. An add for these will be run in the Veteran. Gary will contact Steve Hiller about this and advise. It was all agreed that a part of the cost of production should be provided to the producer Steve Hiller. HBO appreciated the documentary, but determined it was not interested in using it at this time.

DATA BASES: Grant has updated us on his progress with the

Mia database. It is essentially put together and he is now working on details as they come available. When this is ready we will determine the best way to make it available i.e. an unwritable website or whatever.

He is also progressing on the VI case data file and now correlating location between old maps and new. We now have 287 cases submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

VIP: The team was authorized by committee to provide a motion to the BOD for a March trip to Viet Nam. The motion was presented to the Board and passed without objection. (Johnson/Kuschel).

VMW: At the convention we were asked to provide information on how VMW can set up a POW committee. They are interested in carrying on our work when we are no longer able.

UKRAINE: Wheel chairs are being located and arrangements being developed to deliver them to the Veterans Association in the Ukraine.

EXCHANGE ITEMS: Bob Johnson asked for ideas on exchange items with other veterans. He suggested the VVA gold logo pin. This has been handed out before. J. Devine suggested something uniquely American, but not necessarily veteran oriented. He also suggested a copy of "reflections", but copyright would have to be explored.

V/r
Gary Jones
Chairman

DATA BASE
WORK: Grant the