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THE FW/C-VHPA NEWSLETTER

FORT WOLTERS CHAPTER - VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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The Fort Wolters Chapter of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, in its existing form (501(c)3 non-profit corporation), is officially being dissolved. At the December 7, 2019 meeting, a motion was made to dissolve the chapter in its existing form and explore the formation of a club. The motion passed unanimously. There were 18 members present. The process followed the chapter's By-Laws.

Jim Messinger will formally close out the charter and handle canceling the chapters not for profit 501-3c designation. Also, recently a notice went out to people whose dues had come due. Ignore the notice. The Web site and its data base will remain active for the near future depending on the results of forming a club type organization. A meeting is scheduled for January 4th per the meeting notice at the end of the newsletter to discuss this option. All are invited.

Per the By-Laws, the bank account will be closed and the money remaining (approximately \$4500) donated to the National Vietnam War Museum in Mineral Wells. Jim said he would distribute the money to projects that will yield maximum name recognition at the museum for the chapter. (non-profits must donate any remaining funds to a non-profit organization)

This will be the final newsletter of the Fort Wolters Chapter of the VHPA unless the club keeps the name and decides to publish a news letter.

December 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Executive Council Meeting Minutes –

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 hours by Richard Gaurkee. Executive Board Members in attendance: President, Richard Gaurkee: Immediate Past President, Herb Koenig: Treasure, Jim Messinger: Secretary Gerald Brazell: Senior Member, Rich Couch: Midterm Member, Ed Faught: and Junior Member, John Grow.

John Grow said that he did not receive the newsletter containing the date for the September meeting.

Discussion centered on keeping the chapter ongoing. The fate of the chapter in its current state would depend on the general membership meeting and elections. The chapter does not need someone to volunteer for the position, and then never show again. Since the 45-day notification was properly given, failure to fill the open positions will mean the closure of the chapter's corporation. A viable option is for the chapter to continue as a club, with new rules, and charter as they see fit to implement.

Jim Messinger provided the chapter's financial status report. Jim also submitted his resignation as treasurer. His resignation was sadly accepted. Jim is recognized for his 20 years of service to the chapter.

Gerald Brazell and Richard Gaurkee both indicated that they had conversations with other chapters experiencing the same decline in member participation.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old business was possible.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 hours.

General Membership Meeting Minutes –

The meeting was called to order at 11:50, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of those that died in the Attack on Pearl Harbor.

Prior to the election of Officers, Richard discussed the options available for the chapter. The chapter is currently organized as a corporation. This carries benefits (taxes), and rules. The chapter is required to have by-laws, and IAW our by-laws, it must have a full complement of officers to lead the corporation. This failed to occur at the September meeting, which triggered the chapter's dissolution clauses.

I have inserted this from earlier this year. The possibility was put forth of merging the chapter with the Museum. This is the excerpt from the March meeting minutes:

“Research has shown that the two organizations are entirely different legal entities. Changing either one would be expensive. Combining the newsletters would be cost prohibitive to the chapter.”

Election of Chapter Officers:

Three positions are still needed at this time; President, VP, and Junior-Member-at-Large. Edward Luttenberger volunteered for the position of Junior-Member-at-Large at the September meeting. Today, Bill Kessinger volunteered for the position of Treasurer, Gerald Brazell volunteered for the position of President, vacating his position as Secretary, and Charles Moffitt volunteered for the position of Vice President. The position of Secretary remained vacant. The chapter's organization as a corporation is officially ended.

A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the corporation and reorganize as a club. Motion was approved by the members present. The chapter will continue as a club for those interested in continued participation.

Jim Messinger will file the final Federal tax return for the chapter, and close the books IAW the chapter's by-laws. He indicated that the money's will be dispersed to several different areas within the museum, highlighting the Chapter's participation in the founding of the Museum.

Jim reminded the membership of the Spring Fundraiser on March 28, 2020 at the Crazy Water Hotel. Details are on the Museum's web site.

The 2023 fundraiser will be at the newly renovated (fingers crossed) Baker Hotel in beautiful Mineral wells.

The next meeting will be held January 4th. This is the first of the club's reorganization meetings. They will decide the frequency, locations, etc. of the club's new activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20.

Adam Steczko, Scribe

Meeting Notice

Just as Mark Twain said, "The Reports of My Death Have Been Greatly Exaggerated," so it is with the Fort Wolters Chapter of the VHPA.

What has changed are the underlying legal foundations of the chapter. It will no longer be a corporation, with legal responsibilities and benefits, but a club. This does not change our relationship with the National VHPA organization.

The chapter is now free to start life anew, without legal responsibilities, such as a full complement of officers. The club's first organizational meeting is January 4th at 11:30 hours, at Logan's Roadhouse in Hurst. Lunch, which includes coffee, tea, or a soft drink, is \$20 per person. The beer is on you. Guests eat if you or someone pays. Peanuts are free and you can throw the shells on the floor. Address is 948 NE Loop 820, Hurst, TX. Phone is 817-590-0261. GPS data: N 32°49'32.43": W 97°2'03.69".

Your participation will set the agenda and future of the club