



THE FWCA/HPA NEWSLETTER

FORT WOLTERS CHAPTER - VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

An independent organization not under control nor authorized to act as an agent or representative of the VHPA.

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Past-President Comments

In May of 2009, the Fort Wolters Chapter of the VHPA held a ceremony at the National Vietnam War Museum in Mineral Wells, Texas for the dedication of a half scale replica of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. Since then, every year, an "Honoring the Wall" ceremony has been held around Memorial Day to update the Museum's Wall based on the previous year's updates to the Wall in D.C. The 10th annual "Honoring the Wall" ceremony will begin at 9:45 AM on May 25, 2019. No names are to be added this year, but we are honoring the fifteen men who were identified and brought home in 2017.

March 2, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Executive Council Meeting Minutes –

The meeting was called to order at 1110 hours.

Officers in Attendance: Richard Gaurkee, Gerals Brazell, Jim Messinger, Rick Couch, John Grow.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Messinger provided the chapter's financial status report. Jim also reminded the council of the next Museum's Spring Fundraiser – March 30, at the Ft Worth Rahr Brewery.

Jim stated that this year's Honoring the Wall Ceremony will take place on May 25th, at 1000 hours, at the Museum site.

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteers for the chapter's leadership council are still needed, in order to ensure the ongoing viability of the chapter.

John Grow reported that tours at Bell are still available, and is working to finalize arrangements. The tour will be during a weekday only. Attendees will be required to submit name, SSN, and citizenship status in advance. More on this to follow.

Richard Gaurkee provide information on a tour of Ft Hood that could be arranged for the membership. Let Richard know if this tour would be of interest to the membership.

The last meeting, it was put before the membership of combining the chapter's activities newsletter and

organization with the Museum's. 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.

Adam Steczko will contact Ed Faught and request a test emailing, and have Ed remove all dead email addresses.

Don Ancelin volunteered to call and verify phone numbers of those without valid emails.

The importance of having email addresses was reiterated. The tours will take place before the next meeting. If members have only the newsletter as communication with the chapter, they could potentially miss important information, or activities. It will be part the President's page in the next newsletter.

A change in meeting venue was discussed as a possible way too increase meeting participation, but the current location is easily reached, and moderately priced. Other locations were much more expensive. Decision was made to continue in our current location until further notice.

With no new or old business remaining, the meeting was adjourned at 1143 hours.

General Membership Meeting Minutes –

The meeting was called to order at 1152, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jim Messinger presented the financial report, and reminded those present of the Museum's Spring Fundraiser on March 30, 2019 at the Ft Worth RAHR brewery.

The problem of decreasing participation remains a major issue.
Two potential tours were presented.

John Grow is working on a tour of the Bell plant. The tour will be on a weekday, NOT a weekend. Participants will be required to provide name, SSN, and citizenship status PRIOR to the event.

Richard Gaurkee presented a potential tour of FT Hood. One of the major issues for this tour is transportation – wagon train or commercial bus. Details need to be ironed out.

Make your participation desires for either or both to the presenters.

Merging of the Museum and Chapter was presented at the December meeting. Research into the idea has presented two roadblocks: the first is that they are two completely different legal entities, and to convert either is too expensive and cumbersome. The combining of just the newsletters, would be too expensive for the chapter to afford. The idea has been shelved as completed with no action.

It is important that the chapter has a tool available to easily communicate with its membership. The chapter newsletter costs approximately \$150 per mailing, and as such, is not suitable to short notices. Email is fast, accurate, and more importantly CHEAP!

As the chapter attempts to increase the level of participation, communicating though the newsletter is not a workable solution. The first activities to be potentially impacted by a lack of communication may be the two tours being planned now.

Adam Steczko addressed the membership regarding availability of hearing aids from the VA. They are no

cost if you have a VA hearing disability, or \$50, if you do not. They are top of the line devices, and worth the effort it takes dealing with the VA tangle of red tape and quicksand.

There is a VNAF helicopter pilots' reunion in August in Ft Worth. Efforts will be made to obtain more information on that event, and explore possible ties with our chapter for future activities.

The next chapter meeting will be held June 1st.

Having no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 1220.

Adam Steczko: Scribe

Quarterly Meeting Notice

Our next Chapter meeting is moved to Saturday June 8th at Logan's Roadhouse in Hurst to avoid conflicts with the VHPA Reunion the end of May. The Executive Council will meet at 11 AM with General Membership meeting at 11:30 (or whenever the EC finishes its meeting). 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".

Secretary's Stuff

For questions or actions about membership or dues, contact Gerald Brazell at brazell911@aol.com or 817-267-7596. For change of address and email issues, contact webmaster@fvcvhpa.org. For Newsletter questions or inputs, please contact Herb Koenig at 817-801-1649 or email to past-president@fvcvhpa.org.

Treasurer's Report - We are doing ok with financials. Balance 4/30/19 was 4,665.07

Fort Wolters Chapter of the VHPA Officers for 2018-2019

Name	Office	Contact Info
Richard Gaurkee	President	president@fvcvhpa.org
Charles Ingram	Vice-President	vice-president@fvcvhpa.org
Herb Koenig	Immediate Past President	past-president@fvcvhpa.org
Gerald Brazell	Secretary	secretary@fvcvhpa.org
Jim Messinger	Treasurer	treasurer@fvcvhpa.org
Rick Couch	Senior Member-at-Large	senior-member-at-large@fvcvhpa.org
Ed Faught	Midterm Member-at-Large	midterm-member-at-large@fvcvhpa.org
John Grow	Junior Member-at-Large	Junior-member-at-large@fvcvhpa.org