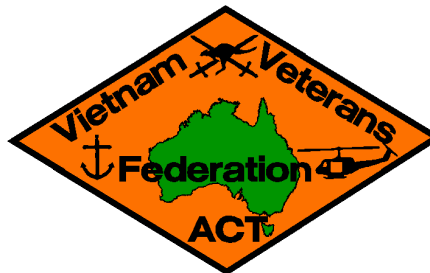


Vietnam Veterans' Federation *(ACT Branch) Inc*

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VIETNAM VETERANS' FEDERATION (ACT BRANCH) Inc Minutes of Committee Meeting: Thursday 16 April 2009 Stephen King Memorial Centre

President Gerry Mapstone recited the Ode and declared the meeting open at 10.01 hrs.

Present

Gerry Mapstone, Danny Burton, Bob Jones (B3), Peter Eveille, John Kearns, Jack Davis, John Harvey, Karen Toscan, John Sainsbury, Len Little, Jim Wain, Bob West, Brian Daly.

Apologies

Terry Lawler, Bob Jones (B2), Vic Robertson, Clive Castles, Dave Tonacia

Motion

That Alex McGown be removed from the meeting.

Moved Jim Wain; Seconded Danny Burton

Carried

Background to motion: Alex McGown has been sitting outside the committee meetings since his resignation as Treasurer was accepted on 16 October 2008. He has been invited to sit in the meeting room but has declined.

On Thursday 16 April he was again invited to sit in the meeting room but declined the invitation. The door to the meeting room was closed before the meeting commenced. Alex entered the room and said, that 'closing the door was a childish act by the committee', or words to that effect.

This comment was not well received and subsequently the above motion was passed. He then left.

Mr McGown approached the President and Secretary after the meeting and handed the President a written apology saying, "I apologise to the President and Committee members at the Committee meeting of 16th April 2009 for my comment 'that the procedure of closing the doors on me was childish'".

New Committee members

Gerry announced that the following members had accepted roles on the General Committee: John Sainsbury, Peter Eveille, Dave Tonacia, and John Kearns. This brings the committee up to full strength. In the next few weeks, 'portfolio' duties will be assigned, including the filling of the Assistant Treasurer position. The committee welcomed the new members with acclamation. Their election will be ratified at the next AGM.

Previous Minutes

Accepted

Moved, Brian Daly, seconded Danny Burton

Matters Arising

The Secretary reported that the article on the name change question had been written and put into the newsletter and on the website and that some had already responded with preferences for the name change. There will be a 'progress report' at the May meeting and then a discussion at the June meeting so a proposal can be put to the vote for the AGM.

He also noted that he had mentioned in his article that John Harvey's paper would also be included in the newsletter, but was not. It will now be included both in the website version and in the mail out. Len Little and Karen Toscan to effect.

Correspondence In

Some responses to name change survey.

REPORTS

President

Gerry Mapstone provided his customary written report covering food van activities, welfare and pension work, Anzac Day arrangements, Christmas Party plans and other relevant topics.

Moved: Gerry Mapstone, seconded Len Little.

Accepted

Treasurer

Bob West's report was also written and provided to the committee. Food van takings from the previous Saturday had not been included yet in the figures. He noted the amount spent on 'consumables' and reported that he would 'keep that figure under review'.

Moved: Bob West, seconded Danny Burton.

Accepted

Membership

Karen reported that we are at 499 financial members, and that a renewal slip is going out with the current newsletter.

Hospital Liaison

All seems to be going well at the hospital, reports Gerry Mapstone. Liaison woman is 'on the ball' and refers vets to our people. Of concern is the proposed removal of the car park, it's replacement building and subsequent moving (or disappearing) of the Vet's Lounge. Veteran's will monitor the situation.

Welfare Officer

Len Little and Karen Toscan reported that 'our transplant recipient' Erin Croker now requires more surgery. Her Dad, Jim Croker needs out support. He continues to do great work at Jindabyne, but 'is not travelling well'. It was suggested that a group from our Federation might visit for socials and support. The idea was met with general approval.

Public Officer

Len reported that there is nothing outstanding, but he would need soon to be gearing up for matters to do with the AGM.

Publishing

Newsletter is out, both on website and by mail (still in process of mailing).

IT

Still problems with the website and the new computers. Viv will be coming in on Wednesdays (and spent considerable time there on the Wednesday before this meeting) to continue to rectify bedding in problems.

PUTP

Gerry Mapstone reported that the PTSD Group is working well and hard. Karen and Kate to attend conf in Perth. 11 October is to be PTSD Awareness Day. The addition of Dave Tonacia to our committee is a good move and will help us and the PTSD Group to keep in close contact.

Food Van

John Padovan had provided a written report on recent activities. Danny Burton added information on the Corvette Show which brought in around \$2000. The Food Van continues to make good profits but there are some problems with the van largely due to its age. The roof needs to be sealed. Several options were mentioned, among them, tanking, the construction of a false roof, and fibre glassing.

Motion: That the money required to fix the problem be spent.

Moved, Jim Wain; Seconded Len Little

Carried

One new date to be added for Food Van activities: German Car Show, 19 September

There may also be another booking, yet to be confirmed, for Mothers' Day.

Veterans' Voices

Brian Daly reported that the group continued to do good work, to enjoy, and is solidifying as a group. Next performance to be at the hospital on 23 April for the pre-Anzac Day service and then an entertainment at Goodwin Homes, Monash, on Thursday 7 May.

**Task Co-coordinator:
Woodwork and Steel workshops**

Jim Wain had provided a written report covering Task Co-ordinator, Woodwork and Steel workshops. He added that the people who had worked on a recent 'outside' job were not keen to repeat the practice, albeit that job brought in some revenue, but would direct their works to projects which would directly benefit the Federation.

**Task Co-coordinator:
Woodwork and Steel workshops (cont)**

He also reported that Freida, an electrician, would soon be wiring 3 phase circuits for the mortising machine and the metal workshop, free of charge.

Danny Burton then raised as a forthcoming project the need for a new truck to tow the food van. The current truck is underpowered. He was expecting a call today from Paterson Cheney in Melbourne to discuss options and possible deals. He would be looking for at least a 4.5 litre engine, with a 6 speed gearbox. Isuzu seems to be the choice of hire firms and so would seem to be the one to look at.

NTR

Secretary, Senior Vice President, both Vice Presidents, Entertainment, Peacekeeping, Garden Maintenance

Break

10.55 – 11.03

General Business

Annual General Meeting. The date has been set at Sunday 16 August 2009 at 10.00hrs. This would be followed by the regular monthly meeting and members of the Federation other than committee would be invited to attend and participate if they wish. A clean up would follow and then a Bar BQ.

Name change: The survey is now out. In May we will review the situation and in June will have to decide on what the committee will propose to the membership for voting at the AGM.

Motion: That at the next AGM an amendment to 'The Golden Principle' be made so that it would then read 'The Vietnam Veterans' Federation (or whichever new name may be adopted) actively pursues the welfare of all (formerly 'Vietnam') veterans and their families.

Moved Danny Burton; Seconded Brian Daly

Carried

Anzac Day Arrangements: Gerry Mapstone advised that we would be marching with the VVA at No 18 in the parade. This year the VVA would take the salute. Greg Sweetapple would then lead the VVF and VVA contingent to the Vietnam memorial for a march past.

Terry Lawler had provided a flyer to the committee about his excellent arrangement with the **Hellenic Club for a function for veterans** for lunch and drinks following the march and AWM service. So numbers can be obtained, he has asked for bookings to be made to him by 22 April. The flyer would also be put on the website and will be emailed to other ESOs.

Round the Table

Danny Burton commented that the paving finished by Jack looks good. The woodwork fence near the BarBQ area would be extended. Danny would see Jim Wain after the meeting to arrange. Danny also lamented the fact we still are unable to arrange conference calls. Karen reported that she has arranged conference calls using mobile phones and that the before landline conference calls are feasible, the computer system needs to be running smoothly.

John Kearns reported an apology for the May meeting.

Jack Davis spoke about the outside fence discussed at previous meeting.

Motion: That no more than \$400 be spent on materials for said fence.

Moved Jack Davis; seconded Danny Burton

Carried

Jack Davis referred to recent abolition of DVA sponsored committees; that amalgamation of committees has reduced veteran representation.

Motion: That the Vietnam Veterans' Federation invite all ACT and Queanbeyan Ex Service Organisations to hold a meeting to discuss ESO matters that they have in common and possibly quarterly or bi-annual meetings.

Moved Jack Davis; Seconded Danny Burton

Carried

Len Little and Danny spoke about use of tables acquired from RMC Golf Club. Both agreed a two-way switch for the air-conditioner would obviate future problems in not switching air-conditioning on after Bar BQs.

Karen Toscan reported that the latest clothing order would be filled by Anzac Day

She has made inquiries about the Federation's Christmas party being held at a club. She has yet to book with Kate Tonacia for the conference in Perth, but is looking out for good deals to cut costs.

Brian Daly made further comment on the need for voting on reports at meetings. It was agreed that we need only have a mover and seconder for the Treasurer's report and of course for all motions formally put, but that other reports are just 'received'. This would save time in small but accumulative amounts at monthly meetings.

Next Meeting

Thursday 14 May 2009 at 1000 hrs (note meeting date one week earlier than usual to accommodate some projected absences.)

Meeting Closed

Meeting was closed at 11.36 hrs

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President

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Secretary