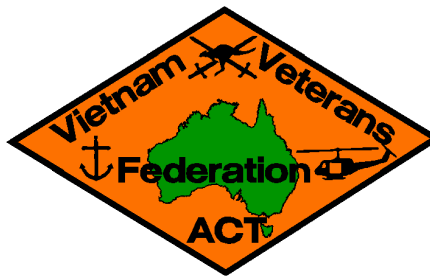


Vietnam Veterans' Federation *(ACT Branch) Inc*

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VIETNAM VETERANS' FEDERATION (ACT BRANCH) Inc

Minutes of Committee Meeting: Thursday 14 May 2009

Stephen King Memorial Centre

President Gerry Mapstone recited the Ode. and declared the meeting open at 10.05 hrs.

Present

Gerry Mapstone, Danny Burton, Karen Toscan, Clive Castles, Peter Eveille, John Harvey, Bob West, John Sainsbury, Len Little, Vic Robertson, Brian Daly.

Apologies

Terry Lawler, Bob Jones (B2), Bob Jones (B3), John Kearns, Dave Tonacia, Jack Davis, Jim Wain

Previous Minutes

Moved, Brian Daly, seconded Danny Burton

Accepted

Correspondence In

Belconnen RSL requesting our premises for a meeting on Tuesday 11 August at 11.00hrs and proposing a Bar BQ to follow.

Invitation from Canberra Services Club for members of the VVF to attend the dedication of the Captain Saunders Room on 27 May.

Letter from Pam Padovan thanking those who have supported her through her illness.

Certificate of thanks from the Corvette Club for work of the Food Van at their recent function.

Email from Carers ACT inviting participation in a consultation on the Model of Care for the new Adult Acute Inpatient Unit at the Canberra Hospital.

Letter from Glen Toscan offering his Toyota one ton try top to the Federation.

Quote from S&A for waterproofing of the Food Van roof.

Resignation from the VVF of Mr Alex McGown.

Motion: That the resignation of Mr Alex McGown be accepted.

Moved Vic Robertson; seconded Peter Eveille

Carried

Other correspondence discussed and acted on in General Business.

REPORTS

President

Gerry Mapstone's report covered: donation by Pam & John Padovan of the 'President's bell'; paving; the beginning of the car port; hosting of a meeting of ESOs; Veterans Voices; progress in workshops; membership reaching 536; exhortation to prepare for winter.

Treasurer

Treasurer Bob West provided a set of figures showing the health of the Federation's finances. He said that although the Federation's finances are healthy, there are things that need to be done and we should continue to be vigilant and spend wisely.

Items 39, (A), (B), & (C) were then covered, as Bob needed to leave the meeting for other work.

29 (A) Bob will canvas for an auditor to perform the audit for 2009/2010 financial year, as this was not done at the last AGM.

29 (B) Accounting for workshops: Bob asked that this be deferred until Jim Wain was available for a meeting.

29 (C) Accounting fees: Bob will investigate better ways to do our business among them seeking accounts that are fee-free.

Moved: Bob West, seconded Len Little. **Report Accepted & Approval for action on items 29 (A), (B), and (C).** Bob then left the meeting at 10.20hrs.

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| Sen Vice President | Danny Burton advised that he will be making a plaque for the 'President's Bell'. |
| Vice President | Terry Lawler had provided a written report on the success of the Anzac Day lunch at the Hellenic Club at which there were 45 attendees. He has proposed that we hold the lunch for Viet Vets Day (18 August) at the same venue. |
| Membership | In the absence of Bob Jones (B2), Karen reported that there had been a good response to the mail out seeking renewal of membership. The number of financial members then jumped from 500 to 536 in two weeks. She also reported that Bob would be back in time to take over the functions in the front office while Karen is in Perth next week. |
| Hospital Liaison | Gerry Mapstone reported on the large number of vets in hospital. VLOs are going well though there is a need to work out who is the VLO at Queanbeyan. There are some problems beginning to appear at Canberra Hospital with smoking around the doors near the Vets' Lounge, and motor bikes being moved on by security from the front door. There is some conflict between the Government and the Hospital. It was resolved that the President should draft a letter to the Chief Minister, with a copy to the Shadow Minister for Vets Affairs, expressing our fears on the future of the Veterans' Lounge. This draft letter would be sent with Terry Lawler to the next KOC meeting to be held soon. Motion: That the Federation become a member of KOC at a cost of \$15. Moved Karen Toscan; seconded Vic Robertson Carried |
| Welfare Officer & Social Isolation | Len Little's report developed into a discussion on problems associated with welfare and social isolation. It is still difficult getting people on courses and also getting people who want to be visited. Some matters to proceed with are: possibility of Karen and Jackie doing a welfare course; Len to talk to Bob Jones on his return to work out the need for a flyer to advertise both services; more information to go on our website; we need to seek volunteers for the next course to held in Wagga in September. |
| Public Officer | Len Little reported that the new committee changes had been registered. He will have a form ready for the name change should that occur at the AGM. |
| Publishing | Vic Robertson reported that there had been more problems with bedding down the new system than had been anticipated. The biggest problem was with a faulty server. Frank and John Leate were now working on a new template for the newsletter |
| IT | John is also looking at new software. The Committee agreed that the Executive should be free to approve expenditure when the right piece of software was found to help get the system up and fully running as soon as possible. |
| PUTP | Gerry reported that it has been a busy month. The recent BarBQ with visitors from mental health went well. Kate is making good contacts. Karen reported on the busy itinerary she and Kate will undertake on the seminar in Perth commencing this coming weekend. While there she will be meeting with the Federation's WA branch with support for the establishment of a proper office for that Branch. |
| Food Van | Danny Burton referred to the quote listed in correspondence for the water-proofing of the roof of the van. He advised that only one quote had been received from a number of requests for quotes. It is a good quote and the job needs to be done soon. There is a new booking for a function at Parliament House on 6 June and the van should raise enough profit on that day to pay for the job. The Committee approved the acceptance of the \$1300 quote from S&A Sealants. Moved Danny Burton; seconded Len Little Carried |

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| Veterans' Voices | Brian Daly reported that the Voices are well into their performance schedule, having sung last week at Calvary, and having another booking at Kalparrin in May and a booking for a Monash retirement home in June. |
| Entertainment | <p>Karen will now take over this portfolio. Approval was given for Karen to seek two more quotes for the Christmas Party. She has already received one from the Tuggeranong Vikings. She may also approach the Ainslie Football Club (who have not yet responded to a first approach) and the Hellenic Club.</p> <p>Karen also asked that the Veterans' Voices perform at the function on 11 August when the RSL people will be visiting, and also if they could perform at the Federation's Christmas Party. Brian Daly agreed to put that to the Voices but thought they would be pleased to so perform.</p> |
| Peacekeeping | John Harvey may seek a 'terminology change' for this topic, maybe more in line with 'younger veterans', in line with our aim of attracting all veterans to our organisation. It was agreed that we continue to seek new members from this area and to make our invitation attractive to them. Karen explored the possibility of our advertising in 'Defence Family Matters'; we should also continue to try to be involved more meaningfully in the transition courses. John, Len and others will consult on a new name for this portfolio. |
| Grant Officer | As Jim Wain was absent there was no formal report but Gerry advised the meeting that Jim was proceeding with the research on the new truck. Bob Jones (B2) had also suggested another place from which to seek a quote. |
| Task Co-coordinator: Woodwork and Steel workshops | <p>Precis of written report from Jim Wain: Peter Armstrong on holidays until Spring. Walter will be 'minding the shop'. Peter Kercher will also be away, perhaps for 6 weeks perhaps for 6 months. Dick Aubrey is taking over the car port project. The Milling machine in the metal shop has been wired in to the 3 phase power as has the mortice machine in the wood shop.</p> <p>Peter Kercher, Peter Wilkin and Jim bought for tools for the wood shop.</p> <p>Gerry advised that at the next meeting we should determine a date for the next clean up.</p> |
| NTR | Vice President (Jack Davis), Secretary, Garden Maintenance |
| Break | Acceptance of all reports: |
| General Business | <p>Moved Len Little, Seconded Danny Burton Carried</p> <p>11.43 – 11.56</p> <p>Items 29 (A), (B), and (C) dealt with with Treasurer's Report.</p> <p>29 (D) Brian Daly reported that so far there have been 33 responses to the survey on the possible name change, divided into: 1 for no change; 4 for 'Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers'; 18 for 'Vietnam Veterans and Veterans Federation'; and 10 for another 7 names, including, 'Australian Vererans Federation', 'Vietnam and Veterans Federation', Vietnam Veterans and Friends Federation', 'Vietnam Veterans and National Veterans Federation of Australia', Veterans Federation ACT (3 prefer this option), 'Veterans and Peacekeepers Federation', 'Vietnam Veterans and Uniformed Services Federation'.</p> <p>Members have until 31 May to respond to the survey and a further report will be tabled at the June meeting at which time the committee will discuss and decide what option to put to the vote at the AGM.</p> <p>29 (E) Brian Daly presented a rough time line for matters to be dealt with preceding the AGM so that all requirements of the Constitution are met. We will work towards that and in some cases have matters ready before the absolute deadlines.</p> |

**General Business
(cont.)**

29 (F) Terry Lawler, in his written report advised that he had made preliminary inquiries with the Hellenic Club following the success of the Anzac Day function, to hold a similar function on Vietnam Veterans Day, 18 August. All agreed that to be a very good option and approved Terry’s going ahead and confirming the booking.

29 (G) Gerry reported that Dave Walsh has been employed through a BEST grant and that that will cease on 30 June, which will be Dave’s last day with us.

29 (H) Karen was given approval, subject to the Treasurer’s nod, to order more merchandise as it is moving pretty well at present.

29 (I) John Harvey reported that he had spoken on Anzac Day to a civilian who had worked in Baghdad with our forces there. Civilians, while experiencing the same sorts of hardships are not entitled to the support uniformed people are. A similar situation existed for the civilian nurses who served in Vietnam, and that position has now been addressed. **John was commissioned to draft an agenda item for the next KOC meeting.**

29 (J) Offer of truck to Federation by Glen Toscan (see Correspondence): **The Committee agreed to accept with thanks this generous offer. Gerry to write a letter of acceptance and thanks. Gerry, Vic, and Danny to investigate best uses of the truck.**

Round the Table

John Sainsbury reported that the Belconnen RSL had raised \$42,000 selling badges prior to Anzac Day at Belconnen, Kippax and Jamison.

Karen recommended that a letter of thanks be sent to electrician Freida and her husband for all the gratis work done at the Federation.

Gerry recommended that we have certificates of appreciation made up for various occasions when thanks is required.

Danny sought and was given committee approval to seek out again sponsors for the cool room.

Gerry Mapstone and Clive Castles both reported an apology for the June meeting.

**Next Meeting
Meeting Closed**

Thursday 18 June 2009 at 1000 hrs.
Meeting was closed at 12.33 hrs

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President

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Secretary