

# Vancouver Chapter 131

## General Membership Meeting

### Minutes of the March 5,2024

**Officers attending:** President Mike Teefy, Vice-president Charlie Caughlan, Treasurer Jim Ellis, Secretary Linda Wallers.

**Members and guests attending** included Larry Moller, Lou Miranda, Dea VanKley, Gail and George Pollock, and Dave Mason.

#### Program:

**VA Funeral Benefits presentation:** Burial benefits are gratefully offered to eligible Veterans, their spouses, and dependent children by the Federal Government, through the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) and are earned by military service to our Nation. These benefits are potentially worth thousands of dollars but are provided at no cost. A national cemetery burial, at no cost to the family, includes:

- The gravesite;
- Opening and closing of the grave;
- A headstone or marker;
- Perpetual care as part of a national shrine.
- A burial flag;
- A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC);
- Military Funeral Honors (e.g., burial flag presentation, "Taps").

To help with end-of-life- planning,, the VA can provide eligibility determination prior to the time of need. Pre-need determination streamline access to burial benefits. To apply eligible family members should submit VA For 40-10007, application for Pre-need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a National Cemetery, along with documentation of military service (DD-214) by (preferred) toll-free fax (1-855-840-8299) or (risky) mail to National cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St Louis, MO 63151.

To establish eligibility, you must provide the death certificate and the Veteran's DD Form 214, which shows the period(s) of active-duty service and a characterization of discharge. Call (800) 827-1000 to receive more information.

See, also, [Burial Benefits for Veterans and their Families](#); [National Cemetery Administration FAQs](#);

Following the presentation, Mike called for officer reports.

**Secretary, Webmaster and Membership:** Linda mentioned that the minutes of the General Membership meeting were distributed to attending members for review and amendment/ corrections or additions. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve them. Hearing no corrections or additions,

**MOTION:** Lou Miranda made the motion and Dave mason seconded a motion to approve the minutes from February as written. **VOTE:** The vote was unanimous.

**Treasurer:** Jim went over the financial information briefly, including dues received from 3 renewals; he had ordered new checks, and three packages of stamps from Costco for the newsletters which would probably carry over through September. He would need approval on his voucher for reimbursement. There was a bonus in that Costco had not yet raised the price on the stamps in accordance with the USPS increase. Jim asked for approval of the treasurer's report

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**MOTION:** Charlie made the motion and Linda seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report from February. **VOTE:** The vote was unanimous.

There is currently \$71 in the Alzheimer's account and Jim stated he would combine that with the Alzheimer's take from the meeting and mail it to the Alzheimer's Association in Chicago. He plans on sending it in quarterly rather than monthly.

So far, there have been no new higher rates posted at the IQ CU for the maturing CD on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Jim said he would continue to investigate rates and asked for an updated motion on the rates at the Vancouver banks and credit unions so, when he found the best one, he could just apply for it.

**MOTION:** Chapter Treasurer Jim Ellis made a motion to transfer the proceeds from the IQ credit Union into another financial instrument, from the same or different bank or credit union, into a short-term (no more than 11 months), higher interest bearing (i.e., 4.75%) certificate of deposit with Treasurer Jim Ellis and President Mike Teefy as signatory. The vote was unanimous.

**President & Legislative:** Mike stated that the budget Continuing Resolution had been extended for a bit over a week in hopes that congress could pass the remaining budget bills from last fall to fund agencies and departments through the rest of the fiscal year.

Mike directed attention to the discussion on FEDHub regarding Schedule F and Trump's plans to renew that rule. It appears that some members thought it would be focused on the higher ranking jobs (political appointees), but the intent is to make it cut across all sectors of government, eliminating expertise and continuity for loyalty to the "party" or leadership.

Mike is trying to set up a meeting with Marie Perez and her political person during the next extended recess (Easter).

**VP, NARFE PAC, Service Officer & Programs:** Charlie reminded the members that March is NARFE-PAC Month. Other than that, he had no report.

**Webmaster & Membership:** Linda said the website is up to date and added the chapter Activity Report information that we have one new member, one prospective member, six members renewed their membership; and two members were dropped for non-payment. There is one Second Notice to send for February.

**Alzheimer's chair:** Marcella Harvey passed away recently. We are still trying to locate confirmation as to the date. Jim Ellis will pick up that role.

**Other business:** A Postal Service Health Benefits Preview and Special Enrollment webinar will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup>, according to the NARFE Magazine (March issue).

The **next general membership meeting** will be on April 2nd. The Chapter Executive Board will meet virtually on April 1st at 11:00 AM.

Submitted by Chapter 131 Secretary Linda Wallers