

OCT 11, 2002
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
DAYTON, OHIO

VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

1. Call to Order - The annual meeting was called to order by VSPA President Kevin Fitzgerald at 0810 hours.
2. Pledge of Allegiance - Kevin Fitzgerald lead the Association members in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Reading of the 2001 minutes - Steve Ray read the business meeting minutes of the 6 October 2001 business meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as read was made and seconded. Motion passed.
4. Treasurer's Report - Steve Gattis read the treasurer's report in Den Cook's absence. Ending balance as of September 30, 2002 was \$21,964.62. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed. A copy of the treasurer's report is on file with the VSPA secretary.
5. VSPA Incorporation - Steve Gattis reported he had received legal advice from a law firm in California concerning the incorporation of VSPA. The law firm recommended incorporating in the State of Delaware. A retainer fee of \$1500.00 would be required for the law firm to begin work on the incorporation process. There was discussion with suggestions from members offering to do some further research. Because our business meetings only occur one time per year, Steve Gattis requested we go ahead now with a motion to retain the California law firm. Motion made by Vic Lebsack and seconded by Brian Thorne. Motion passed.
6. Membership Report - Steve Gattis gave the membership report in the absence of Terry Morris. There are 663 paid members currently. Life memberships are now available. Statistics were provided on member renewal rates and months of highest/lowest new member sign-ups. Dues are payable in January of each year and can now be paid on line. There are Gold Pins available for paid Life Members only. We currently have only two Associate Members (non-voting). Family members may join (non-voting) for one dollar per person per year. There was discussion on the dues payments: Dues should be sent to the Treasurer, Denis Cook. It was suggested that a better process of sending out dues notices be looked at. It was felt that VSPA might be loosing renewals if a member misplaces the issue of Guardmount with the dues renewal notice in it. There was a suggestion to put a dues renewal notice on the HOME page of the web site. A separate discussion began on our quarterly publication "Guardmount". It was suggested we use better quality paper and give members the option of receiving the newsletter electronically to save printing/postage costs. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Membership Report.
7. Historian Report - Don Graham presented the History Report. A disk of his complete report is on file with the secretary. Don has made up 21 binders with information on the bases from Vietnam and Thailand. Don requested volunteers to assist him in writing the Air Force archives to obtain additional information. Don gave members an opportunity to sign up to assist him after the meeting. Motion made and seconded to accept the Historian Report. Motion passed.
8. Turner Publishing Company Presentation - Mark Thompson, the CEO of MT Publishing, made a presentation on publishing a VSPA book. The book would have three sections: 1. History of Southeast Asia operations, 2. Stories, photographs, maps, charts, etc. and 3. Bio's of VSPA members with 150 words free. The book would cost \$54.00. The publisher needs a minimum of 300 orders. The VSPA would receive 50% of proceeds for all pre-ordered books. The VSPA would be able to offer any left over books to new members coming into the Association. Mr. Thompson stated there is no financial risk to the Association for doing the book. If there are not enough orders, the VSPA can cancel and members pre-ordering will receive a refund. The VSPA must provide a point of contact to work with Thompson Publishing. Motion made and seconded to begin work on the book. Motion passed.
9. Scholarship Committee Report - Mike Daoust (Chairman of the Scholarship Committee) gave Steve Gattis a status report on the JJ Chestnut Memorial Scholarship. Mike was in attendance but could not make the report due to loosing his voice.
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Steve Gattis reported that five applications had been requested and sent to members for the \$500.00 scholarship; however, none of the applications were returned to Mike or the VSPA. Members are encouraged to apply for this next year. Members of the scholarship committee are Mike Daoust (Chairman), Jim Lebowitz, Brian Thorne and Steve Ray. (Brian Thorne will chair the committee due to the recent death of Mike Daoust).

10. Merchandise Sales – Discussed Challenge coins, pins, and jackets. Pins with date (year) of reunion will be available. The new Challenge coins are \$12.00 and will be available through the BX sales in Guardmount and on the Internet. Jackets are \$85.00 and are also available. Mike Daoust, Van Digby and Rex Hare will have the merchandise available in the Hospitality Room during the reunion. (Van Digby will handle the BX due to the recent death of Mike Daoust).

11. Web Site Report – Steve Gattis presented information for Don Poss on the VSPA web site. Currently, 1100 hits a day are made on the site. VSPA has purchased and provided firewall software for the VSPA web site. The site is secure and has never been hacked. Motion made, seconded to accept the report. Motion passed.

12. Reunion Services Contract – Steve Gattis explained the services to the VSPA by the Reunion Brat. Steve read a letter that was provided by the Reunion Brat that detailed their services to the Association. A motion was made and seconded to retain the Reunion Brat for all future reunion planning unless the VSPA votes to make a change. Motion passed.

13. Reunion Site Selection – A motion was made and seconded to select the reunion site for two years (2003/2004) so that members could plan their vacations. Motion passed. A list of prospective reunion sites were offered by the membership and then voted on. Members voted to hold a joint reunion in San Antonio, TX for 2003 on October 16-19 in conjunction with the Air Force Security Police Association. The Defender Challenge will also be held at Lackland on Oct. 16-18, 2003. There would be a joint reception dinner, a joint Banquet Dinner and joint attendance for the Lackland Tour and Defender Challenge events. The AFSPA and

the VSPA would hold separate business meetings, have separate but very close hotels and separate Hospitality Rooms.

Members then voted to hold the VSPA reunion in 2004 in Tucson, Arizona. No date was set, however, it typically would be held in October. 2004 will mark the 10th anniversary of the VSPA reunions.

14. Nomination/Election of Officers – The following were nominated/elected to the office indicated for a period of two years:

President: Steve Gattis
Vice-President: Brian Thorne
Historian: Don Graham
Secretary/Treasurer:

(A motion was made/seconded to make the Secretary a separate elected office from the Treasurer. Motion passed)

Treasurer: Denis Cook
Secretary: Steve Ray

The appointed positions of Membership Chairman (Terry Morris), Chaplain (Steve Janke), Guardmount Editor (Dave Dobson), Merchandise Sales (Mike Daoust - now, Van Digby), and Web-Master (Don Poss) will remain the same. A motion was made and seconded to add an Association Photographer. The motion passed and Tony Morris was appointed to the position.

15. Adjournment – Kevin Fitzgerald adjourned the meeting at 1010 hours after a motion was made and seconded.

Editor's note: I want to thank you all for the beautiful plaque that I received. It came as a surprise and is Greatly Appreciated. Guardmount has become a labor of love and I hope everyone enjoys it as much as I enjoy putting it together. Again thanks to all of you.

As an added note, I am always in need for material to put in Guardmount. I try to keep it to information pertaining to Vietnam related issues. We are all SP/AP's but we are unique and separate type, bonded together by our common experience.

*Dave Dobson
Cam Ranh Bay 70-71*