

OCTOBER 8, 2005 - BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

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1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Steve Gattis, President, at 0910 hours.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Don Graham, Historian, led the Association members in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Invocation was given by Steve Gattis.
4. Steve Gattis requested a moment of silence for those who did not return from Southeast Asia.
5. Steve Gattis announced the VSPA Sisterhood was holding its meeting at 0900 hours. Kim Bayes and Sharon Denitto were making presentation to that group.
6. A report was submitted that is herewith attached as exhibit #1.
7. Officers of the Association were introduced by Steve Gattis:

President: Steve Gattis
 Vice-President Hector Ramos
 Secretary: Bruce Hadley
 Treasurer: Den Cook
 Historian: Don Graham

Appointed positions:

BX Sales: Van Digby
 Chaplain: Steve Janke
 Guardmount Editor: Den Cook
 Membership: Terry Morris
 Photographer: Tony Morris
 Web Master: Don Poss
 Service Officer: Junious "Bud" Owens

Pete Villarreal, SAFESIDE Association, and Bill Cummings, K-9 Association were introduced. They have assisted the President in coordinating activities between associations, as well as increasing our membership accordingly.

President Gattis stated that the coordinator positions needed to be added to the bylaws and constitution due to their value to the VSPA, and that only members are eligible to hold these appointed positions. Motion was made and seconded to create a coordinator for the Safeside Association, and a coordinator for the K-9 Association. Motion passed

8. Reading of the 2004 minutes – Secretary Bruce Hadley read the business meeting minutes of the 9 October 2004 business meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as read. Motion passed.
9. Treasurer's Report – Secretary Bruce Hadley read the Treasurer's Report in Den Cook's absence. Ending balance as of September 30, 2005 was \$51,900.55. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.
10. Web Site Report – Steve Gattis reported that Don Poss, Web Master, was unable to attend our reunion because he was dealing with several attacks to the Association web site. A report was submitted that is herewith attached as exhibit #2.
11. Membership Report – Terry Morris, Membership Chairman, reported that there are 805 paid members for 2005. There was a net gain of 97 members. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Membership Report. Motion passed. Terry mentioned that he had compiled a database of all our members as well as a list of anyone who had expressed an interest in our association, but did not join. The database is sorted by state and city and is available on the web site.
12. Scholarship Report – Jim Lebowitz, Chairman, reported that applications had been sent out; however, none has been returned. The scholarship is for \$500. Members were urged to submit an application for the year 2006. Applications are available by contacting Jim Lebowitz. Members, and their immediate family are eligible to apply.

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13. BX Sales Report – Van Digby gave a report on sales. The BX continues to operate in the black. There are five new items added to the inventory. Van is still attempting to add youth sizes for the various shirts.
14. Historian Report – Don Graham, Historian, presented the History Report. A report was submitted that is herewith attached as exhibit #3. Don mentioned that this has been a productive year for adding information to our history binders, particularly the articles on the Thailand bases as these were the ones that we had the least amount of information on. Having this information available came in handy recently when it was used for our History Book Project. Don mentioned that another project he started was a binder of all the Security Police (SP) who are listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. There are 85 brothers listed and he is trying to compile complete information. He thanked the efforts of Dave Gudes, Helen Kish, friends Sandra and David Wiszeaukas, who helped with the Memorial and then helped in making a rubbing for each SP listed on the wall. Without their combined effort, instead of an all day task, it was accomplished in about two hours. To complete the project, Don requested to know burial locations and have a photo of each man. Those photos can be forwarded to Don Graham or Don Poss.
15. Association Flag Committee Report – Don Graham, Chairman, made the report that is attached herewith as exhibit #4. Don mentioned that in just a few months the committee came up with a design that displays our heritage and commitment to our fellow Security Policemen who served during the Vietnam War. Don thanked his committee: John Langley, Ken Neal, Ed Way, Don Poss, Earl Cary and Terry Morris. He said there were many good designs that had been submitted and that it was difficult to select just one. He thanked all the members who submitted designs and offered suggestions to make this come about.
 - a. Ken Neal, committeeman, explained the meaning behind the design of the Association flag. The flag is predominantly Air Force blue in color representing service in the Air Force. The Vietnam Service ribbon design runs from top left to bottom right diagonally representing service in Southeast Asia. Centered on the flag is the organizational crest of the Vietnam Security Police Association with the addition of the number 111 which symbolizes and recognizes those of our members who have passed on. Above the crest along the top border are the words, "United States Air Force," identifying our military affiliation to those unfamiliar with us. Below the crest, acting as a base for the crest and all that appears above, is our motto "We take care of our own."
16. Flag Bids Report – Van Digby, BX Sales Manager, made the report. Motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendation of the board of directors to go forward with the bid for production of the VSPA flag, and the appropriate funding as needed. Motion passed.
17. VSPA History Book – Steve Gattis reported this was a last effort to add and modify information because there is a window up to the first of the year 2006 to do so after which the book goes to printing. The actual books will be available five (5) months after printing for distribution.
18. VSPA Reunion Book for 2004 – Steve Gattis reported that the books were in progress and had been delayed due to the History Book Project.
19. VSPA Reunion Book for 2005 – Steve Gattis reported that the book would be handled by Janet Wise as soon as the photographs became available.
20. Recruitment Pins and VSPA Sisterhood Pins – Steve Gattis reported that the VSPA Sisterhood pins had been made by Bob Mitchell. The Sisterhood voted to include a rose on the VSPA logo for future pins. A motion was made and seconded to modify the Association pin by adding a wreath around it to form the recruiter pin. Motion passed.
21. VSPA Incorporation – Steve Gattis reported that VSPA has been incorporated as of this date as a 501(c)19 non-profit all veterans organization, but it may not offer insurance like certain other veterans organizations. As a result, there are reduced IRS filing requirements. Steve explained the benefits and limitations associated therewith.
22. Selection of the Reunion site for 2006 is Las Vegas, Nevada at Nellis AFB. Steve Gattis reported that the Reunion Brat is working on the reunion, and that information will be validated by a local member to assist in the

Dues are now due. Check your Name, if it is followed by 05 it means your dues are paid for 2005 are due for 2006

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decision on which hotel to use for the reunion.

23. 2007 Washington, D.C. – The 25th Anniversary of the Vietnam Memorial. Steve Gattis opened up the floor to a discussion about the need to come up with the appearance we would want to project in the parade. One suggestion was black hats and berets, black jackets and slacks. The VSPA will march as a unit in the parade. Dates of the annual reunion will have to be moved to November 2007. November 11th is on Sunday in 2007. Steve Gattis requested volunteers to work on this committee. The following members volunteered:
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|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Hector Ramos, Vice-President | Dave Gudes | Tony Morris |
| Earl Cary | Earnest Childers | Ray Rash |
| Frank Ybarbo | Kevin Fitzgerald | Bill Cummings (K-9) |
| James Click | William Sautter | Pete Villarreal (Safeside) |
| | | Fred Garcia (Safeside) |
24. Motion was made and seconded to award associate membership to MSgt. Tim Waage for designing a Commemorative Badge to honor our service in Vietnam and Thailand. Motion passed.
25. Motion was made and seconded to have Tim Waage produce a small lapel and hat pin similar to the badge that was made. Motion passed.
26. Donations for the Bayes children – Steve Gattis explained that a fund had been established and so far there were four (4) U.S. Saving Bonds of \$1,000 denomination each that would be purchased. Certificates will be presented to Kim Bayes at our dinner this evening. Contributions can still be made through the VSPA.
27. Donations for injured Iraq war vets – collections were being solicited by Pete Villarreal, Safeside Association. Pat Dunne gave details on some of the injured and killed. Donations can be made to the AFSPA Eagle Chapter Proud Warrior Program.
28. Steve Gattis presented Pat Dunne with a plaque to recognize his continued service in consideration of others, for his commitment to Vietnam Veterans and for his service as VSPA Liaison to the family of A1C Elizabeth Jacobson who was killed in Iraq.
29. Challenge coin development for recognition of our younger brothers and sisters currently serving – Motion was made and seconded to immediately send approximately a dozen challenge coins from the BX to Captain Chris Johnson who is stationed at Camp Bucca, Iraq. He will present the coins to troops for outstanding service in the field. Motion passed. Motion was made and seconded to develop a new coin for recognizing our younger brothers and sisters serving in security forces. Motion passed. Ken Neal volunteered to design the coin.
30. Guardmount Report – Steve Gattis gave the report for Den Cook, editor, who could not attend. Steve mentioned that a number of members and supporters have come forward to help in publishing Guardmount and to continue after Den Cook steps down as Editor.
31. Service Officer Report – Bud Owens gave his report about dealing with the Veterans Administration on service-connected disabilities claims application process.
32. Agent Orange in Thailand – David Adams reported that a 163 page report was sent to Congressman Evans, Democrat from Illinois, documenting that Agent Orange was used in Thailand as early as 1958. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy had authorized the use of Agent Orange.
33. K-9 Memorial at Lackland AFB – this is not the same as the National K-9 War Memorial. Steve Gattis explained that a memorial kennel was being restored at Lackland to honor K-9 “Nemo” who saved his handler. The memorial to “Nemo” will serve as a standard for K-9s. This is a joint effort between the Thailand Dog Handlers who are members of the VSPA, the K-9 Training Center and military personnel who are currently being trained at the K-9 Training Center.
34. Vice-President Report – Hector Ramos, Vice-President made a motion that was seconded to award Associate Membership to Ms. Erlyce Pekas, fiancé, and Ms. Rachel Lehman, mother of Millard Lehman, who was killed in action on August 8, 1966. Motion passed.
35. Adjournment – Steve Gattis, President, adjourned the meeting at 1335 hours after a motion was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Bruce N. Hadley, Jr.
Secretary, Vietnam Security Police Association