



VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 9, 2010, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



On October 7, 2010, the VSPA Board of Directors convened its meeting at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk, 217 North St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205.

President Newell Swartz called the meeting to order at 1710 hours. In attendance were Steve Gattis, Past President; Richard Garcia, Treasurer; Phil Carroll, Second Vice President designee; Bruce Hadley, Secretary, and Kelly Bateman, Historian. Hector Ramos, Vice President, was unable to attend.

Guest attendees were Bill Marshall, Second Vice President candidate; Greg Cain, Vice President candidate; Don Poss, Web Master; Larry Poss, BX Manager, and Ed Cottrell and John Risse, both VSPA members representing the Veterans War Memorial of Texas Fund.

The following agenda was discussed and acted on:

1. A presentation by Ed Cottrell and John Risse on the Veterans War Memorial of Texas under construction in McAllen, Texas. Mr. Cottrell explained that he was soliciting donations for the memorial on behalf of Col. Frank Plummer from the Steering Committee of the memorial. Mr. Cottrell, VSPA LM 222, requested that the VSPA donate a tax deductible contribution of \$265 that would entitle the VSPA to a 16" X 16" paver including an engraved message that would be placed among other pavers at the memorial site. Additionally, he requested that the VSPA membership be made aware that for \$25, they would be entitled to an individual 4" X 8" paver including an engraved message that would be placed at the site.

After a question and answer period with Messrs. Cottrell and Risse, after which they departed, the board decided that the President candidate, Phil Carroll, should take the matter under advisement with the incoming board of directors to clarify the purpose of the donations requested, and whether the matter should be brought to the general membership for a vote. Information submitted to the board by Messrs. Cottrell and Risse is herewith submitted as attachment no. 1.

2. A briefing on the BX operations by BX Manager Larry Poss. A copy of his report to the board is attached herewith as attachment no. 2. After a question and answer period with Messrs. Don and Larry Poss concerning BX operations, its inventory, and computer equipment invoices, the board decided that unresolved issues on these matters required a coordination meeting among Treasurer Garcia, Past President Gattis, Second Vice President designee Phil Carroll, and Messrs. Don Poss, Web Master, and Larry Poss, BX Manager. The Poss brothers then departed the meeting.

3. Requests received to coordinate VSPA annual reunions with that of other organizations, such as, Air Force Security Forces Association, and Tan Son Nhut Association. After discussion about the history behind past reunions around the Columbus Day weekend, and other organizations mentioned, the board decided to continue to hold VSPA reunions around the Columbus Day weekend.

4. The coordination of tours and events within the VSPA reunion calendar for other smaller group associations of members other than arranging for a meeting room for Safeside, and K-9. After discussion, the board decided that any individual group association plans need to include courtesy coordination with the VSPA president in advance of the reunion to facilitate better coordinated planning of events, and to prevent conflicts of timing.

5. Disbursement of monies for a bench at the USAF Security Forces Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. Past President Gattis completed a study on the project and a copy of his report is submitted herewith as attachment No. 3. The board decided to bring the project to the general membership supporting it with the expenditure of \$5,800 to have the bench constructed, engraved, and placed at the monument site for dedication at

the VSPA 2011 reunion at Wright-Patterson AFB. Additionally, the general membership will be solicited for donations to recover the outlay of funds by the VSPA, and each donor will be provided with a tax-deductible receipt in light of the VSPA's tax-exempt status having been approved by the IRS.

6. Raising the scholarship fund award from \$500 to \$1,000 was approved unanimously by the board with a recommendation to the general membership for approval.

7. Creating VSPA formal sympathy cards for deaths of members, and formal invitation cards for invited guests to VSPA reunion events. The board agreed this was a worthwhile project, however, decided that the next President take this under advisement with the incoming board as a viable project.

8. The extent to which the VSPA president can make multiple expenditures of \$1,000 in one calendar or fiscal year. The board agreed unanimously that there should be no change in current policy on this matter. It shall remain within the discretion of the VSPA president with subsequent notice to the Board.

9. The assemblage of all of our critical paper documents in one location accessible to the VSPA president. The board agreed that repository should reside with the Second Vice President necessitating amending the VSPA constitution and its by-laws.

10. The conduct of a physical property accountability inventory with photographs of items of value, such as, computer hardware, flags and banners, BX stock and equipment. The board agreed unanimously, and that the inventory include copies of receipts/invoices of items of value.

11. A request from the Lackland AFB Security Forces Museum Board that a VSPA member Vietnam War veteran serve on its board of directors. Historian Kelly Bateman volunteered to serve in that capacity, and was unanimously approved by the board. Additionally, the board approved the VSPA president having the authority to appoint other VSPA members in the future to serve on that board as necessary.

12. A resolution by VSPA supporting the efforts of other military organizations attempting to have the Department of Justice appeal the decisions of 9th and 10th Circuit Courts of Appeal striking down the Stolen Valor Act as unconstitutional. The board approved supporting such a resolution. The language of the resolution is to be crafted and presented to the board by Phil Carroll.

13. A change of Article X, Section 2. of the VSPA constitution, and Article X, Section 1.B. of the VSPA By-Laws, to include a new position on the VSPA Board of Directors titled "President Emeritus." Steve Gattis was named President Emeritus in 2008 and remained on the board as immediate past president. Presently, the bylaws state that the immediate past president shall be a member of the board. With the election of Phil Carroll as the new president, Newell Swartz will become the immediate past president. The bylaws and constitution do not include the president emeritus on the board. However, due to the ages of both Newell Swartz and Steve Gattis, it is critical that we maintain continuity of the organization, and therefore both should remain on board as the immediate past president and the president emeritus. The board agreed unanimously and will recommend the change to the general membership.

14. The presentation of awards to supporting commanders and superiors of Security Forces Commanders that host VSPA reunions and events. The board agreed unanimously that this was a necessary step in networking for support of future reunions and events.

President Swartz adjourned the meeting at 1925 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Hadley, Secretary

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1. The meeting was called to order at 0905 hours by President Newell Swartz at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk, 217 North St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, Texas. The President requested that all non-members leave the meeting.
2. The President requested that everyone observe a moment of silence for those who did not come home from the war, and for our departed VSPA brothers listed at LM #111.
3. Chaplain Jim Stastny gave the Invocation; it included a prayer for VSPA member William Harris, who had fallen ill.
4. Second Vice President Phil Carroll led the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. It was announced that the VSPA Sisterhood meeting would begin at 1100 hours.
6. Introduction of Elected Officers and Appointed Staff By President Newell Swartz. All officers are elected for two years. A quorum of the elected officers must be declared after introducing the elected officers.
 - 6.1. Elected Positions
 - 6.1.1. President: Newell Swartz, LM #262, Phoenix, AZ (Phu Cat and Phan Rang 66-67)
 - 6.1.2. Vice President: Hector Ramos, LM #165, Carteret, NJ (Binh Thuy 69-70). (Unable to attend.)
 - 6.1.3. 2nd Vice President: Phil Carroll, LM #336, Gladstone, OR (Takhli and NKP K-9 70-71)
 - 6.1.4. Secretary: Bruce Hadley, LM #71, Forest Hills, NY (Bien Hoa 61-62)
 - 6.1.5. Treasurer: Richard Garcia, LM #82, Massapequa, NY (Phan Rang 69-70).
 - 6.1.6. Historian: Kelly Bateman, LM #118, Wimberley, TX (Ubon K-9 71-72)
 - 6.1.7. President Emeritus: Steve Gattis, LM #49, Glen Rose, TX (Cam Ranh Bay 68-69)
 - 6.2. Appointed Positions - All positions appointed by the president with approval of the board.
 - 6.2.1. Webmaster: Don Poss, LM #37, Hemet, CA (Da Nang K-9 65-66). The VSPA Webmaster appoints and supervises the following positions:
 - 6.2.1.1. K-9 Web Master, Monty Moore, LM #500, Livingston, Texas (Da Nang and Phu Cat K-9 68-70). Unable to attend.
 - 6.2.1.2. Bulletin Board Flight Chief, Bill Marshall LM #85, Dana Point, CA (Phu Cat 68-69).
 - 6.2.1.3. QRT Flight Chief, Gary Jones, LM #363, Ladson, SC (Da Nang, Phan Rang, Safeside Tan Son Nhut, Udorn 1965, 68-69 and 71-72).
 - 6.2.1.4. Tech Support Greg Dunlap, LM #361, Santa Rosa, CA (Da Nang K-9 68-69). Unable to attend.
 - 6.2.2. Membership Chair: Phil Carroll, LM #336, Gladstone, OR (Takhli and NKP K-9 70-71).
 - 6.2.3. Membership Assistant: Janet Matthews-Wise, Alabaster, AL (Daughter of LM #127 Al Matthews, and VSPA Sisterhood member).
 - 6.2.4. Guardmount Editor: Erlyce Pekas, Phoenix, AZ (VSPA Sisterhood member).
 - 6.2.5. Chaplain: Steve Janke, Carlstadt, NJ (Cam Ranh Bay K-9 69-70). Unable to attend.
 - 6.2.6. Chaplain: Jim Stastny, LM #442, Gaithersburg, MD (Korat K-9 70-71).
 - 6.2.7. Chaplin: Bill Cooley, Life Member #350, Canyon Lake, TX (Cam Ranh Bay K-9 71-72). Unable to attend.

- 6.2.12. BX Sales Manager: Larry Poss, VSPA Associate Member, Las Vegas, NV.
 - 6.2.13. VSPA Service Officer: Bud Owens, LM #56, North Hampton, NH (Binh Thuy 66 - 67).
 - 6.2.14. K-9 Kennel Master: Jim Stastny, LM #442, Gaithersburg, MD (Korat K-9 70-71).
 - 6.2.15. Safeside Liaison: Dave Pierson, LM #299, Carson City, NV (Binh Thuy 69-70).
 - 6.2.16. Binh Thuy Liaison: Lew Goldberg, LM #150, Battlefield, MO (Binh Thuy 68-69).
 - 6.2.17. Cam Ranh Bay Liaison: Trent Nentrup, Hope, IN (Cam Ranh Bay 68-69) Unable to attend
 - 6.2.18. Phu Cat Liaison: Ron Arthur, LM #107, Chilhowee, MO (Phu Cat 67-68). Unable to attend.
 - 6.2.19. Tan Son Nhut Liaison: Charles Penley, Kingsport, TN (Tan Son Nhut K-9 67-69). Unable to attend
 - 6.2.20. Ubon Liaison: Jim Watson, LM #520, Covina, CA (Ubon K-9 68-69). Unable to attend.
 - 6.2.21. Pleiku: Pat Dunne, LM #40, Hollywood, FL (Pleiku 68).
 - 6.2.22. Sergeant-at-Arms: Keith Young, LM #175, Angola, NY (Binh Thuy and Phu Cat 70-71).
 - 6.2.23. VSPA Legal Services: Para-legal Paul Sigler, Bartlesville, OK (Cam Ranh Bay 65-66). Unable to attend.
7. Approval of the 2010 Minutes: By Secretary Bruce Hadley – Minutes approved by acclamation and without reading the full text of the minutes based upon prior electronic distribution via the VSPA web site and the published minutes in the Guardmount newsletter. Motion made by Wendell Windsor, seconded by Bill Cummings, motion carried.
8. Reports
- 8.1. BX Manager Larry Poss presented the BX report (copy attached). Motion made by Jim Stastny to accept the report, seconded by Lew Goldberg, motion carried.
 - 8.2. Past President Steve Gattis presented a report on the federal and state taxes, and related matters. He stated that VSPA's tax-exempt status extended back to incorporation in 2005, and that all donations could be supported by a letter to the donor from VSPA verifying that the donation was tax-deductible (noted that this does not include annual dues, or the costs involved in travel to and participation in the annual reunions). Motion made by Bud Owens to accept the report, seconded by Lew Goldberg, motion carried.
 - 8.3. Historian Kelly Bateman reported, including a report on the Lackland AFB Security Forces Museum Memorial Wall Project. Motion made by Greg Cain to accept the report, seconded by Lew Goldberg, motion carried. At this point, Past President Steve Gattis announced that the Lackland AFB Security Forces Board was seeking a VSPA veteran to serve on its board of directors, and that Mr. Bateman had volunteered to serve. At the earlier meeting of the VSPA Board of Directors President Newell Swartz appointed Mr. Bateman to represent the VSPA on that board and he accepted.
 - 8.4. Webmaster Don Poss reported on the current status of VSPA.com and related matters. Motion made by Ted Whitlock to accept the report, seconded by Bud Owens, motion carried.
 - 8.5. Past President Steve Gattis cautioned that because VSPA is a tax-exempt corporation and subject to strict IRS rules and regulations, the association will continue monitoring the web site and bulletin board, and take down anything resembling political action, criticism or commentary
 - 8.6. Membership Chairman Phil Carroll reported the increases in each membership category for 2010 over 2009, and since he took office in 2006. A copy of the report is attached. VSPA has 1,317 active members, and 671 life members. Motion made by Col Robert De Cubellis to accept the report, seconded by Ray Rash, motion carried.
 - 8.7. The Guardmount report was accepted by acclamation of the membership present.
 - 8.8. President Newell Swartz gave the Scholarship Committee report; a copy is attached. Motion made by Ted Whitlock to accept the report, seconded by Ken Neal, motion carried.
 - 8.9. President Newell Swartz announced that the board had voted to bring to the membership for a vote (with a positive recommendation) an increase in the VSPA Scholarship from \$500 to \$1,000 due to inflation and current economic conditions. Motion made by Ken Neal to raise the current amount of the scholarship from \$500 to \$1,000, seconded by Lew Goldberg, motion carried.

- 8.10. Treasurer Richard Garcia reported on the financial status of the VSPA; a copy of his report is attached. VSPA began 2010 with a balance of \$104,000 and as of September 30th had \$90,000. Motion was made by Bud Owens to accept the report, seconded by Robert Griffith, motion carried.
- 8.11. Service Officer Bud Owens made his report to the membership. Motion made by Randy Stutler to accept the report, seconded by Ed Wilson, motion carried.
- 8.12. Kennel Master Jim Stastny made the K-9 report. Motion was made by Bud Owens to accept the report, seconded by William Paddock, motion carried. Mr. Stastny then called on Bill Cummings to update the membership on activities of the Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial Committee, and the Old Dawgs & Pups Program.
- 8.13. Dave Pierson made the Safeside Report. Motion made by Bill Cummings to accept the report, seconded by Tony Morris, motion carried.
- 8.14. Due to the absence of Paul Sigler for a family emergency, President Newell Swartz reported briefly on VSPA legal services available to the membership for wills, powers of attorney, and other matters. Motion made by Col Robert De Cubellis to accept the report, seconded by Ted Whitlock, motion carried.
9. Old Business
- 9.1. Past President Steve Gattis reported on the status of the VSPA history book. He stated that it contains 184 pages of detailed, verified information, and that each unit is listed in a table of awards and decorations. Copies of original photographs and newspaper articles furnished to the publisher are to be returned to senders. He also mentioned that some of the book's material has already been used to help substantiate veterans' claims made to the Veterans Administration of being in country at particular dates in time of attacks and combat service. Motion made by Ken Neal to accept the report, seconded by Bud Owens, motion carried.
- 9.2. President Newell Swartz brought a proposal to the membership for a vote discussed at the October 7th meeting of the Board of Directors. The proposal was to create a position of "President Emeritus," to be added to the VSPA Board of Directors. He said the current board believed this would provide for continuity of operations, and that Past President Steve Gattis be so designated, with no time limit on this designation. The board gave a positive recommendation on this proposal, because Past President Steve Gattis is so well aware of the history and operations of the VSPA, having served several terms as its president, and guided the efforts to clarify our corporate and tax status. This will require amending the VSPA constitution and its by-laws with the following language:
- 9.2.1. Article X, Section 2 of the Constitution and Article X, Section B of the By-laws shall be amended to read, "The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the elected officers, and for purposes of maintaining continuity, the immediate past president and the president emeritus. Each member of the board shall have voting privileges.
- 9.2.2. Motion made by Ken Neal to amend the By-Laws and Constitution, seconded by Bud Owens, motion carried unanimously.
- 9.3. President Newell Swartz then gave an update of H.R. 3358 introduced by Oregon Representative Peter DeFazio in the U.S. House of Representatives. Last year VSPA life member Jim Willis, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, asked for and received a resolution of VSPA support for this bill which would authorize GIs returning from deployment to a combat zone to continue to receive full pay and benefits for 90 days. This would give them time to decompress from their combat experience, find employment and reintegrate with their families before returning to work or school. The compromise reached in the House was 45 days of full pay instead of 90, and the bill is moving through Congress as of the end of September.
- 9.4. President Newell Swartz reminded members that the VSPA reunion site selected for 2011 is Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. This was decided at the 2009 VSPA business meeting.

9.5. Past President Steve Gattis, Secretary Bruce Hadley, Treasurer Richard Garcia, and Membership Chairman Phil Carroll conducted the reunion site selection process for the 2012 VSPA reunion. Based on members' voting the primary site for 2012 will be Eglin AFB-Hurlburt Field, Florida; the back up site, in the event of operational changes at the primary site, will be Charleston AFB, South Carolina.

10. New Business

10.1. A resolution will be crafted with language to address the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision to strike down the Stolen Valor Act as unconstitutional. Motion was made by Col. Bob DeCubellis, seconded by Ted Whitlock, motion carried.

10.2. Affirmation of the newly elected Board of Directors for banking purposes and the authorization to sign checks for the coming year. Elections were conducted by mail-in ballot and ballots that were cast at the reunion prior to the business meeting. The term of office is two years. Elections will take place again in 2012. The newly elected officers are:

10.2.1. President Phil Carroll

10.2.2. Vice President Greg Cain

10.2.3. 2nd Vice President Bill Marshall

10.2.4. Secretary Dennis Evans

10.2.5. Treasurer Richard Garcia

10.2.6. Historian Kelly Bateman

10.2.7. Past President Newell Swartz

10.2.8. President Emeritus Steve Gattis

10.2.9. The president and treasurer will ensure that only the following persons are authorized to sign checks: Phil Carroll, President elect, Greg Cain, Vice President elect, and Treasurer Richard Garcia. The names of Newell Swartz, Hector Ramos and Dennis Cook will be removed as authorized signatures on all VSPA accounts.

10.3. Appointed positions (listed at 6.2 above) have been affirmed by the President elect to assist the elected officers with the management of the various functions of the VSPA during the next two years.

10.4. BX Operations

10.4.1. Our former BX Manager Van Digby, assisted by his wife Joyce and daughter Kari, submitted a letter of resignation at the board meeting last year. We had three options: (1) find a volunteer replacement; (2) do away with the BX or (3) run the BX as a business.

10.4.2. Option (1) It seemed impossible to find another volunteer to take on the work that Van and his whole family have so generously been doing entirely for free, especially considering the vast ongoing growth of the BX, its inventory and its business.

10.4.3. Option (2) given the popularity of the merchandise the BX store offers to members, most of which is not available anywhere else, it was decided that doing away with the BX was not going to happen.

10.4.4. Option (3) Larry Poss, who runs a similar business in addition to his other ventures, agreed to take over the VSPA BX and operate it as a business. In January 2010 Larry signed a two-year contract with VSPA.

10.4.4.1. All of the merchandise, all equipment such as the hat press and t-shirt press and other equipment used in customizing VSPA merchandise remains the property of VSPA. The operating funds cash is also the property of the VSPA.

10.4.4.2. In January 2012 either party can choose not to renew the contract. Larry submits a monthly accounting to the treasurer and president. There has initially been a return to the VSPA of several hundred dollars a month, which will be used to repay the treasury for the

return to the VSPA of several hundred dollars a month, which will be used to repay the treasury for the expenses related to new equipment – which total several thousand dollars so far. Once that is repaid, if the profit continues to accrue, we can decide whether to use the money to increase our scholarship fund or finance some other project.

10.4.4.3. By the time of the 2011 reunion the board will have enough experience to know how the new plan for the BX is working and will make a presentation to the membership on the progress of the BX, its financial impact on the VSPA and its benefit to members. Then members will have the opportunity to consider whether to continue to operate the BX in this manner, or under some other plan as recommended by the Board.

10.5. The VSPA Board of Directors has researched and discussed a proposal to fund a permanent VSPA bench at the Wright-Patterson AFB, Security Forces Defender Memorial located at the Air Force Museum. The SAC Elite Guard Association and the Air Force Security Forces Association each have a bench at the monument, and there is room for one more directly in front of the statue. The board brought the proposal to the membership with a positive recommendation. Past President Steve Gattis gave the details of the cost and associated logistical and management details; a copy of that report is attached. The bench will cost \$5,800 for construction, engraving, placing at the foot of the monument in front of the Defender statue, and ongoing maintenance. It is expected to be in place by the 2011 reunion at Wright-Patterson AFB. Motion made by Rick Adams to expend the \$5,800 for the VSPA bench to be placed at the monument with funds to be solicited from member donations to repay the treasury, seconded by Durbin Keeney, motion carried.

10.5.1. Two VSPA members who were present in the meeting immediately donated \$1,000 each for the construction of the VSPA Memorial Bench.

10.6. Veterans War Memorial of Texas. VSPA Member Ed Cottrell presented information to the Board regarding the placement of a VSPA paver at the Veterans War Memorial of Texas, located in McAllen, Texas, when the Vietnam Memorial Section is constructed. The cost will be \$265. The board recommended future approval and will monitor the construction of the memorial with information to be provided by member Ed Cottrell.

11. Announcements for the Good of the Order

11.1. Durbin Keeney will donate \$2,500 to have a VSPA plaque placed on a new Veteran's home in Minnesota. Approved by the board and the membership.

11.2. Presentation of information by John Homa seeking support for the K-9 sponsored programs of "Old Dawgs & Pups," and "Feed the Dawgs."

11.3. There will be a Safeside meeting following this meeting from 1200 hours to 1400 hours.

11.4. For the evening: Social Hour begins at 1800 hours. Attendees should have seats selected by 1855. The presentation of colors will be at 1900. We will retire the colors and end by 2300 hours.

11.5. Reminder regarding the Worship Service on Sunday that begins at 0800 hours, location: a portion of the banquet room. The Memorial Service to be held starting at 0900 hours in the same location.

1 1.6. The President adjourned the meeting at 1213 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Hadley, Secretary