



**Vietnam Security Police Association
Annual Business Meeting Minutes
October 08, 2011**



1. At 0905 hours: VSPA President Phil Carroll called the annual business meeting of the 17th Annual VSPA Reunion to order. The President noted that a quorum was present in accordance with our Constitution and By-Laws, therefore calling the annual business meeting of the Vietnam Security Police Association, Inc., to order. The President requested that non-members in attendance either leave or agree not to interrupt, ask questions or vote on any issues taken to a vote in this meeting.
2. The President requested a moment of silence for those who did not come home and for those VSPA brothers who have departed and are listed at LM 111.
3. **Invocation:** given by VSPA Chaplain Jim Stastny.
4. **The Pledge of Allegiance:** led by Vice President Greg Cain.
5. **Introduction of Officers and Appointed Positions:** by President Phil Carroll. All officers serve as volunteers without any pay or compensation for their time and work. The officers are elected for two years; therefore elections will be held at the 2012, 18th Annual Reunion at Eglin AFB in Valparaiso, Florida.
 - 5.1. Phil Carroll, President; LM 336; Gladstone, OR; Takhli and Nakhon Phanom K9, 1970-71.
 - 5.2. Greg Cain, Vice President; LM #62; West Seneca, NY; Binh Thuy 1967-68.
 - 5.3. Bill Marshall, Second Vice President; LM #85, Dana Point, CA; Phu Cat, 1968-69.
 - 5.4. Dennis Evans, Secretary; LM 531; Austin, TX; Binh Thuy, 1969-70.
 - 5.5. Richard Garcia, Treasurer; LM #82; Massapequa, NY; Binh Thuy, 1969-70.
 - 5.6. Kelly Bateman, Historian; LM #118; Wimberly, TX; Ubon K-9, 1970-71.
 - 5.7. Newell Swartz, Past President; LM #262; Phoenix, AZ; Phan Rang and Phu Cat, 1966-67.
 - 5.8. Steve Gattis, President Emeritus; Life Member #49, Glen Rose, TX; Cam Ranh Bay, 1968-69.
6. **Guardmount Editor's Report:** Erlyce Pekas, Associate Member, introduced herself and encouraged members to send in articles for review and possible use. Articles should be no more than two typed pages in length. Guardmount will be posted on the VSPA website for all to download. There are approximately 150 members who receive theirs by mail due to not having a computer or slow dial-up Internet access.
7. **Introduction of Staff Appointed Positions:** The President noted that all staffers are appointed by the President with approval of the Board, and serve without compensation or pay for their time and work.
 - 7.1. Web Master, Don Poss, LM #37, Hemet, CA; Da Nang K-9, 1965-66) Appoints and supervises the following:
 - 7.1.1. Web Server Administrator, Larry Poss; Associate Member; Las Vegas, NV.
 - 7.1.2. K-9 Web Master, Monty Moore, LM #500, Livingston, Texas; Da Nang and Phu Cat K-9, 1968-70. Unable to attend.
 - 7.1.3. BB Flight Chief, Bill Marshall; LM #85; Dana Point, CA (*Note: Bill has since moved to Ohio*); Phu Cat, 1968-69.
 - 7.1.4. QRT Flight Chief, Gary Jones, LM #363, Ladson, SC, Da Nang, Phan Rang, Tan Son Nhut, Udorn Safeside 1965, 1968-69 and 1971-72.
 - 7.1.5. Tech Support, Greg Dunlap, LM #361, Santa Rosa, CA; Da Nang K-9, 1968-69. Unable to attend.
 - 7.2. Chaplain Steve Janke, Carlstadt, NJ; Cam Ranh Bay K-9 1969-70. Unable to attend.
 - 7.3. Chaplain Jim Stastny, LM #442, Gaithersburg, MD; Korat K-9, 1970-71.
 - 7.4. Chaplain Bill Cooley, LM #350, Canyon Lake, Texas (Cam Ranh Bay K-9, 1971-72. Unable to attend.
 - 7.5. Chaplain Jeff Kerkhoff, West Covina, CA; Tan Son Nhut 1972-73. Unable to attend.
 - 7.6. Guardmount Newsletter Editor, Erlyce Pekas: Associate Member, Phoenix, AZ.
 - 7.7. Photographer Tony Morris, LM #70, Shererville, IN; Cam Ranh Bay 1969-70.
 - 7.8. Photographer Lou Reda, Norwalk, OH; Phan Rang 1968-69. Unable to attend.
 - 7.9. Photographer Steve Hall, Orange, CA; Binh Thuy 1968-69.
 - 7.10. BX Sales Manager Van and Joyce Digby; LM #59, Bay City, MI; Phan Rang 1967-68.
 - 7.11. VSPA Service Officer, Bud Owens, LM #56, North Hampton, NH; Binh Thuy 1966-67.
 - 7.12. K-9 Kennel Master, Jim Stastny, LM # 442, Gaithersburg, MD; Korat K9, 1970-71.
 - 7.13. Sergeant-at-Arms Keith Young, LM #175, Angola, NY; Binh Thuy and Phu Cat 1970-71.
 - 7.14. Safeside Liaison, Dave Pierson, LM #229; Carson City, NV; Binh Thuy 1969-70.
 - 7.15. VSPA Legal Services, Para-legal Paul Sigler, Bartlesville, OK; Cam Ranh Bay 1965-66. Unable to attend.

- 7.16. Binh Thuy Liaison, Lew Goldberg, Life Member #150, Battlefield, Missouri; Binh Thuy 1968-69. Unable to attend.
- 7.17. Cam Ranh Bay Liaison, Trent Nentrup, Hope, Indiana; Cam Ranh Bay 1968-69. Unable to attend.
- 7.18. Phu Cat Liaison, Ron Arthur, LM #107, Chilhowee, Missouri; Phu Cat 1967-68. Unable to attend.
- 7.19. Tan Son Nhut Liaison, Charles Penley, Kingsport, TN; Tan Son Nhut K-, 1967-69. Unable to attend.
- 7.20. Ubon Liaison, Jim Watson, LM #520, Covina, CA; Ubon K-9, 1968-69; Unable to attend.
- 7.21. Pleiku Liaison, Pat Dunne: LM #40; Hollywood, FL; Pleiku, 1968. Unable to attend.
- 7.22. Nakhon Phanom Liaison, George Conklin; Fort Benton, MT; Nakhon Phanom, 1970-71. Unable to attend.
- 8. Approval of the 2010 Business Meeting Minutes recorded by the Secretary Bruce Hadley.** 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 to accept the minutes by Van Digby; seconded by Ken Neal; motion carried by majority show of hands.
- 9. Reports:**
- 9.1. BX Report Introduction** by VSPA President, Phil Carroll.
- 9.1.1. BX Manager Larry Poss decided to retire in early 2011 and VSPA was very fortunate to be able to recruit the previous BX Managers (Van & Joyce Digby) to return to run the operation once again.
- 9.1.2. They are operating under a new, renewable one-year contract, spelling out in much greater detail than any earlier BX operating agreements what record-keeping and reporting requirement shall be, and how reporting will be accomplished.
- 9.1.3. The personal connections of the Digbys have already resulted in VSPA receiving our store inventory from Las Vegas to Bay City, Michigan at no cost to the Association.
- 9.1.4. The new agreement was signed on 6/15/11. The on-line BX store will be in operation as soon as possible, although customized items may not be immediately available.
- 9.2. BX Report** New BX Manager Van Digby
- 9.2.1. The Digbys have worked through the summer getting the inventory completed and have been labeling all the items so that their daughter Kim and her husband Brent who will be filling the orders can learn the products that the BX is carrying. There is a new process called “sublimation printing” which Larry and Don Poss had introduced that they will need time to become familiar with and learn how to do. They were hoping to have the BX available to the membership by approximately the 1st of November. The report is attachment #1. Motion was made to accept and seconded with the motion being carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.3. Historian’s Report:** Vice President Greg Cain presented the report from Historian Kelly Bateman, who was unable to attend. The report provided is attachment #2. The motion was made to accept and seconded, the motion carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.4. VSPA Website Report:** Webmaster Don Poss, motion was made to accept by Randy Nagy and seconded by Ray Rash; motion carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.5. Membership Report:** Second Vice President and Membership Chairman Bill Marshall: the report is attachment #3 through 3B. Motion was made to accept by Ernie Childers and seconded by Terry Sasek; motion carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.6. Scholarship Committee Report:** Vice President Greg Cain presented the report on behalf of Scholarship Committee Chairman Jim Lebowitz who was unable to attend. The motion was made to accept by Tony Morris and seconded by Jim Lassiter; motion carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.7. Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Richard Garcia presented the report, which is available to members for review as necessary. Discussion included informing members that any donations to VSPA of more than \$500 would be automatically acknowledged by a letter from the Treasurer to confirm the tax-deductible donation. Those who donate an amount of less than \$500 may request such a letter but it will not be automatic. These donations may be general or targeted to VSPA projects such as the J.J. Chestnut Memorial Scholarship fund, Old Dawgs & Pups, Feed the Dawgs or gift Life Memberships. A motion was made to accept by Howard Yates and seconded by Bruce Ross; the motion was carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.8. VSPA Service Officer’s Report:** VSPA Service Officer Bud Owens. A motion was made to accept by Keith Young and seconded by Duke Windsor; motion was carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.9. K-9 Report:** K-9 Kennel Master Jim Stastny. A motion was made to accept by Terry Sasek and seconded by Ken Neal; the motion was carried by majority voice vote.

- 9.10. “Nemo’s War Dog Heroes Memorial” and “Old Dawgs and Pups Program” Reports:** VSPA Member Bill Cummings. The Old Dawgs & Pups report is attachment #4. A motion was made to accept by Hector Ramos and seconded by Bud Owens; motion was carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.11. “Feed the Dawgs” Report:** VSPA Member Ken Neal, the report is attachment #5. A motion was made to accept and seconded; motion was carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.12. Safeside Report:** VSPA Safeside Liaison Dave Pierson. A motion was made to accept by Ken Neal and seconded by Dave Maltzan; motion was carried by majority voice vote.

10. Old Business

- 10.1. VSPA History Book:** President Emeritus Steve Gattis. The VSPA Board of Directors (BOD) voted to have an additional 200 books printed. Members need to contact Steve Gattis to place an order for one of these books. The cost will be the same as for the original printing of the books, \$54.00 plus \$6.95 for shipping.
- 10.2. VSPA Meorial Bench:** VSPA President Phil Carroll. The bench has been installed with the final cost being \$4,900.00 including a contract for perpetual maintenance. The entire cost was paid for by donations from VSPA members.
- 10.3. Reunion Site Selection for 2012:** The site for 2012 was selected by show-of-hands vote during the business meeting at the 2010 Reunion. The base that was selected was Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field in Florida. The backup site, in the event of operational changes at the primary site, will be Charleston AFB, South Carolina.
- 10.4. Reunion Site Selection for 2013:** The nominations of sixteen (16) bases were made by the membership. Through a process of votes, bases were eliminated by hand votes from the membership. The base that was selected for the 2013 Reunion is Charleston AFB, Charleston, South Carolina. The backup site, in the event of operational changes at the primary site, will be Nellis AFB, Nevada.
- 10.5. Stolen Valor Act:** In accordance with direction from the membership at the 2010 business meeting, a resolution regarding two appellate court cases involving the “Stolen Valor Act” was written by President Phil Carroll. The resolution was published in the Winter 2010 Guardmount and mailed directly to the two veterans organizations that had publicly denounced the initial rulings which indicated that the law was unconstitutional (AMVETS and VVA). VSPA Paralegal Paul Sigler also distributed it to numerous other veterans groups. Updates on the cases have periodically been posted on the BB.

11. New Business:

- 11.1. A change to the VSPA Constitution and By-Laws has been suggested to the Board, and unanimously, approved by the Board. It will require a 2/3 vote of the members present to enact. The proposal is as follows:**
- 11.1.1. To include a new position on the VSPA Board of Directors titled “Communication Director”, to be filled by VSPA Webmaster Don Poss.**
- 11.1.2. Presently, Article IX, Section 7.1 of the By-Laws states that the Webmaster is a support staff position; this change to Section 1.B eliminates that staff position and moves its duties to the new position.**
- 11.1.3. The new Board position created by this change is not an elected position, but specific to Don Poss and permanent unless changed in accordance with the VSPA Constitution and By-Laws. This change reflects the vital importance of the VSPA website to the operation and continuation of the Association; the expertise and long hours of hard work that Don Poss has donated to the Association. For many years, and the unique mix of talents, ability, skills, training and personal history that Don Poss provides to the Association.**
- 11.1.4. The duties of the webmaster have included advising the Board on Internet and communication issues, selecting and supervising a technical staff and providing on-going in-service training to the VSPA Admin staff personnel necessary to the operation of the website and membership data base. These duties as currently described in the Webmaster staff position will move to the new “Communication Director”, this Board position will sunset, and be removed from the VSPA Constitution and By-Laws without further action by the Board of Directors or further votes by the membership. At that time the webmaster position will revert to an appointed staff position under Article IX, Section 7.1 of the By-Laws and be filled in accordance with Article IX, Section 7 of the Constitution and By-Laws.**
- 11.1.5. If the Membership approves this position, VSPA President Phil Carroll will work with the Board to draft the exact changes needed in the Constitution and By-Laws.**
- 11.1.6. Motion to accept was made by Terry Sasek and seconded by Jack Smith. The vote was taken and was unanimous to accept this new position.**

11.2. Affirmation of the VSPA Board of elected officers; and for banking purposes, the authorization to sign checks for the association during the coming year. The President and Treasurer will ensure that only those persons so noted below are authorized to sign checks:

- 11.2.1. President Philip W. Carroll (authorized to sign checks)
- 11.2.2. Vice President Gregory J. Cain (authorized to sign checks)
- 11.2.3. 2nd Vice President Bill Marshall
- 11.2.4. Secretary Dennis E. Evans
- 11.2.5. Treasurer Richard Garcia (authorized to sign checks)
- 11.2.6. Historian Kelly Bateman
- 11.2.7. Communications Director Don Poss
- 11.2.8. Immediate Past President Newell Swartz
- 11.2.9. President Emeritus Steve Gattis

11.3. Affirmation of Appointed Positions: VSPA President Phil Carroll. The previously read existing appointed positions, with the exception of Don Poss, who is now a member of the Board of Directors as Communications Director per the unanimous vote of the membership noted in item 11.1.6, are hereby re-appointed for the next year.

11.4. Election for VSPA President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian will be held at the business meeting at the 2012 reunion. Members interested in running for any office should begin preparation of their required biographies, which will need to be published in the Spring 2012 issue of Guardmount.

11.5. VSPA LM #174 Bruce Ross suggested that we arrange for the playing of taps at the close of our reception dinner, business meeting and awards banquet as a tribute to those we lost in Vietnam and Thailand and those VSPA members who have stood their final Guardmount and are listed at LM 111. He also suggested that the equipment and the music maintained and be transported to each reunion by the BX Manager. Discussion and Questions: It was brought up that the moving of the items necessary to perform Taps would increase the items that the BX Manager would have to transport. BX Manager Van Digby stated that there was no problem, just another box. If all members agreed, Bruce volunteered to buy the equipment and music to make it possible. Members immediately expressed their agreement by loud applause.

12. Announcements for the Good of the Order:

- 12.1. The members were reminded that the banquet dinner begins with a no-host bar at 1800 hours, posting of colors at 1900, followed by dinner, speech, awards and raffles.
- 12.2. A Reminder was given that the Memorial Service will begin at 0900 hrs. Chaplain Jim Stastny will be available at 0800 hours for a worship service.

13. Questions or Business From Members:

- 13.1. Members addressed various issues that they or another Veteran have had with the VA and reminded all members to be aware of the problems.
- 13.2. Vice President Greg Cain discussed his personal experiences with medical issues and the VA Claims Process. He distributed VA printed benefit books and encouraged members to follow up with the VA on medical problems, especially the newly recognized Agent Orange connection with Ischemic Heart Disease. He then focused specifically on the effects of Agent Orange that have been documented to be passed on to children and grandchildren of a person who was exposed. He urged that all members be pro-active when handling Agent Orange issues.
- 13.3. No individual or group pictures will be formally taken at the reception; however photographers will be walking through the reception to take photos.

14. Announcement of events after adjournment of the Business Meeting:

- 14.1. There will be a sign-up for the next printing of the VSPA History Book.
- 14.2. Membership Chairman Bill Marshall will distribute the new VSPA Life Member ID Cards to all Life Members who are present.
- 14.3. Members who submitted photos and documents for the VSPA History Book, should meet with Steve Gattis for return of those documents.

15. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bob Sullivan and seconded by Russ Colombo. The motion was carried by majority voice vote. President Phil Carroll adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.