

## **VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION**

### **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 10, 2009 PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

1. At 09:11 hours the annual business meeting was called to order by VSPA President Newell Swartz. The President requested that non-members in attendance agree not to interrupt, ask questions or vote in any element of the meeting.
2. The President requested a moment of silence for those who did not come home and for our departed VSPA brothers listed at LM #111.
3. The invocation was given by Chaplain Jim Stastny.
4. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Hector Ramos.
5. The President announced that the VSPA SISTERHOOD convened their meeting at 0900. The theme this year is” Taking Care of You “ (so you can take care of him).
6. **INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTED POSITIONS** was done by President Newell Swartz. All officers are elected for two years. Elections will be held next year in San Antonio, Texas.

#### **ELECTED POSITIONS**

President	Newell Swartz, Life Member #262, Phoenix, Arizona (Phu Cat and Phan Rang 66 - 67)
Vice President	Hector Ramos, Life Member #165, Carteret, New Jersey (Binh Thuy 69-70)
Secretary	Bruce Hadley, Life Member #71, Forest Hills, New York (Bien Hoa 61 - 62)
Treasurer	Richard Garcia, Life Member #82, Massapequa, New York (Phan Rang 69 - 70).
Historian	Kelly Bateman, Life Member #118, Wimberly, Texas (Ubon K-9 71 - 72)
Past President	Steve Gattis, Life Member #49, Glen Rose, Texas (Cam Ranh Bay 68-69)

**APPOINTED POSITIONS - All positions appointed by the President are made with approval of the Board.**

Web Master(s)	Don Poss, Life Member #37, Hemet, California (Da Nang K-9 65 - 66) is the Web Master. He appoints and supervises the following positions: ~ K-9 Web Master, Monty Moore, Life Member #500, Livingston, Texas (Da Nang and Phu Cat K-9 68-70 ) unable to attend), ~ Bulletin Board Flight Chief, Bill Marshall Life Member #85, Dana Point, California (Phu Cat 68 – 69) unable to attend ~ QRT Flight Chief, Gary Jones, Life Member #363, Ladson, South Carolina (Da Nang, Phan Rang, Safeside Tan Son Nhut, Udorn 1965, 68-69 and 71-72), ~ Tech Support Greg Dunlap, Life Member #361, Santa Rosa, California (Da Nang K-9 68 – 69) unable to attend
Membership Chairman	Phil Carroll, Life Member #336. Gladstone, Oregon (Takhli and NKP K-9 70 -71).
Guardmount Newsletter	Larry Ernsting, Life Member #139, Clay Center, Kansas (Phan Rang-Safeside, Pleiku, Tuy Hoa, 68 - 70). Unable to attend
Chaplain	Steve Janke, Carlstadt, New Jersey (Cam Ranh Bay K-9 69 -70) Steve is unable to attend and sends his prayers for a great reunion.
Chaplain	Jim Stastny, Life Member #442, Gaithersburg, Maryland (Korat K-9 70 - 71).
Chaplain	Bill Cooley, Life Member #350, Canyon Lake, Texas (Cam Ranh Bay K-9 71-72) Bill is unable to attend and sends his prayers for a great reunion.
Chaplain	Jeff Kerkhoff, West Covina, California (Tan Son Nhut 72 - 73). Jeff is unable to attend and sends his prayers for a successful reunion.
Photographer	Tony Morris, Life Member #70, Shererville, Indiana (Cam Ranh Bay 69 - 70)
Photographer	Lou Reda, Norwalk, Ohio (Phan Rang 68-69) Unable to attend.
Photographer	Steve Hall, Orange, California (Binh Thuy 68 - 69)

BX Sales Manager	Van Digby, Life Member #59, Bay City Michigan (Phan Rang 67 - 68)
VSPA Service Officer	Bud Owens, Life Member #56, North Hampton, New Hampshire (Binh Thuy 66 - 67) Unable to attend.
K-9 Kennel Master	Bill Cummings, Life Member #173, Tucson, Arizona (U-Tapao K-9 70 - 71).
Safeside Liaison	Dave Pierson, Life Member #299, Carson City, Nevada (Binh Thuy 69-70) unable to attend
Binh Thuy Liaison	Lew Goldberg, Life Member #150, Battlefield, Missouri (Binh Thuy 68 - 69)
Cam Ranh Bay Liaison	Trent Nentrup, Hope, Indiana (Cam Ranh Bay 68 - 69) Unable to attend
Phu Cat Liaison	Ron Arthur, Life Member #107, Chilhowee, Missouri (Phu Cat 67 - 68) Unable to attend.
Tan Son Nhut Liaison	Charles Penley, Kingsport, Tennessee (Tan Son Nhut K-9 67 - 69) Unable to attend
Ubon Liaison	Jim Watson, Life Member #520, Covina, California (Ubon K-9 68 - 69) Unable to attend
Sergeant-at-Arms	Keith Young, Life Member #175, Angola, New York. (Binh Thuy and Phu Cat 70 - 71)
VSPA Legal Services	Para-legal Paul Sigler, Bartlesville, Oklahoma (Cam Ranh Bay 65-66)
Aide to the President	Don Hamilton, Life Member #301, Phoenix, Arizona (Tuy Hoa 69-70)

7. **Approval of the 2008 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 Wendell Windsor; seconded by Randy Stutler; motion carried by majority show of hands.

## 8. **REPORTS**

- 8.1 Treasurer's Report                      Treasurer Richard Garcia. Supplemental report on State of Texas and IRS Tax status by Past President Steve Gattis.

The report is attachment #1. Motion made to accept the report by Al Handy; seconded by Van Digby; motion carried by majority voice vote.

- 8.2 Historian's Report                      Historian Kelly Bateman (including Lackland AFB Security Forces Museum Memorial Wall Project).

The report is attachment #2. Motion made to accept the report by Ray Rash; seconded by Tony Morris; motion carried by majority voice vote.

- 8.3 Web Site - VSPA.com                      Web Master Don Poss (comment by Gattis re prohibition of organized political activity on the web site due to IRS restrictions against political activity by tax exempt organizations).

The report is attachment #3. Motion made to accept the report by Al Handy; seconded by Pat Dunne; motion carried by majority voice vote.

- 8.4 Membership Report                      Membership Chairman Phil Carroll

The report is attachment #4. Motion made to accept the report by Al Habercorn; seconded by Mack Griffin; motion carried by majority voice vote.

- 8.5 Guardmount Report                      By Newell Swartz for Larry Ernsting (looking for volunteer who can edit and publish). Larry Ernsting is stepping down and was not in attendance.

- 8.6 Scholarship Committee                      Committee Chairman Jim Lebowitz. Committee members are Vice President Hector Ramos, Albert Habercorn, Bud Owens and David Adams.

The report is attachment #5. This year's recipient of the J.J. Chestnut Memorial Scholarship fund for \$500 is Jeffrey Irlbeck who is working toward his Bachelor's degree. Jeffrey is the grandson of VSPA member Nugent Jackson. Motion made to accept the report by Ted Whitlock; seconded by Randy Stutler; motion carried by majority voice vote.

- 8.7 BX Sales Report                              BX Sales Manager Van Digby.

The report is attachment #6. Van and his wife Joyce have notified the Board in writing that they wish to step down as the BX Managers effective July 1, 2010 Motion made to accept the report by Tony Morris; seconded by Bruce Ross; motion carried by majority voice vote.

- 8.8 VSPA Service Officer By Newell Swartz for Bud Owens unable to attend. As a point of information, Bud emphasized that we have the CL checked in our blood.

The report is attachment #7. Motion made to accept the report by Wendell Windsor; seconded by Bill Cummings; motion carried by majority voice vote.

- 8.9 K-9 Report Bill Cummings, Kennel Master. This will be Bill's last year. Jim Stastny will replace Bill

8.9.1 Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial at Lackland Bill Cummings

9.9.2 Old Dawgs and Pups Program Bill Cummings

The report is attachment #8. Motion made to accept the report by Jim Stastny; seconded by Randy Stutler; motion carried by majority voice vote.

- 8.10 Safeside Report Gary Jones gave an update on the reunion at Moody AFB in September and status of deployed Safeside units. Safeside donated \$500 to the Hospitality Room and will continue to do so in future years.

The report is attachment #9. Motion made to accept the report by Ted Whitlock; seconded by Tony Morris; motion carried by majority voice vote.

- 8.11 VSPA Legal Services Report and explanation of services by Paul Sigler

The report is attachment #10. Motion made to accept the report by Van Digby; seconded by Al Handy; motion carried by majority voice vote.

President Newell Swartz gave an explanation of the Liaison positions and the need to increase the program to allow for one per base i.e. Lew Goldberg for Binh Thuy, Trent Nentrup for Cam Ranh Bay, etc..

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

- 9.1 VSPA History Book Update was addressed by Past President Steve Gattis

- 10.2 Reunion Site Selection for 2010 was presented by Steve Gattis and Newell Swartz

Sites are selected two years in advance so that VSPA and Security Forces Squadron planning can begin early if necessary. San Antonio, Texas and Lackland AFB with

Camp Bullis were selected in 2008 as the site for the 2010 reunion. Wright-Patterson AFB received the second highest number of votes and was voted as the secondary location in the event that base operations at Lackland AFB prohibit the 2010 reunion in San Antonio, Texas. The dates of the 2010 reunion will be October 6<sup>th</sup> thru the 10<sup>th</sup> traditionally held over the Columbus Day Weekend so that Monday is a holiday.

10.3 Selection of Reunion Site for 2011

Steve Gattis and Newell Swartz

<b>Reunion sites - Places we have been</b>	<b>REGION</b>
10.3.1 Atlanta, Georgia 1995	East
10.3.2 San Antonio, Texas 1996	Central
10.3.3 Pensacola, Florida 1997	East
10.3.4 Washington D.C. 1998	East
10.3.5 Las Vegas, Nevada 1999	West
10.3.6 San Antonio, Texas 2000	Central
10.3.7 Hampton, Virginia 2001	East
10.3.8 Dayton, Ohio 2002	Central
10.3.9 San Antonio, Texas 2003	Central
10.3.10 Tucson, Arizona 2004 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	West
10.3.11 Valdosta, Georgia 2005	East
10.3.12 Las Vegas, Nevada 2006	West
10.3.13 Washington DC 2007	East
10.3.14 Albuquerque 2008	West/Central
10.3.15 Phoenix, Arizona 2009 15 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	West
10.3.16 San Antonio, Texas 2010	Central

10.3.17 2010 Nominations/Suggestions/Presentations

- 17.1 Primary site chosen for 2011 was Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio.
- 17.2 Back up site chosen in the event of operational changes at the base was McChord AFB, Washington.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

11.1 Proposed amendments to the By-Laws were explained and voted on as follows:

- A. Regarding the elimination of the bonding requirement for the VSPA Treasurer due to the exceptionally high cost that would deplete the treasury. Explained by Newell Swartz and Richard Garcia.

Motion was made to amend the By-Laws accordingly by Ted Whitlock; seconded by Nelson Avery; motion carried by majority voice vote.

B. Regarding the addition of the elected position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Currently, an appointed position that has been filled by Don Hamilton acting as an assistant to the president, Newell Swartz. Explained by Newell Swartz and Don Hamilton as studied by Don throughout the year.

Motion made to amend the By-Laws accordingly by Derrill Dickerson; seconded by Hector Ramos; motion carried by majority voice vote.

( Both amendments could be looked at as old business under Treasurer and the Election of Officers. However, they should be handled here as they affect the Bylaws and are new for this year. Handled here, they will not be “lost” within the reports. Precedent has already been set for the President to appoint someone to fill an elected position for the remaining term).

11.2 AFFIRMATION OF THE BOARD OF ELECTED OFFICERS for banking purposes and the authorization to sign checks for the coming year. Elections will take place again in 2010.

President	Newell Swartz (authorized to sign checks)
Vice President	Hector Ramos (authorized to sign checks)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Don Hamilton (appointed for one year as a voting board member))
Secretary	Bruce Hadley
Treasurer	Richard Garcia (authorized to sign checks)
Historian	Kelly Bateman
Past President	Steve Gattis

Motion made to authorize the President, Vice President and Treasurer Individually to sign checks by Jim Willis; seconded by Ted Whitlock; motion carried by majority voice.

11.3 Appointed Positions - The following positions are appointed for the next year by the President of the Association to assist the elected officers with the management of the various functions of the VSPA.

- 4.1 Web Master - Don Poss who appoints the Assistant Web Master for K-9 (Monty Moore), the Bulletin Board Flight Leader (Bill Marshall), the QRT fight Chief (Gary Jones) and Tech Support (Greg Dunlap)
- 4.2 Membership Chairman - Phil Carroll, Assistant Janet Wise, Daughter of Life Member Al Matthews.
- 4.3 BX Sales Manager – Van Digby, Assistants Joyce and Kari Digby until 07/01/10

- 4.4 Chaplains Steve Janke (New Jersey), Jim Stastny (Maryland), Bill Wheeler (Texas) and Jeff Kerkhoff (California)
- 4.5 Photographer(s) – Tony Morris, Steve Hall and Lou Reda.
- 4.6 Guardmount Editor - Larry Ernsting ? Replacement?
- 4.7 VSPA Service Officer - Bud Owens
- 4.8 VSPA Kennel Master – Jim Stastny
- 4.9 Safeside Liaison – Dave Pierson
- 4.10 Base & Squadron Liaisons
  - Binh Thuy – Lew Goldberg
  - Cam Ranh Bay – Trent Nentrup
  - Phu Cat – Ron Arthur
  - Tan Son Nhut – Charles Penley
  - Ubon – Jim Watson
- 4.11 VSPA Legal Services provided by Paul Zigler, Para-legal

11.4 Operation Soft Landing – Resolution from the VSPA to members of the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding support for legislation that enables a 90-day Title 10 funded “Soft Landing” for military personnel on their return home from a deployment to a combat zone. The ability to propose the non-political resolution was explained by Past President Steve Gattis. The resolution was explained by Jim Willis, Director of Veteran Affairs, State of Oregon. A copy of the resolution is attached as attachment #11 with text of current bill pending before congress. The bill number is H.R. 3358 sponsored by Representative Defazio of Oregon. There is a companion bill in the Senate.

Motion made to support proposal of the non-political resolution by Derrill Dickerson; seconded by Al Handy; motion carried by majority voice vote.

## 12. ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- 12.1 There will be no Safeside following this meeting.
- 12.2 Reminder that the social hour for the banquet this evening is at 18:00 hours. Attendees should have seats selected by 18:55 hours. Presentation of colors will be at 19:00 hours. We will retired the colors and end by 23:00 hours.
- 12.4 Reminder regarding the Memorial Service on Sunday that begins at 0800 in the same room as the business meeting.
- 12.5 Art Rogers offered to pay \$250.00 for a brick with the name of the VSPA on it at the All Veterans Memorial out of Pensacola, Florida. He has asked the Board for approval to use the association’s name on it. The Board voted to authorize Art to proceed with the brick donation and VSPA will reimburse him.

- 12.6 Al Ashbaugh has suggested that the \$500.00 amount of the J.J. Chestnut Memorial Scholarship be raised. Taken under advisement by the Board to research the budget impact before any recommendation is made to the Scholarship Committee.
13. Motion made for adjournment by Al Handy; seconded by Nelson Avery; motion carried by majority voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 hours.

President's Note to Members: Since the reunion concluded, there have been several; developments concerning items brought up in the Business Meeting:

A potential new manager for the BX has been found. The BX will be operated as a business within the guidelines of our IRS limitations. Our primary focus will continue to be providing members of the VSPA with merchandise they want at the lowest possible cost. Paul Sigler, our paralegal, will write up a contract or mutual business agreement where the VSPA interests are protected and a monthly financial accounting will be in order. The same ordering system and pay pal procedures now in effect will remain. Your board is examining the proposal for further input and suggestions.

A member at the Business Meeting proposed a raise in the amount of the J.J. Chestnut Memorial Scholarship fund since \$500 does not cover much these days. I spoke to Jim Lebowitz and he would like to raise the amount to \$1,000. At the reunion just concluded, a member donated \$1,000 to the scholarship fund so the money is there for next year. Jim will explore alternate possibilities for funding the scholarship fund above the \$500 now stipulated on a permanent basis. Jim's ideas will be brought up at the next Business Meeting.

Pat Dunne "Hawk" has volunteered to take on the task of being the liaison for Pleiku.