



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter 201
San Jose, California**

April – June 2015 Articles

Chapter 201 Annual Election

The annual election of Chapter 201s officers for 2015 to 2016 was held at the Sunnyvale Moose Lodge on April 12th. CSC Central District Director Richard Segovia Installed the following newly elected Chapter Officers:

- President Nomination: David Sanders
- Vice President Nomination: Robert
- Secretary Nomination: Barbara Johnston
- Treasurer Nomination: Barbara Johnston
- 1-year Board Member Nomination: Dennis Foggie
- 3-year Board Member Nomination: Randy Richmond
{Board Member Walter Dillard moves up as 2-year Board Member}
- CSC Delegate Nominations (one - 2-year term): Robert Johnston & David Sanders



2015-2016 Elected Officers Installed April 12 By CSC Central District Director Richard Segovia. Outgoing President Bob Johnston Congratulates President Dave Sanders; Vice President Bob Kadlec; Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Johnston; Director/Chaplain Randy Richmond and Director Dennis Foggie

Appointed officers, and Chapter committee chairs will be announced during the May meeting.

CSC Central District Director Richard Segovia addressed the need for flexibility in running meetings. Richard Segovia recognized that the Chapter is trying to rebuild. He stated that every Chapter is different and that the California State Council wants Chapter-201 to exist and the Chapter should have flexibility to do whatever is needed to get it done. The Chapter must not be too ridged. If those at meetings are in agreement, whatever someone from the "outside" says has no bearing on how the Chapter does things. The Chapter needs to write its Bylaws to address what it wants to do and how it wants to do it keeping in mind that there should be flexibility.

California State Council Conference

Bob Johnston attended the 24-26 April 2015 California State Council (CSC) Conference in Fresno as the Chapter Delegate. Barbara Johnston and Bob Kadlec attended as Chapter Alternates.



The following issues were addressed and information disseminated:

- VVA National VSO, Karen Olszewski gave an informative presentation on procedures for filing VA claims.
- Veterans Benefits Fund -- \$36,000 has been donated to State programs. The Wounded Warrior Program may be admirable; however, it is hurting non-profit fundraising.
- Membership Affairs -- Need to better define the mission of the VVA: How do we help today's new veterans? Not just Vietnam Veterans. Suggestions include scholarships for veterans and their families and philanthropic support to veterans in need.
- Suggested that Chapters recommend individuals interested in becoming Life Members to hold off on applying until August 2015 when National will be running a promotion charging \$100 for Life Membership regardless of age.

- Central District Breakout Session -- Question Raised on how long Chapters must retain their records. Other than for historical purposes, apparently the IRS requires at least 5-years. Concern was raised about where Chapter, and VVA, assets go when a Chapter is shut down or abandoned. NOT RESOLVED:
- HGDP -- The Household Goods Distribution Program (HGDP) 2016 budget was discussed. Chapter 201 will be receiving \$385 per month between April 2015 and March 2016. The Chapter must be represented at all CSC meeting or loose it's funding and must "distribute" monies received for specific exempt or charitable purposes only. Reports to be submitted twice a year.
- California Region 8 & 9 Pre-Convention Conference will be held in Reno, NV on 27 June 2015. Issues include introduction of National Officer Candidates, proposed VVA Constitution amendments and proposed resolutions for the VVA 17th National convention to be held in Springfield, IL between 21 & 25 July 2015.

Memorial Day Ceremony

The Chapter participated in the United Veterans Council (UVC) Ceremony at the Oak Hill Memorial Park Veterans Section on Monday, 25 May 2015. The Chapter posted its colors and placed the Vietnam Wreath. Following the UVC ceremony, the Chapter conducted a Memorial Day Service at the Field of Honor, including a POW/MIA Service.



VVA-201 Vice President Bob Kadlec, Chaplain Randy Richmond, President Dave Sanders and Fran McVey (UVC President) During The 2015 Memorial Day Ceremony At The Oak Hill Field Of Honor In San Jose, CA (IMG_674 2015)

Chapter 201 Committee Appointments

President David Sanders issued Chapter Order #5, dated 15 June, appointing Randall Richmond as the Chapter Liaison with the VVA-201 Associates and made the following Committee Appointments under chapter Order #6:

Membership Committee Chair:	Robert Johnston, Sr.
POW/MIA Committee Chair:	Robert Johnston, Sr.
Agent Orange Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Constitution/Bylaws Chair:	Robert Kadlec
Community Services Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Government Affairs Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Employment Training and Business Opportunities (ETaBO):	Randall Richmond
Finance & Fund-Raising Committee Chair:	Randall Richmond
Public Affairs Committee Chair:	Charles Barber
Veterans benefits Committee Chair:	Michael Berliner
San Jose Veterans Center Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Veterans Incarcerated Committee Chair:	David Sanders, Sr.
Women Veterans Committee Chair:	Barbara Johnston

President David Sanders also appointed the following delegates to the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County:

Gerald Arnold
Michael Berliner

San Jose POW/MIA Flag Initiative

The Chapter 201 VVA and AVVA members participated in the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County (UVC) initiative that the POW/MIA banner be flown at San Jose City Hall 365 days a year. The hearing at the San Jose City Council meeting took place on 23 June. The minimum requested would be to include March 30 (Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day) and the 3rd Friday in September (POW/MIA Day).

