



2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines Vietnam Veterans

MINUTES 2025

The 2025 Membership Meeting of the 2/3 Vietnam Veterans Association on 18 September 2025 at the Sheraton Tucson Hotel and Suites 5151 East Grant Road, Tucson, AZ 85712

- A. Meeting called to order at the scheduled start time of 1830 by President Mick Hughes. Housekeeping. There are approximately 150 people attending this reunion of the Third Marine Division Association in conjunction with the Annual Reunion of the 2/3 Vietnam Veterans Association (VVA). 2/3 VVA has about 16 Marines attending with about 11 Associates and Guests.
All guidons are accounted for. The POW/MIA 'kit' is in possession of President Mick Hughes.
T-shirts (made in China) were sold for about \$17.50. Caps were not ordered because we couldn't order the number of caps to get a price break.
- B. Pledge to the Flag,
- C. Opening Prayer by President Mick Hughes.
- D. The Moment of Silence to remember POWs, MIAs and KIAs of all wars, especially those of USMC 2/3, was 250 seconds in length. This to also recognize the 250th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps.
- E. Roll Call of Officers. President Mick Hughes, present; Vice President Randy Shierman, absent; Secretary Eddie Krieser, absent; Treasurer Art Ferguson, absent; "E" Company Representative Dennis Fields, absent; "F" Co. Rep. "TJ" Croft, present; "G" Co. Rep. vacant position; "H" Co. Rep. vacant position; "H&S" Co. Rep Dan Rom, present; "B/1/12" Rep. George Schieder, absent; Assistant Treasurer Carl Sorensen, absent.
- F. Officers Reports. All reports negative except for the Secretary's Minutes of the last Membership Meeting in Savannah, GA in September 2024.
- G. M/S/C Secretary's Minutes of the 2024 Membership Meeting.

H. Old Business.

There is a tabled motion from Membership Meeting 2024 to increase dues from \$5 annually. It was agreed to keep the motion tabled.

The name of our Association is Second Battalion Third Marines Vietnam Veterans Association.

M/S/C. Motion by F. Gron/Seconded by T. Callahan. The last Annual Reunion of 2/3 V.V.A. will take place in 2035. The year 2035 is amendable.

I. New Business.

A discussion about who pays dues ensued.

M/S/C. M: Dan Rom/S: Fred Shepherd. Marines of 2/3 VVA MUST stay current with dues to be "MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING". If a Member Marine fails to pay his dues, he'll be moved onto the Archived List of Former Members. He will not be eligible for any 2/3 VVA Benefit while on the Archived List. A Wife or Partner of a Member in Good Standing is entitled to 2/3 VVA Benefits. Immediately after the death of a Member in Good Standing, his wife or partner can apply for Associate Membership the 2/3 VVA and will be required to pay Annual Dues. Membership Meetings exclude all but 2/3 VVA Member in Good Standing Marines.

A discussion about safekeeping the Treasury was initiated.

M/S/C. M: Frank Gron/S: Dan Rom. The 2/3 V.V.A. Treasury will be held in a bank account. The account will be in the names of the current President and current Treasurer. Steps should also be taken to name the Assistant Treasurer as an "in Trust For" Beneficiary or a "Pay Upon Death" Beneficiary. Both the President and Treasurer will have credit cards or some type of bank cards so legitimate expenses can be charged to the Treasury. Bank statements and Credit Card Statements will be filed with the 2/3 V.V.A. Secretary.

The matter of Funeral Flowers for Member Marines and Associate Members came up.

M/S/C. M: Frank Gron/S: "Doc" Andy. In the event of the death of a Member in Good Standing of 2/3 V.V.A., the President and Treasurer should be contacted immediately. The Treasurer will arrange for a Funeral Floral Arrangement. If the Arrangement will not arrive on time, a Memorial Donation of \$100 in the 2/3 Marines's name will be made to the "Semper Fi & America's Fund". A Member in Good Standing is a Member whose dues are paid in full. His wife or partner is also entitled to this benefit.

In the event that a Member in Good Standing passes away and his wife or partner continues to pay dues as an Associate Member of 2/3 V.V.A., she will also be entitled to a Funeral Floral Arrangement OR, if necessary, a \$100 donation to the "Semper Fi & America's Fund".

Members had questions about our Rotation Schedule for Annual Reunions. While Reunion Regions (originally East, Midwest and West) will change from year to year, it became very difficult to dovetail 2/3 V.V.A.'s Reunion Rotation Schedule with the Third Marine Division's Reunion Rotation Schedule.

M/S/C. M: Frank Gron/S: Lance Campbell. At least for the near future the President, after consulting with the Officers, will set the Reunion Region of the U.S.A.

The subject of "Reunion Memorabilia" (shirts, caps, etc.) came up.

M/S/C. M: Gary Layfield/S: Jim Johnson. Reunion memorabilia like shirts, caps, etc. will preferably be made in the United States of America. Memorabilia will preferably NOT be made in Vietnam. The President each year will make the decision to purchase memorabilia made offshore or in the U.S.A.

Tom Callahan volunteered to head up a Committee to investigate to lowering of air fares and hotel stays for U.S. Armed Forces Veterans.

Frank Gron announced he would bring a bottle of fine Scotch to his remaining Annual Reunions and that all would be invited to partake.

New Members stood and introduced themselves. Oscar Ramos and George Sternisha, "E". Company and Jimmy Kittelson, "H&S", 9th MAB. A rousing "Welcome Aboard" followed.

J. Nomination of Officers.

President: Frank Gron

Vice President: Mick Hughes

Treasurer: Eddie Krieser

Secretary: Eddie Krieser

Assistant Treasurer: Carl Sorensen

K. Election

A last call went out for nominations for any of the above Offices. There were none.

There being only one name for each office.

M/S/C. For each office the Secretary cast one unanimous ballot. Officers elected are:

President: Frank Gron

Vice President: Mick Hughes

Secretary/Treasurer: Eddie Krieser

Assistant Treasurer: Carl Sorensen

L. Presentations for Future Reunion Sites.

One 2/3 V.V.A. 2026 Annual Reunion site was offered. That being New Orleans, LA.

M. Vote for 2026 Reunion Site. The vote to hold the 2/3 V.V.A. 2026 Reunion in New Orleans in conjunction with the Third Marine Division Association was unanimous. The approximate dates are end of September to the beginning of October 2026. Tentatively, the Official Reunion Hotel is located in Metairie, LA. Any tours to NOLA will be via Motor Coach with escorts from Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. or their representatives.

N. Close of Meeting. TMDA was looking at Virginia Beach, VA for Reunion 2027. At the behest of 2/3 V.V.A., they will also look at Portland, ME.

The President and Treasurer will look at "off sets" for Members and Associates attending the 2026 V.V.A. Annual Reunion. A start might be paying each Member's and Associate's dues of \$35 to TMDA. Members were reminded that TMDA waived any dues for 2/3 VVA Members in Good Standing attending Tucson 2025. This "off set" might be just one of any number of "off-sets".

M/S/C. M: Frank Gron/S: Dan Rom. Meeting Adjourned by President Mick Hughes at 1930.

MINUTES BY 2/3 V.V.A. ACTING SECRETARY MARINE THOMAS "TJ" CROFT.