



February 9, 2007

Subject: Meeting Minutes for Proposed VFW Post (Chiang Mai, Thailand)

Attendees: Leonard Cozzo  
Ken Chapman  
George Olson  
Mike Spain  
Mike Holmes  
Bob Johnson  
Larry Fraser

Absent: Phil Williams  
William "Gador" Arnold  
Herb Brown

Meeting Start Time: 13:30 Hrs

**Item:** Discussion regarding current Status and action items

**Item:** As a result of the discussion it was concluded that the following action items would be initiated to gain interest of potential VFW members with an understanding that additional ideas could / would be tabled at subsequent meetings.

Ken Chapman will produce "business cards" for the group to hand out to potential members or people who have a desire to learn more about the VFW. The cards will be available at the next meeting.

**Status: Closed (Ken passed out business cards to the attendees and Mike Holmes has additional cards as may be required in the future. Note that George Olson's email id should be KALASIN2007 @ yahoo.com)**

Ken Chapman has access to a local expat radio broadcast and will attempt to assist in getting Mike Holmes to be "interviewed" in order to help get the word out.

**Status: Pending (Mike Holmes is in contact with the local radio station and will schedule an interview upon return from the US scheduled for April)**

Mike Holmes will contact Larry Peak (Special Forces Organization) and ask Larry for input as to how he has gone about getting qualified people interested in joining his organization as well as ask Larry to inform his Comrades who live in the Chiang Mai area about the VFW effort.

**Status: Closed (Call to Larry Peak complete. Three items of interest are):**

1. SF has a "Safe House" that can be used by members which provides a sense of belonging.

2. Meeting follow SF guidelines, however the meetings are casual in nature which enhances communication.
3. As SF is a close organization, recruitment tends not to be difficult.

Mike Holmes to send the VFW information sheet currently being used to Jim Oden Region V Commander for distribution to those that may be able to assist in getting the word to Chiang Mai Area Veterans and VFW members who may be currently looking for a Post in Chiang Mai.

**Status: Closed (document sent)**

**Item:** Charter –

Mike Holmes explained the necessity to have a Charter before a Chiang Mai Post could be recognized and the basic requirements for a Charter Application. It was unanimously agreed that all attendees would continue to participate in future meetings even without a Charter.

An open discussion ensued with the following question:

If an existing annual membership expires, can that person renew for an annual membership and meet the requirements of the Charter ? Action Mike Holmes

**Status. Closed (See District Commander Explanation below):**

“Membership dues are actually on an annual basis, January to December each year. If a continuous member in good standing, meaning paid up through December 2006, does not renew his membership before December 31st, 2007, they become delinquent and when they pay, become a re-instated member.”

**Lifetime Membership Costs:**

Through age 30	\$425
Age 31 – 40	\$410
Age 41 – 50	\$375
Age 51 - 60	\$335
Age 61 - 70	\$290
Age 71 – 80	\$225
Age 81 & over	\$170

**Annual Membership**

The amount will be determined just prior to Charter submission.  
 For PY 2007 each Post has to pay to VFW National \$17 per annual member. Our Annual amount will be determined by the Membership. Operating costs will be provided in advance.  
 To give examples Bangkok Membership is \$35 a year while Pattaya is \$25

**Charter Explanation – Until we in Chiang Mai have an approved Charter we cannot accept formal VFW Transferees, nor can we officially call ourselves Chiang Mai VFW. The people who apply for new Memberships will not receive a VFW card, magazine etc. until we are Chartered, nor will they have to pay for their membership as there is no Post Number until the Charter is submitted. Consistent with our discussion in the first meeting we have all agreed (except those who have not attended a meeting) that we will continue meeting in the interest of Comradeship until we do receive a Charter.**

Status of Membership:

Leonard Cozzo (application submitted with DD214)

Mike Spain (application submitted pending DD214)

Larry Fraser (application submitted pending DD214)

Gerald Raithel (application submitted with DD214)

Phil Williams (pending application / final decision)

William “Gador” Arnold (pending application / final decision)

Herb Brown (pending application / final decision)

**Item:** Meetings are held on the Second Thursday of the month beginning at 13:00 hrs.. The location will be the Bali Restaurant located in Muban Home in Park 1.4 kilometers south of the Chiang Mai – Samoeng Road, along Klong Road. This will be in effect until further notice.

**Status: Ongoing**

**Comments:**

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize those that have filed applications. Their trust and confidence is appreciated.

Note: That Gerald Raithel has applied in Bangkok to be a Member of the Post in Chiang Mai knowing that we are in our infancy – welcome Gerald

Also note: Larry Fraser has applied to be a member. Larry spends 3 to 4 months a year in Thailand and also has faith and confidence in our efforts and will no doubt attend our meetings during his trips to Thailand – welcome Larry

If one considers that we have only been “in business” for a little less than a month our progress is Outstanding. We are at 16% of our goal of 25 Charter Members as of this document.

Once we receive our Charter we can then officially transfer existing VFW Members to the Chiang Mai Post. As of this writing I have commitments from 6 existing VFW Members who will transfer Posts.

**A GREAT START !!!**

In the event that I have made an error in recording the minutes, please let me know and I will make the necessary change,

I will not attend the March meeting as I will be in the US for some surgery. This means that there may not be a reminder so mark your calendars. Your attendance is appreciated.

**NEXT MEETING – MARCH 8, 2007 13:00 HRS.**

For the group:

Michael E. Holmes  
(original signed by)

