



## **MILITARY-VETERANS ADVOCACY, INC. ®**

### November 12, 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

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Meeting called to order by Chairman of the Board, John Wells at 1:07pm CT

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#### **In Attendance**

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John Wells, Tom Walden, Mike Yates, Mike Kvintus, Rob Maness, Brian Lewis, Joanna Patterson, George Coolbaugh, John Dudas, Jackie Bloom, Allan Davis, Robin Barr, Rich Elliott, Steve Ramirez, Susie Belanger, Gary Keeler, Donna Stratford

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#### **Chairman notes**

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-We had a good year, not great, but hoping to blossom this year.

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#### **Membership**

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-Membership – cutting price in half for some lifetime memberships until EOY. 1,888 total of all members, but not everyone is up to date on dues. We need to be at 2K members to be recognized as a Veterans organization.

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#### **Fundraising and Treasurer's Report**

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Cash on hand \$195,116.12, Undeposited funds \$0.

- We need \$300K for next year.

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#### **Volunteer Hours**

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We are at 8K hours. We file a 990 with the IRS each year.

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#### **Congressional Victories**

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We will be pushing our agenda to the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, with our trip up to D.C. in December.

We lost the Guam case.

The Thailand case still has no decision.

Still in litigation are Panama and Okinawa.

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#### **Board Elections**

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16 vacancies, 16 applicants:

Motion to accept nominations by Mike K, Seconded by Brian Lewis. Passed.

Mike K would like to have someone who has been in SE Asia be the Director of SE Asia.

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## **Dead Reckoning**

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Mike Yates has written a program; If a ship is within 5 mile outside of territorial seas, look which direction they are going. Plot that to see where it's going up to a day and a half. Of we can prove, he will do a validation letter and give to the VA. We will charge lawyers or VSO for this program, but not members.

John: VA is saying 12 nautical miles from shore. This is wrong. Illinois just filed a suit to see the records (ship locator). Maybe we should file an intervention.

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## **Submarineer**

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Rich: Submarineers – 12 mile limit is very important. Deck logs showed subs entering territorial seas. We need Ops logs – which are classified. No One know who has them. Next USSVI convention will be in Tucson. How will we be introduced.

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## **PACT Act**

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John explains PACT Act effects and where we are going with it next year.

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## **Trips to D.C. 2023**

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May, June, July, September, November

Donna wants to limit people on these trips to save money.

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## **Additional information**

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Susie has done a lot of research on Dioxine. Sent reports to Rich about how Dioxines went out farther than 12 nautical miles.

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## **Adjournment**

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A motion to adjourn was made by Mike K, seconded by Brian L. Passed

Adjournment 1:55pm CT