AVAC Minutes
February 12, 2020

1. Call to Order  Will Hart called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance  Will Hart lead the Council in the Pledge

3. Moment of Silence

4. Roll Call  6 members (a quorum) were present. Those in attendance were SA, BC, JC, RF, WH, KL and CN (AOC Liaison). Chuck Nelson introduced the newest member of AVAC, Ken Lesiak.


6. Acceptance of previous Minutes  The Council voted to accept the January, 2020 minutes. Randy Fisher made the motion, seconded by Sandra Alvarez.

7. Public Comment  There was no public comment given at this meeting.

8. Treasurer’s Report
   a. Cash Fund  $0.00
   b. AVAC General Fund  $4,791.74
   c. Service Dogs Fund  $82,088.65
   d. Memorial Brick Fund and Scholarship Fund  $5,504.14
   e. Veteran Assistance Fund  $682.77
9. Committee Report Out

a. Scholarship Fund and Memorial Bricks Fund  COA has given AVAC $5,000 for the scholarships. Randy Fisher will check with the Community Foundation about what is needed from AVAC for the awarding of the scholarships. A suggestion was made to make veterans eligible for the scholarships and that will be discussed at a future AVAC meeting.

b. AVAC Web / Social Media  No report

c. Service Dogs  No report on the service dogs. A different program involving Vets working with puppies was discussed. Members will learn more about it for the next meeting. Chuck believes there is a bill in Congress regarding establishing a program involving Vets and puppies.

d. Owned Businesses/Discount List & Placards  No report

10. COA Liaison Report Out Chuck Nelson  Additional members are being interviewed with the goal being to fill all 15 member positions of AVAC. Four additional members are needed. Chuck thanked all the AVAC members who were able to attend the service for Army Specialist Miguel Angel Villalon in January. Adding his name to the Memorial Monument in Phillips Park in the Sunken Memorial Garden and giving his family a brick was discussed. The City of Aurora might be available to help AVAC with graphic designs for publications when needed. Chuck is talking with COA about increasing their financial support of AVAC.

11. Upcoming Events  (Memorial Day Weekend)  The three major events of Memorial Day weekend were discussed. Randy Fisher will work on submitting the parade application for AVAC. The second event is the brick dedication on Sunday. The deadline for purchasing bricks is in April. A program for the event needs to be determined. Scholarship recipients will be invited as well as families purchasing bricks. The third event is the car show. It is a major fundraiser for AVAC. Discussion included the possibility of combining our show and the American Legion’s show. Will Hart will talk with Joe Toma to learn all the necessary steps to put on a successful show. Will and Chuck Nelson will talk with the American Legion.

12. New Business

a. Renaming Scholarship Fund  The Council discussed the possibility of renaming the AVAC Scholarship program. The Council will continue this discussion at a future meeting.

b. Fundraisers for AVAC  Several members brought up suggestions for Fundraisers and that discussion will continue. Currently the 50/50 raffle at the car show is the primary fundraiser.

c. Future Events  Will Hart would like to come up with more programs and projects for AVAC. He feels that our current programs and projects are centered around
Memorial Day Weekend. He believes that spreading out with new programs and projects will benefit more veterans.

13. Announcements  The Fox Valley Marines will be having an event on March 15th at 1 p.m. Details will be given at the AVAC meeting on the 11th of March.

American Legion Post #84 will be holding an open house at their new location a 1 East Benton Street (Old Library) third floor. The event will be held on February 28th at 4 p.m.

14. Good of the Order  There was discussion about a touring wall honoring those who died during the Mideast Conflicts. More information will be gathered.

15. Next meeting is March 11th, 2020

16. Adjournment  The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.