

VVA#23, Meeting Minutes, September 8th, 2026,

Call to Order: Quorum Met . 29 Members present

Officers : Pres: George Mutlos, 1st VP Richard Bongiorno, Sec: Patrick Lewis, Tres: Andrew Zawoyski .

Motion to approve Minutes of August 11th, 2026 : Approved 29/0

Presidents Report : (1) It is with sad heart that we lost a member of this Chapter, Alan Cohen. He suffered for a long time with cancer until it reached his brain. He was well known and liked by many people. He was the VSO for American Legion Post # 321, Cooper City.

(2) Richard Bongiorno, Louis Cohen and his wife Ellen and I attended his funeral at the VA Cemetery in Lake Worth on August 26th. George DeAngelo, Commander of Post # 321 and Norman Sinowitz, a member of Post #321 attended the ceremony. They are members of our Chapter also.

**(3) To register for the 12th Annual Veterans Day Salute Breakfast (free to Veterans) but you have to RSVP at :
<http://ymcasouyhflorida.org/veterans-day-salute/>**

(4) President briefed the members present about what is going on with National and the future of the VVA and AVVA.

**George Mutlos
President, VVA#23**

Committee Reports

(1) Richard Bongiorno - Spoke about ROTC program and the need for volunteers. Also the claims process when applying for benefits

(2) Louis Cohen : Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) The Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) cases for the close of August, 2026 are shared in part now. I give the youngest and oldest birth years as also the number of male and female veterans who are in court for their charges. Some cases are ongoing since 2023, 2024, 2025, . 2026. These are Felony cases. Felony cases have stayed in the VTC court system for some time with the veteran charged.

The cases I now mention are with 50 charges with 40 veterans. There are 39 males and 1 female charged. Some charges are multiple with one veteran. The youngest veteran was born in 2002 and the oldest was born in 1954. Different charges are: Armed Trafficking in Cocaine, Delivery of Cocaine, Possession of Fentanyl, Uttering Forged Bills, Grand Theft in 3rd Degree, Battery on Law Enforcement Officer, Introduce Contraband in Jail, Installation of a Tracking Device, Battery on a Person Over 65.

I observe many drug charges among the felony cases. I wonder why there are so many drug cases?

(3) Ken Kolakowski (Chapter Golf Event Committee) Event will be held next year on April 17th, 2027.

Also asked that we donate \$500 to the Elks Club, to help sponsor their event, which Chapter approved of.

(4) A Special Thank You to Raquel Ballinger for her donation of \$300 to the Chapter, from her sale of Vietnam Veteran Corded Bracelets.

New Business : None

**For The Good of The Order: Next Meeting October 13th, 2026 at 6PM - Adjourn 7:00 PM
Patrick Lewis, Secretary..**