

REVISED BOD Minutes: Board of Directors meeting 10AM, March 31, 2021.

Present: Shipmates Pres Lee Vatter, VP Tom Wickes, Sec Pat Winston, Treas David Johnson, Bill Bay, & John Stanton from the “Garage Grill”.

Items that were discussed:

1. President Lee Vatter has only 18 FRAlic’s Raffle Tickets remaining for sale (500p each). 1st prize p30k, 2nd prize p20k.
2. Bill Bay mentioned that the Submarine Birthday Party has been put on hold. Travel Restrictions are increasing daily.
3. The FRAlic’s Golf Tournament has also been postponed until further notice.
4. US Embassy Manila Virtual Town Hall Meeting regarding Travel is April 14th. **https://ph.usembassy.gov/virtual-town-hall-meeting-for-u-s-citizens-with%E2%80%AFthe-philippine-bureau-of-immigration%E2%80%AF/**
5. Encourage your eligible friends to sign up with our FRA Branch 367.
6. VP Tom Wickes requires a replacement. Please step up.
7. April LAFRA Triangle Newsletter will be placed on the bulletin Board on 7 April.
8. For VA compensation assistance: Please review the comments from emails below for additional clarity. I sincerely apologize for any misinterpretation. (PW)
9. FRA RNW President stated that the FRA is A-Political Organization and will get into politics of how the Navy is run. **Extremism Stand Downs Focus on Oath, Not Data Collection.** <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2555883/extremism-stand-downs-focus-on-oath-not-data-collection/>
10. FRA Br 367 Night Security: VP Tom Wickes will look into estimates for improved door and window security in case the night watchman will have an unexpected absence.
11. Treasurer David stated that all FRA monthly bills are up to date. John from the Garage is also up on monthly obligations.
12. East Dirita Elementary School Rain/Shade areas are in bad shape. This will be discussed at the GMM on 7 April.
13. Next GMM is 07 April at 10AM. The next BOD 28 April at 10AM.

The group discussion ended approximately 1034 AM.

Submitted: Approved:

//S// //S//

Patrick Winston William “Lee” Vatter

Secretary President

Branch 367 Branch 367

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | **Barry Larson** | | Attachments7:34 AM, 2 April 2021 |  | https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif  https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif |
| |  | | --- | | Pat, Lee, Tom  https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif | | | |

Shipmate,

Good morning....In reference to number 8 of the BOD minutes, please correct this, as I am not a VSO and never associate me with having been one or will be one.  John Dibble is the VFW Dept VSO located in VFW Post 2485 Angeles City and is currently stuck in Guam.  His estimated return is unknown at this time.  American Legion Post 4 in Olongapo has an accredited VSO by the last name of Slayton, I believe.  Please contact Chris Schrauben or Bill Adams to find out on how to contact the VSO there.

Also, this is copied and pasted from the website you provided: **https://militarybenefits.info/veterans-service-organizations-assistance/#:~:text=A%20VA%2Daccredited%2Ffederally%20chartered,all%20(and%20no%20cost).**

“I understand that if I choose a VSO, any one of their VA-accredited representatives can help me with my claim. I also understand that, by law, VSOs and VSO representatives cannot charge a fee for representing me in my claims for benefits. VSOs and VSO representatives can operate at the national, regional, state, or local level.”

A VA-accredited/federally chartered VSO cannot charge you a fee for helping you claim your benefits. Federal regulations aside, this is also likely due in part to the fact that an applicant can simply claim those benefits without any assistance at all (and no cost).

However, there are VSO-like services that DO cost money, but these are normally associated with claims agent and/or lawyer services (as mentioned above) which are not the same thing as a simple application for benefits. Representation in that sense does cost money, and goes above and beyond the application process. Such “for pay” services are not created or regulated by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

From: **jack walker** <[dirraosubic@gmail.com](mailto:dirraosubic@gmail.com)>  
Date: Wed, Mar 31, 2021 at 2:26 PM  
Subject: URGENT VA CLAIM INFO  
To:

WHO is your VSO? Are you aware of who can charge you for help in filing a claim and how much? See the links below.

After the recent desertification of 2 VSO’s here in the Philippines, I endeavored to come up with a list of Active VSO’s here. I thought that would be a daunting task, but turns out it was very easy. There is currently one (1) accredited VSO in the Philippines. There are 3 I am aware who are either ongoing qualification, 1 of which is only awaiting VA OCG accreditation. They cannot at this time legally assist you.

The only one who is accredited is John Dibble who is sanctioned by VFW. John normally operates out of Angeles city and is the only one on the VAOGC list. His contact info is office- 045 321 0084, cell- 09392865314. Email- [dsodpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:dsodpa@vfwpacific.org). Unfortunately John is stuck in Guam at the moment but can still assist telephonically.

Please see the links to answer the questions posted above, again they will tell you who can legally assist you and or charge you and the requirements to do so. It is illegal for anyone other than those listed to assist you and requires a written agreement for them to charge you.

Please avoid unscrupulous persons who say they can guarantee you a rating or large increase. Nobody can guarantee anything involving claims. Often times they will submit questionable claims which put you in jeopardy of being severely fined, spend time in jail, or have everything you received taken back. In any event that is a bad deal. Be informed and do it right, if you have a valid claim.

[https://www.va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim/](https://www.va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim/?fbclid=IwAR1tIxy7LLwOelkzPsJ3l--gUfoSXhX1sXAdmmuCzjtc02myAApR4uvirn8)

[https://www.va.gov/OGC/docs/Accred/HowtoChallengeaFee.pdf](https://www.va.gov/OGC/docs/Accred/HowtoChallengeaFee.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0YQXS02Wymth8lRo052YBuJwGGWuACSN9HbTNjFwhkRKiLdiLLEWTjrZg)

here are the pertinent paragraphs covering charges for service; Under 38 U.S.C. § 5902(b)(1)(A), no individual shall be recognized as a VSO representative “unless the individual has certified to the Secretary that no fee or compensation of any nature will be charged any individual for services rendered in connection with any claim.” VA regulations contain a similar restriction. See 38 C.F.R. § 14.628(d)(2)(i) (requirements for VSO recognition include, in relevant part, “[a] statement that neither the organization nor its accredited representatives will charge or accept a fee or gratuity for service to a claimant”).

**Jack Walker**