



Northeast South Dakota Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1054

General Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 01-16-2020 (January)

Minutes taken by: Mary Modica

Meeting called to order by: Phil Braeger at 7:00 pm at Elks Club, Watertown SD

Prayer and pledge were conducted.

Officers present were:

Officers	Office	Present	Excused
Jack Kempster	President		x
Phil Braeger	VP	x	
Darrell Berning	2 nd VP	x	
Don Zafft	Chaplain	x	
Bob Frink	Treasurer	x	
Doug/Mary Modica	Secretary/Deputy Secretary	x	

43 members were present

Phil Braeger asked Bob Syring to come forward and receive a special plaque and thanks from Chapter 1054 as recognition of his excellent and continuous efforts and devotion as a member of the club, including his leadership in many areas.

Sherry Janssen was recognized as our newest retiree from employment. Congratulations to her!

Phil reminded everyone about the Vietnam Veterans Hope and Healing Retreat at Abbey of the Hills February 8-9, as well as the Vietnam Era Veterans Reunion at the Dakota Sioux Casino March 27-29. Details of deadlines and activities can be found on our website, in the "News" section.

Secretary minutes of the November 21, 2019 meeting were read and approved.

The Budget Committee consisting of Phil, Bob Frink and Bob Syring has developed a 2020 budget, which was approved by the Board of Directors for presentation to the general membership. Estimated 2020 income is \$55,800 and estimated 2020 budget spending is \$54,188, leaving an estimated 2020 surplus of \$1,612. A motion was made to approve as presented. Passed.



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Bob Syring described Red Wilk's plan for honoring Vietnam Veterans during the State Fair this summer. Our secretary will send out a document of the qualifications and an application form. To be considered for these wonderful awards, applicants must reside in South Dakota and be a member of Chapter 1054, but they do not need to have had boots on the ground. Applicants will be required to write a short synopsis of their military background and experience, as well as provide general personal information and a DD-214. Documents are to be submitted to the Chapter 1054 Board of Directors by the March 2020 meeting. Eight applications will be drawn, plus four more will be drawn as alternates for this honor. All chapter members who reside in South Dakota are urged to apply.

Phil reported that the main topics emphasized with South Dakota Legislators this year include waiving tuition for young returning veterans, and beginning a discussion of building a veterans' home East River.

Old business:

Kay Solberg thanked all for their holiday parade assistance. The Watertown Downtown Business Association will be donating \$800 to Chapter 1054 as a thank you.

Bob Frink gave the treasurer's report for November-January. One item of note is that we gave \$11,000 in Christmas grocery gift cards to veterans in need in our geographic area. We also gave \$1000 to the Watertown Salvation Army.

Greetings cards were passed around for Rich Felberg, who was injured recently.

Phil announced that a policy book for officers and board members will be created so our leaders will be better prepared to respond to various questions and requests.

A nomination committee for a slate of officers and board members for upcoming election was established, consisting of Jerry Denman (chair), Herb Carstens, Bob Frink and Bob Syring. The membership agreed that in addition to other candidates identified by the committee, these committee members themselves could also be listed as candidates for officer and board positions this year, if they are willing to be nominated.

Phil announced that chairpersons for several committees are needed, including Parties/Events and State Fair. Randy Holiday will continue leading on Elk Hunt and Denny Solberg will continue to lead with the Membership tasks.



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Don Pasch requested a donation to the Special Olympics upcoming Polar Plunge fundraiser. A hat was passed and raised approximately \$250. A motion was made for the club to also give \$200 to sponsor his participation. Passed.

Sickness and Distress notes: Rich Felberg injured. Rich Wellnitz in nursing home, Milbank. Doug Ulven in hospice in Watertown. Jerry Williams in hospice in Jenkins. Paul Knock passed away.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Modica, Deputy Secretary