



Northeast South Dakota Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1054

General Meeting Minutes May 21, 2020

Meeting Date: May 21, 2020 at 7 p.m. at the Elks Club, Watertown SD

Minutes taken by: Mary Modica

Meeting called to order by: Phil Braeger

Prayer and pledge conducted.

Officers present:

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

In light of the current corona virus pandemic, social distancing was practiced by spreading out the seating and having masks available.

Phil brought the meeting to order and introduced Todd Rose, the new VSO for Codington County. His office is in the City Auditorium building, with office hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone is (605) 882-6289.

Minutes of the February 20, 2020 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report was shared by Bob Syring for Treasurer Bob Frink. Approved.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Account Balances | |
| TOTAL Bank Accounts | \$ 97,535.01 |
| Credit Card Accounts | \$ 4,981.07 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | \$ 92,553.94 |

Jerry Denman reported for the Honor Guard that 3 funerals are coming up. Also, per Floyd Hermans, the Milbank Honor Guard has assisted at 4 funerals recently. Chaplain Don Zafft shared about several sickness visits he was able to make recently.

Randy Holiday gave an Elk Hunt raffle update. He wants to sell 250 more tickets at \$20 each.

Bob Syring reported on grant opportunities. An SBA loan was submitted and we were granted \$1000.00.

Dean Halajian thanked those who helped place flags at area cemeteries. The volunteer turnout in Watertown was very good.

Bob Syring reviewed our salute to health care workers at Prairie Lakes Hospital in April. Also, nearly 800 masks were made by Willow Lake voluntary seamstresses, for dispersal to veterans. Materials were donated by Alliance Family Farms, LLC. This story will be told in the VVA Veteran national magazine, in the July/August issue.

Phil announced that Robodial service has been set up by Bob Frink. Signed permission forms need to be handed in. Forms were distributed to all present. Forms were also made available by email and as an insertion in the recent VVA 1054 Newsletter.

Phil explained that although we have been unable to conduct chapter meetings in March and April because of the pandemic, the chapter leadership has not been inactive. Several meetings of officers and/or the Board have been conducted by Zoom during the last two months.

Jerry Denham reported that one of our big fundraising opportunities, the summer Ride 'n Drive by Watertown Ford has been cancelled because of the pandemic. If it happens later this fall, Chapter 1054 will be able to manage it.

Kay Solberg announced that Flag Day is Sunday, June 14. On Saturday, June 13, we will pass out flags to the public at Hy-Vee, Walmart, County Fair, and Runnings. Please sign up for 2-hour shifts.

Phil turned the meeting over to Nominations Chairperson Jerry Denman to conduct the annual election of officers and board of directors for VVA 1054. Biographies of candidates were available in hard copy as well as displayed by PowerPoint. Each candidate was also able to briefly introduce themselves. Officers were voted on one-by-one, and the opportunity was given to nominate anyone additional from the floor. But there were none; in each case a motion was made to cast a unanimous ballot.

Officers for 2020-21 are:

President – Jerry Denman

First Vice President – Denny Brenden

Jr. Vice President – Gordy West

Treasurer – Bob Frink

Secretary – Doug (Mary) Modica

Chaplain – Don Zafft

Candidates who were on the ballot for Board of Director positions included: Dennis Anderson, Darrell (Scooter) Boyle, Phil Braeger, Craig Burd, Herb Carstens, Floyd Hermans, Randy Holiday, Greg Overby. Their willingness to step up in leadership was much appreciated.

The ballots were distributed with three vacancies to be filled. These were elected: Scooter Boyle, Randy Holiday, and Greg Overby. Also, Phil Braeger will automatically serve on the BOD for one year in the role of acting past president.

Thus, the ten members of the new Board of Directors will be: Darrell (Scooter) Boyle, Phil Braeger, Glen Folk, Dean Halajian, Jim Hanson, Randy Holiday, Greg Overby, Jim Strom, Bob Syring, and Ed Timm.

Board of Director meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month, at 4:30 p.m. at the Elks Club in Watertown.

Newly elected President Jerry Denman gave a tribute to Phil in appreciation of his service to the chapter.

50/50 was conducted. 51 were present tonight.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Modica
Deputy Secretary