VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1054
P.O. Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201
vets@nesdvva.org nesdvva.org

General Membership Meeting
Aug 18, 2022

General Membership Meeting Minutes: August 18th, 2022
Meeting called to order by President Denman @ 1902
Minutes taken by Secretary Earl F. Cass
Treasurer Bob Frink Opened the Meeting with Prayer
Flag Salute & Pledge of Allegiance led by President Denman
Officers Roll Call was taken

Officers		Present	Excused
President	Jerry Denman	X	
SR Vice President	Bob Syring	X	
JR Vice President	Gordy West	X	
Treasurer	Bob Frink	X	
Secretary	Earl F. Cass	X	
Chaplain	Troy Foster	E	

- Guests and Visitors – Sandy Peterson from Therapy Dogs and Don Broskoff from Chapter 1110 in Minnesota are here and will address the group on separate issues.

- Meeting Minutes – Secretary Earl F. Cass read the minutes of the last meeting which were then approved by the members.

- Treasurer's Report – Bob Frink gave the financial report. Our net worth was $112,296.72. Detailed slides were also presented. Report approved.

- If you are having trouble with our ROBO calls being identified as spam there is a fix. Add the two numbers we use to your phone as legitimate callers and the issue will go away. The numbers are 605-956-8820 and 605-438-8697.

Special Announcement – President Denman;

- President Denman and Greg Overby attended the Clark Potato Days celebration.

SPEAKERS

- Sandy Peterson gave a presentation concerning her efforts to secure a service dog for a veteran in need. She has 27 years of experience in this work and she works with numerous groups to secure funding when a dog is needed. She is asking for $1 or $2 dollars from each member of Chapter 1054 to aid in securing a dog. While we support her work, we asked her to submit a Donation Request Form to us for consideration.

- Don Broskoff from Chapter 1110 in Oronoco MN gave a presentation concerning The Fabulous Armadillos rock band. President Denman was able to attend one of their shows and thought they were very good. We are considering bringing them to our area for a show. The cost is around $11,000 for a 2 day deal. Don also had pictures and bookmarks to hand out.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Communication – Phil Braeger; There has been no replies back from all the letters sent out to the schools. There are three groups set up to cover the area and each one will do three counties plus a little overlap. A meeting of all the school superintendents is set for Sept 7th and we will attempt to get on their agenda and make our pitch to them. Letters have been sent to all the County VSO's reminding them to send us a count of the veterans that could use our help this Xmas.

- No new information concerning our offer of helping the Veteran's groups at Joy Ranch. President Denman is in contact with the other veteran groups but nothing firm has been set up.

- Honor Guard – Milbank had 2 and one half funerals with the half being our presence in uniform at a funeral. Watertown VVA had no funerals but did participate in a Color Guard for the James Haider Bridge dedication in Watertown.

- Finance – The committee will be having a planning meeting in October or November to discuss where the Chapter will be in 2-5 years from now with respect to fundraising and supporting the veterans. Long range planning. In a side note, Bob Syring reported the problem with our request for a grant from Trans Canada was resolved and we will be receiving the full amount of $4700.

- Elk Hunt – Randy Holiday; 2023 Elk Hunt planning is underway.

OLD BUSINESS;

- The DAV has purchased the Veterans' building on the State Fair grounds. They offered us an 8 foot booth on September 1st for display and participation.

- On August 31st there will be a ceremony called the Bull Bash where Veterans are honored for their service. Some of our members have been invited to participate as honorees. Our chapter will be taking the bus to Huron for those wishing to attend. There is no cost except for attending the Bash as the fair will not have started. Bus will leave from Perkins at 1645.

- President Denman thanked all those that attended the James Haider Bridge dedication.

NEW BUSINESS

- Volunteers are being requested to staff our booth from 0900 until 1700 on September 1st in the DAV building at the State Fair.

- There is an Honor Flight to Washington DC and two of our members are fortunate enough to attend. Tom Lewno and Bill Cunningham.

- Bob Syring has had no luck contacting the group Warriors Never Give Up.

SICKNESS / DISTRESS and GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Troy Foster is recovering well but is scheduled for additional surgery on September 6th.

- Dean Halajian is out of the hospital and recovering from his surgery however he is feeling lousy and still a bit grumpy.

  - 50/50 Drawing
    40 members/ ticket 613 for $80 and $60 given back.

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion was made, and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Ending Prayer and Flag Salute were conducted, meeting ended at 1947.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Secretary Earl F. Cass