



Northeast South Dakota Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1054

General Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2019

Meeting Date: 5/16/19 Minutes taken by: Mary Modica

Meeting called to order by: Phil Braeger

Prayer and pledge conducted.

Welcomed distinguished guests and visitors. __none_____

Roll call of officers was taken. Officers present were:

Officers	Office	Present	Excused
Jack Kempter	President	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Phil Braeger	VP	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Darrell Berning	2 nd VP	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don Zafft	Chaplain	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bob Frink	Treasurer	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Modica	Secretary	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

62 members present

Phil read several cards, including thanks from Caleb Geyen of the Air Force Detachment, who received our \$50 Sponsorship for Excellence award. Phil noted that the Brookings newspaper erred in reporting our name, and in future they will use the wording VVA 1054 instead of VVA.

Secretary's report from the April general meeting was read and a correction given that only 1,000 flags were purchased (not 2,000). The report was approved as corrected.

The treasurer's report was read and approved:

Account Balances as of May 6, 2019	
Checking	\$ 3,537.17
Savings	\$ 101,790.94
Credit Card	\$ -338.36
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS	\$ 104,989.75

Phil noted that the current balance is actually higher than the report shows, because registration monies for the D.C. trip have just now been deposited, which would roughly add \$500 from each of 40 travelers.



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The Color Guard reported serving for Isaac Walton League and two funerals. One was a 1054 member, Dennis Lund of Castlewood.

Ray Feist brought a request from Relay for Life for an Honor Guard on June 14. There is also a request in Eureka for June 15.

Randy Holliday reported all Elk Hunt tickets are sold for the June event. Total dollars taken in will be \$30,080.00.

June 15, the Ford Test Drive fundraiser pays us \$20 per driver. Let's bring some people!

Darrell Berning reminded us that we are selling coins. About half of the 2000 coins are still available at \$3.00 each.

A question was raised regarding shirts still at the merchandise table and how to close them out. We will wait till the June meeting to see if any move.

Earl Cass, representing the Finance Committee, is continuing to develop our credit card policy. On another matter, he presented a Christmas benevolent gift policy which the Board has approved as guidelines for conduct of that distribution as well as outlining a timetable for the project. The document will be available on the website.

If you no longer want a newsletter to come to you in the mail, you can get it electronically and save us postage. Please give Earl a valid email address to facilitate this.

The Nation of Patriots ceremony will be on May 28, 7:00 pm at the memorial site. Motorcycles leave the Harley dealership at 6:30. All are welcome to ride and to attend.

Bob Syring reported there is no update at present regarding the Pipeline Grant. Regarding the Warriors Never Give Up fishing trip on Jun 17, there were 19 who showed interest. Eight spots will be filled, with six first timers and two lucky returnees.

All who can help with cemetery flags for the graves of veterans are to meet at 2 pm May 23 at Mount Hope Cemetery to work. Lori Halajian has flags you may take if you are able to work on other area cemeteries. Since the Public Opinion article stated that people can pick up a free flag from Kay Solberg at Classroom Connections, we may need more. We also have 6,000 smaller flags for Flag Day in stock, and Lori stated 2,000 more will be ordered.

The Pigeon Club fundraising project to benefit the D.C. veterans' trip can bring in as much as \$2,300.00 if all pigeon numbers are sold at \$20 each. The first five pigeons returning will count for prize dollars and the remainder will be donated to VVA 1054.



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Our summer picnic was discussed. It will likely be held at the Elks, Saturday August 24 (date and time to be confirmed next month). Ray Feist volunteered to take the lead on planning.

Six lap robe quilts are still available. Those not taken tonight will likely go to nursing homes.

The Canadian Wall is coming here November 11, over the weekend of Veteran's Day. Gordy West asked that anyone interested in a bike trip to Winnipeg late in June to ride up and meet with that group should talk with him.

Phil asked Earl to chair a new team to design an ongoing scholarship awards program for us. He appointed Randy Holliday, Jerry Canfield, Bob Frink, plus any other volunteers or members chosen by Earl to serve, and to report back to the Board in August or September if possible.

Phil reviewed some significant issues facing VVA National, which will be key topics for voting at the National Convention in Spokane July 15-20 this year. One is to dissolve the VVA Corporation in 2028. We have 10 votes, and Phil would like 10 delegates to attend. A subsidy covering hotel room and mileage can come from our treasury.

Greg Overby reported that two Clark veterans could be assisted by us due to health issues. Randy also brought one name. A motion was made and passed to give \$250 to each family. They are Richard Paulson, Dennis Dunbar and Jerry Williams.

Ray asked for more volunteer drivers to transport vets to Sioux Falls, using the D.A.V. van. The deplorable delay in the approving drivers was discussed. Phil indicated he is going to investigate.

Jim Hanson reported that Jack Kempter came home to Waubay today. He still needs considerable medical attention but is cheerful and doing quite well.

Jim gave recognition to the Honor Guard for outstanding service. He named the following to be applauded: Earl Cass, Jim Strom, Gary Keucker, Clayton Ellingson, Gordy West, Ray Feist, Scooter Boyle, Steve Annett, Jerry Denman, Darwin Clyde, Rodney Stormo, Darrell Berning, Bob Syring, Dennis Anderson, Neal Larson, Greg Dubois, Carter Kneeland, Connie Miller, Don Pasch, Faye Arnett, Dean Halajian, Gene Schmiege, and Jim Hanson. Thank you, Honor Guard!

Sickness and distress names: Glenn Folk's wife, Mike Barker, Rich Felberg, Michael Meyer.

50/50 awarded \$121 tonight. The winner gave back \$60 to go to the Wall costs.

Meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Mary Modica