



Vietnam Veterans of America of Northeast South Dakota

(Vietnam and Vietnam Era Veterans)

Chapter 1054

605-956-8820

PO Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

Meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of each month:
7 pm at the Elk's Lodge, 300 West Kemp St., Watertown, SD

Email: nesdvva@yahoo.com Website: www.NESDVVA.org January-February 2023



President's Remarks,

Winter is definitely here and making sure we all know it too. We hope you are all staying warm and not shoveling too much.

We are sorry to say we had to cancel our Christmas party this year. The

Brookings Gun Show, an event in Milbank, deiving at night during the winter, the weather and a few other things led us to believe it was not a good time to have a party. We are looking at doing a celebration this spring so watch for details on what's coming.

With that said, we are going to have a booth at the Brookings Gun show the weekend of Jan 15th, and if you would like to help out selling our Elk Hunt Raffle tickets and just inviting Veterans to join our Chapter, contact Randy Holiday at 605-881-1601 or Phil Braeger at 605-881-6782.

In April it will be time for election of board members and officers. Darrell Boyle is chairing this year's committee so if you have an interest to help out our Chapter let Darrell know 605-881-5569.

We'd like to thank all of you that helped out with security at the Watertown Holiday Lighted Parade, handing out candy canes and also ringing of the Bells for the Salvation Army, all in the same week-end. We appreciate you giving of your time to help with these events.

The Honor Guard has had several funerals in our communities. Right now Dennis Solberg and Darrell Boyle are in charge of the Watertown funerals. Floyd Hermans is handling Milbank area and Stephen Annette the surrounding areas. This is a mission that is very important for our Chapter and we thank all of you that help the families out during this time.

Well all of us snow birds want to let you know it's nice and warm down here but we are thinking of you. We look forward to spring when we are back in Watertown. Here's to a great 2023!

Jerry Denman
President of Chapter 1054



VVA Christmas Party

has been
POSTPONED
until in March.
Watch for details

The **January meeting** scheduled for the 19th has also been **Canceled**. The Board of Directors will meet at 7 pm on Zoom. Contact Bob Frink if you would like to be included.

VVA Board of Directors:

President: Jerry Denman Wtn, 605-880-3630
Vice President: Bob Syring, Willow Lake 605-625-5010
Second Vice Pres: Gordie West, Wtn 237-8083
Secretary: Earl Cass, 605-237-4419
Treasurer: Bob Frink, Milbank 706-217-5950
Board Members:
Darrell Boyle, Wtn 605-881-5569
Jim Strom, Clear Lake 253-677-0821
Randy Holiday, Hayti 605-881-1601
Sherry Janssen, Wtn 605-237-3236
Jim Hanson, Wtn 605-880-5029
Herb Carstens, Wtn 605-520-9798
Dennis Solberg, Wtn 605-880-4225
Floyd Hermans, Milbank 605-880-2711
Greg Overby, Clark, 605-532-5218
Phil Braeger, Wtn (Past Pres.) 605-881-6782
Troy Foster, Peever, Chaplain 605-268-4673

Brookings Gun Show!

We are having a booth
at this year's
on January 14th and 15th.
If you could help us out call
Randy Holiday at 605-881-1601
or Phil Braeger at 605-881-6782

Please support the following businesses that
are supporting us.

Puthoff Insurance Agency

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Address Changes.....

If you have recently moved could you please drop us a note with your
new address...either to k_solberg@yahoo.com or VVA Newsletter
PO Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201



Notes from Todd Rose

(Veterans Service Officer
for Codington County)

As of December 1, 2022 the VA Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2023 is 8.7%. This is the highest COLA increase seen in the last 40 years. Your VA compensation or pension disbursement at the end of the month will reflect the increase. COLA adjustments takes place every December, with that in mind, a quick reminder that VA benefits are non-taxable. If you are receiving retirement pay from your military service that is still taxable.

Another quick reminder that if you are 40% service connected, you are eligible for a reduced hunting and fishing license from the SD Game, Fish and Parks. Remember the annual fishing license expires on 31Jan23.

Lastly, I would like to introduce Jay Roberts our new Deputy Veterans Service Officer.



He will start full time in January 2023. He just retired from active duty with the South Dakota Army National Guard. He has over over 30 years of service, with two deployments to Iraq and Kuwait. Jay and his family have been residents of Watertown for for the last 20 years. He brings a vast knowledge of current day veteran's issues along with an excellent understanding on a

variety of topics and concerns for veterans, retirees, dependents and currently serving service members.

Codington County Veteran Service Office is located at 125 S Broadway (old City Auditorium), Watertown. We are in the office Monday-Friday, 0800-1700. Walk ins are welcomed and appointments are greatly appreciated. Our phone number is 605-882-6289.

**Army beat Navy in overtime
this year's football game.....
in December.....next year is
coming!**

License Plates Decals

In 2023 new non profit license plates will be issued. We have those decals available for \$1. They are available for purchase at The Classroom Connection. Frames are also available for \$10.

We also have a special decals for your back windows for FREE for the first one and \$2 for any additional ones.

Need a gift for a birthday or Valentine's Day?



These earrings along with hat pins, necklaces, lapel pins are available to be purchased for \$10 each. They can be purchased at the Classroom Connection or at a meeting in the future.... This is VVA merchandise and all proceeds go to VVA.

School Visits--Big Success!

Trans Canada gave Chapter1054 another grant this past year, which we used to make a video about the Vietnam War and what was actually happening. With this video, our chapter contacted several of the area schools and made presentations to 10 schools. Those included Brookings, Watertown (2), Milbank, Willow Lake, Hamlin, White, Clark, Wilmot, and Henry.

Thanks to Bob Syring for helping to obtain the grant from Trans Canada and to all those that took part in the presentation. Along with the video, members from each branch of the military shared stories of things that happened to them while in the service. Thanks to all members who shared their stories, we received great feed back from the students and school administrators. Hopefully, we will be able to attend a few of the other surrounding schools or present this to groups that might need a speaker. The video was also part of the Veteran's Day Program this past November.

A big Thank you to Trans Canada for helping us fund this project by helping us to share the story of the Vietnam War with those not living it. Many who heard this presentation are fifty years younger than our VVA 1054 members!



Special Meeting in February

The Board of Directors invite you to a special meeting in February on Saturday the 16th.



The Board of Directors will meet at 10 am on this day. Followed by the General Membership meeting on February 16th. At noon we will be holding a **FREE** lunch for all Veterans, AVVA members and spouses.

This is a special Thank you to all the members for all you do throughout the year. Several of you have expressed a desire to maybe hold some of our members on a Saturday so let us know if this is something you would like the Board to consider in the future. Hope to see several of you here that day.

Chapter 1054 Bell Rings for the Salvation Army

Every year our Chapter takes a day and bell rings for the Salvation Army, this year we were the bell ringers on Sat Nov 26 at HyVee from 8 am until 5 pm. Thanks to those of you who helped raise money for the Salvation Army.



Al Taken, Dale Fonken, Bob Syring and Paul Ramse took the first two shifts.



Gordie West and Darrell Boyle.



Harley Gulbraa and Doug Modica



Don Pasch and Carol Braley



Along with ringing of the bell for the Salvation Army, Chapter 1054 donated a check for \$1000 to be used to help Veterans in need that come to them for help.

Pictured here is President Jerry Denman, Shannon, representing the Salvation Army and Phil Braeger, Communications Chair of the Chapter.

Chapter 1054 Helps Needy Veterans at Christmas

Our Chapter this Christmas season helped several Veterans with grocery cards totally \$16,300 helping over 112 Veterans in the area. With the help of the county Veterans Service Officers, Veterans were identified and cards were distributed on behalf of our Chapter to help them through holiday season.

Our Chapter raises monies throughout the year, with a big chunk of dollars coming from the sale of our raffle tickets on the Elk Hunt. The winners are usually drawn in the spring of the year. Other fundraisers include Flag Day, Honor Guard, Holiday Lighted Parade, special donations from groups and individuals, Christmas party auction and misc activities that we do throughout the year.

Veterans from Codington, Day, Grant, Deuel, Hamlin, Clark, and Roberts were the recipients of the gift cards this year.

Thanks to all who helped us raise funds to be able to help those in need.

Area Veterans Service Officers

Brookings- Courtney Steffen, 520 3rd St Ste 210
Brookings, 605-696-8260

Clark County--Darin Lewis: 200 Commerical ST
Clark, 605-532-5436

Codington County-Todd Rose 125 S Broadway
Watertown, 605-882-6289

Day County -Jeff Nelson, 711 W 1st,Suite 103A
Webster 605-345-9512

Deuel County- Dennis Evenson 415 3rd Ave S
Clear Lake 605-874-2111

Grant County-Scott Malimanek 210 E 5th Ave
Milbank 605-432-7506

Hamlin County David Schaefer 300 4th St
Hayti 605-783-7831

Kingsbury Co Gary Schumacher 103 Joliet Ave
DeSmet 605-854-3378

Marshall David Daberkow 909 S Main ST
Britton, 605-448-5190

Roberts Co Christopher Hicks 411 2nd Ave E
Sisseton 605-698-7376

Sisseton/Wahpeton Oyate Geri Opsal
Agency Village 605-698-3388



**Message from
Dr. John Sneden,
MD FACP
Primary Care**

Watertown CBOC VA Clinic

VA's environmental health toxic registries provide focused evaluations for veterans who were exposed to certain environmental hazards during military service.

- * Free medical assessment for possible health problems
- * Veterans do not need to be eligible or enrolled in the VA
- * Separate from filing a claim for disability benefits.

To schedule a toxic exposure assessment, please contact the nearest environmental health coordinator. www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/coordinators.asp for more information call 1-800-MYVA411, option 8 for more information about toxic exposures or health registries visit

www.publichealth.va.gov/gov.exposures for information about filing a claim for disability benefits.va.gov/benefits or call 1-800-827-1000

Membership

If you know a Vietnam Veteran; that is not a current member of our Chapter, sign them up.

We can help veterans with information, and personal contacts, with questions or problems they are encountering but don't know or aren't sure where to start.

We also offer friendships that we all have in common for what we shared in some way over 50 years ago.

Along with our new web site we have a new email change....

nesdvva@yahoo.com

Each issue of the newsletter is downloaded to our website
nesdvva.org for a copy in full color.



Electric Wheel Chairs available for members!

We have two electric wheel chairs
If you are a Veteran or your
spouse is in need of an electric
wheel chair,

Contact: Bob Syring 605-625-5010
or Phil Braeger 605-881-6782

January 2023

- 1 Happy New Year
- 2 American Legion Aux
- 3 Codington Co Vets Council
- 5 Vets Council Radio Show
- 7 Milbank DAV
- 9 American Legion Riders
DAV
- 11 VFW Auxiliary
Milbank VFW
- 12 American Legion
- 14 & 15 Brookings Gun Show
- 16 Marine Corp Aux
Sons of the American Legion
- 17 Milbank American Legion
Marine Corp League
- 18 VFW
- 21 **7:00 VVA Chapter Board Meeting**
General Meeting for VVA Canceled

February 2023

- 2. Ground Hog Day
- 6. American Legion Aux
- 7 Codington Co Vet's Council
- 8 VFW Aux
Milbank VFW
- 9 Veteran's Radio Show
Wtn American Legion
- 13 American Legion Riders
DAV
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day
- 15 VFW
- 18 **Board of Director's 10 am**
General VVA Mtg 11 AM
Free Lunch for VVA & AVVA & Spouses
- 20. Marine Corp Aux
Sons of the American Legion
- 21 Milbank American Legion
Marine Corp League



VVA Chapter 1054 Leads Holiday Lighted Parade



Greg Dubois, Darrell Boyle, Don Posch and Darwin Clyde was the color guard for the 2022 Holiday Lighted Parade in Uptown Watertown.

Our chapter, as a fund raiser, serves also as security and we pass out candy canes to all the children that line the parade route.

Thanks to the following for helping out that night in one role or another. We apologize if we missed anyone that was part of this event. Gordie West, driver of the Grand Marshal, Dennis Solberg, drove the VVA bus, Connie Miller, Al Taken, Kenny Tarbox, Eugene Schmig, Bill Cunningham, Harley Gulbraa, Paul Ramse, Lori Halajian, Lynley Haljian, Carol Braley and Jay Trepanier. If we missed anyone we are sincerely sorry but are thankful of your time of helping us.

Thanks so much for giving your time to this family event that draws hundreds in town for the kick off of our Christmas season. (Watertown Business Association which is the businesses uptown)

Monthly Meeting Locations (alphabetical order)

American Legion-American Legion in Watertown
Codington County Veterans Council VFW Wtn
DAV American Legion in Watertown
Marine Corp League VFW in Watertown
Milbank American Legion American Legion in Milbank
Milbank DAV the American Legion Hall in Milbank
Milbank VFW VFW in Milbank
VFW VFW in Watertown
VVA Chapter 1054 Board of Directors 4:30 pm at Elk's
VVA 1054 Reg Mtg 7 pm Elk's Lodge
300 W Kemp 7 pm, 3rd Thursday of the Month

VVA Election of Board Members and Officers

April is the month we elect 3 new board members and all new Officers. Thank you to Greg Overby, Clark; Darrell Boyle, Wtn and Randy Holiday, Hayti. Each of these members can run for another term along with any others wishing to serve as a 3 year term board member. All the officers are up for re-election as they are 1 year terms. President, Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are the Officers that are up for election.

Darrell Boyle, serves as Chair person for the Election committee 605-881-5569.
Darwin Clyde 605-532-5376 and Floyd Hermans 605-880-2711

Application for Membership Chapter 1054

Name _____ Male _____ Female _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ work/cell phone _____

Branch of Service _____ Email _____

Type of Membership (Please check one)

_____ \$50 (Lifetime Membership) _____ AVVA Membership is \$175 for those under 60 years of age. AVVA Membership is \$100 for those over 60 years

Must submit copy of Drivers license.

Method _____ check _____ Money Order
_____ Credit Card _____ Mastercard _____ Visa _____ Discover

Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Pin # on back _____

Signature _____

Eligibility: Membership is open to US Armed Forces Veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between Nov. 1, 1955 and May 7, 1975 or any duty location between Aug. 5, 1964 & May 7, 1975. You must submit a copy of your DD-214 with this membership. VVA is a non-profit, Veterans service organization. Programs and services are funded by member dues and public donations. Please send application to Dennis Solberg, 1323 Grandview Dr, Watertown, SD 57201

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Jim Dugan Co-Owner