



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1054

P.O. Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

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## General Membership Meeting Mar 25, 2023,

**General Membership Meeting Minutes: March 25th, 2023**

**Meeting called to order by President Denman @ 1103**

**Minutes taken by Secretary Earl F. Cass**

**Chaplain Foster Opened the Meeting with Prayer**

**Flag Salute & Pledge of Allegiance led by President Denman**

**Officers Roll Call was taken**

Officers		Aug 18	Sept 15	Oct 20	Feb 18	Feb 18
Pres	Jerry Denman	1	1	1	1	1
SR VP	Bob Syring	1	1	1	1	1
Jr VP	Gordy West	1	1	1	1	1
Treasurer	Bob Frink	E	1	1	1	1
Secretary	Earl F. Cass	E	1*	E	*	*
Chaplain	Troy Foster	E	1	E	E	1



Key 1 = present, 0 = absent, E = excused, \* attended via zoom

- Meeting Minutes – Secretary Cass read the minutes of the last meeting which were then approved by the membership.
- Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Bob Frink gave the financial report. Our net worth was \$102,498.90. Less detailed slides were also presented with an opportunity to ask questions.
- Election reminder – we will be electing 3 Board members and we currently have 5 individuals saying they will run. We will be electing all the officers and we have 2 candidates for President and 1 candidate each for Sr. and Jr. Vice-President. Bob Frink is going to run for Treasurer.



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- After the last meeting Don Pasch asked for a \$200 donation towards his efforts with the Special Olympics. We granted his wish as well as the membership passing the hat.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Communication – A presentation of our video was made at the Milbank Library and it was very well received. We had 7 members present for the discussion portion and 45 attendees. We have the final draft of the labels we plan to use for shipping of the videos. We had a window sticker made for our chapter and they are available now. Each member gets one with additional ones available for \$1. National Convention – they are having difficulties with the facility reservation made prior to COVID and things are a little unsettled as to when and where it will be held not to mention the details such as booths for sale of merchandise. Sympathy cards will now be sent to the funeral home in charge of all the arrangements. We have been getting some cards sent back as undeliverable. A reminder, all requests for our participation in funerals MUST go through the respective funeral home. Dr. Likness reports he is close to cancelling his required insurances for being a Doctor but will keep them if we are thinking of going to Washington DC again.
- Membership report – Denny Solberg; 491 VVA and 78 AVVA. We lost two members this month so we will be down to 489.
- Honor Guard. We did one funeral in Watertown and one in Milbank with another one planned for this afternoon. Plans are to participate in a program on the 29th.
- Elk Hunt – turn in all books as soon as possible and we only have 22 books outstanding.



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- Finance Committee-Bob Syring, 2022 taxes are being finalized and will be mailed off this week.
  - Election reminder – we will be electing 3 Board members and we currently have 5 individuals saying they will run. We will be electing all the officers and we have 2 candidates for President and 1 candidate each for Sr. and Jr. Vice-President. Bob Frink is going to run for Treasurer.

### OLD BUSINESS; And Other Announcements;

- The recently approved PACT Act has significant benefits for Veterans and all of our membership needs to be aware of this. We will continue with our broadcast of this information. Many claims which were denied in the past are being reviewed and approved with this new law.
- Memorial Day is fast approaching and we have received the needed flags. We ended up ordering 700 large ones with an additional 8000 small ones. We plan to ask the VFW and American Legion for their share of the cost. When we get closer expect a ROBO call for participants.
- The mash-bash proposed by Williquors has now been officially cancelled due to complications with liquor licenses.
- Scholarships – We now have the names of the recipients except for the School of Mines and Lake Area.

#### Air Force ROTC:

1.VVA Excellence Scholarship (\$750) = Cadet Jens Enga

2.VVA Leadership Scholarship (\$375) = Cadet Nathan Lawrence



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Army ROTC:

- 1.Caulfield Army ROTC Scholarship = Cadet Zander Wysong
2. Vietnam Veterans Scholarship = Cadet Alexis Scheiske

## NEW BUSINESS

- We continue to need suggestions for our grant request to Trans Canada. There is talk of a time capsule cairn to be built in Watertown with all the Veteran organizations participating. Todd Rose is spearheading the effort and getting some pricing. **or** We could purchase additional AEDs for placement in all of our 9 counties we represent.
- Don Pasch participated in the Polar Plunge with all proceeds going to Special Olympics. Don ended up raising \$1400 this year and also jumped in the lake twice. Don thanked the chapter for all the support.
- March 29<sup>th</sup> is again the Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Day. We will have a short program on the courthouse lawn at 1730 with Colors and Rifle Squad. President Denman will officiate. This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the last combat troops leaving the war zone.
  - There was discussion of purchasing a banner to give to each school where we show our video, no decision made.
  - A motion was made and seconded to give \$500 to the student that designed the address label for our video packaging.
- We received an in-person thank you from the Milbank American Legion for our donation towards their ballpark project.



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## SICKNESS / DISTRESS and GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Gordy's sister passed away last week.

## ADJOURNMENT

50/50 Drawing won by ticket #2367 and was worth \$97 with \$50 coming back. Winner was Steve Wicks.

- A motion was made, and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Ending Prayer and Flag Salute were conducted, meeting ended at 1155.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Secretary Earl F. Cass

