



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1054

P.O. Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

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General Membership Meeting Apr 20, 2023,

General Membership Meeting Minutes: April 20th, 2023

Meeting called to order by President Denman @ 1900

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		Sept 15	Oct 20	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 20
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	1	1	1	1	1
Secretary	Earl F. Cass	1*	E	*	*	*
Chaplain	Troy Foster	1	E	E	1	1



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

- Red Wilk and his daughter are here tonight and wish to address the group. For those who don't know who Red is, he is a construction company owner and a Vietnam Veteran wishing to give back to the veterans. He has been doing this for the past 20 years and this year he wants to honor 6 members of our chapter during the Bull Bash just prior to the State Fair. Those members will be Don Zaft, Bob Frink, Darrell Berning, Jim Hanson, Jerry Denman and Ed Timm. Red has 4 rings left over and gave them to the chapter to disperse as we see fit. Two members of our chapter had their paperwork requesting consideration for recognition lost will receive a ring; they are Gordy West and xxxx. Also two more members present tonight who have purchased 50/50 tickets will be chosen randomly will receive a ring.



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- Meeting Minutes – Secretary Cass read the minutes of the last meeting which were then approved by the membership.
 - Election reminder – we will be electing 3 BPD members tonight and we currently have 6 individuals saying they will run. We will be electing all the officers and we have 1 candidate for President and 1 candidate each for Sr. and Jr. Vice-President. Bob Frink is going to run for Treasurer.
 - Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Bob Frink gave the financial report. Our net worth was \$113,505.45. Less detailed slides were also presented with an opportunity to ask questions. A motion was made, seconded and approved to allow Bob to add funds to our current CD bringing the current value to \$60,000 or to purchase an additional CD in the amount of \$10,000 whichever is most advantageous to the chapter.
 - Outgoing President Denman thanks all of the members for their support and work performed during the last three years. He also emphasized the need to continue being involved in the Chapter work and not leave all the work to a few people.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee-Bob Syring, an issue came up where we filed our 2021 taxes manually and should have filed electronically. A fine was levied due to the IRS not recognizing our tax report had been filed but at this point after a few phone calls it appears the issue has been resolved.
- Membership report – Denny Solberg; 489 VVA and 78 AVVA.



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- Communication – No committee meeting was held and no new information to report. Some members of the committee were in Hot Springs this week to meet with VA officials and Rep. Johnson about issues in Grant County. Also we may have sold 2 copies of our video while there.
 - Elk Hunt – all books have been turned in and accounted for. The drawing will be held at a later date.
 - Honor Guard. We did one funeral in Watertown and also participated in the Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony in Watertown and a St. Patrick's Day Parade in Henry. No funerals in Milbank.

OLD BUSINESS; And Other Announcements;

- 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. We could purchase additional AEDs for placement in all of our 9 counties we represent. The cost is around \$2700 apiece so we could do 2 more somewhere. Or we could participate in the Veterans cairn planned for Watertown. It was determined we would purchase banners for each of the schools where we presented our video on an as wanted basis.
- 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. Todd Rose is planning to attend one of our next meetings to provide additional information about this new law.
- The board approved the box we will use to ship our video.



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- Milbank is hoping to start using their new ball diamond at the end of April or beginning of May.

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.
- President Denman asked about the designation of the Red, White and Blue named individuals in our newsletter. There were a few members that spoke up and it is believed the designation is for those members that were instrumental in the startup of our chapter but it's currently not definite. Additional research will be made and perhaps the designation will be expanded or modified to reflect current times.
- A discussion ensued concerning the Trans Canada grant as time is running out. A motion was made and seconded to purchase three additional motorized wheelchairs and two battery packs for our AEDs. Motion passed and now the grant can be applied for.

ELECTIONS

- Elections were held for the needed three new board members. The nominees were: Jerry Caulfield, Phil Braeger, Brian DeBoer, Randy Holiday, Ken Tarbox and Jay Trepanier. Successful candidates were Jerry, Phil, and Brian.



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- Next up were all the officer positions. All positions received only one nomination and were not contested by further nominations from the floor however; a nomination of Bob Syring was made for president but was respectfully declined. Successful candidates were as follows; President – Gordy West, Senior Vice President – Bob Syring, Junior Vice President – Darrell Boyle, Treasurer – Bob Frink and Secretary – Earl F. Cass.
 - Congratulations to all of the new BOD members and Officers.
 - President Denman then noted, a new Membership Chairman will be needed as well as a New Master at Arms. At the next meeting incoming President West will need to reconstitute all of the standing committees and name the chairs of each.

SICKNESS / DISTRESS and GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Randy Seiler a Life member from Ft. Pierre passed away unexpectedly.
- Galen Bauman a Life member from Watertown passed away.
- Floyd Hermans had an unexpected flood situation occur at his home and it was determined that we would pass the hat for donations towards his losses. \$379 was raised as a result. Also a motion was made seconded and passed to provide Floyd with \$2500 from the Chapter towards his losses.
- Todd Rose and the Girl Scouts donated 48 boxes of cookies to our chapter to give away tonight at the general meeting.



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ADJOURNMENT

- 50/50 Drawing won by ticket #2818 and was worth \$100. Two additional tickets were drawn to determine the winners of the remaining Red Wilk rings. Ticket # 2723 possessed by Tim Jurgens and #2830 possessed by Earl F. Cass were the winners.
- Red Wilk donated \$100 to the chapter.
- A motion was made, and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Ending Prayer and Flag Salute were conducted, meeting ended at 2035.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Secretary Earl F. Cass

