



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1054

P.O. Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

nedsvva@yahoo.com

nesdvva.or



General Membership Meeting May 18, 2023,

General Membership Meeting Minutes: May 18th, 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		Oct 20	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 20	May 18
Pres	Jerry Denman/Gordy West	1	1	1	1	1
SR VP	Bob Syring	1	1	1	1	1
Jr VP	Gordy West/Darrel Boyle	1	1	1	1	1
Treasurer	Bob Frink	1	1	1	1	1
Secretary	Earl F. Cass	E	*	*	*	1
Chaplain	Troy Foster	E	E	1	1	1



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

- The first order of business was to swear in the new board members and officers elected at last month's meeting. Outgoing President Jerry Denman performed the swearing in and the new officers assumed their duties.
- 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 \$113,451.87. Less detailed slides were also presented with an opportunity to ask questions. This amount does



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not reflect a \$6000 donation from Tracy Lambert on behalf of his father.

- The CD was purchased valued at \$51,000.00 and the excess was mailed to the Chapter.
 - A \$10,000 CD was purchased separately as there is no interest penalty involved.
 - Our new website needs an addition of three separate plug-ins in order to function as we want. The cost is \$414. A motion was made, seconded and approved at the BOD meeting to acquire the required plug-ins.
- Flags will be placed at St. Mary's cemetery on the 25th starting at 1000. Flags will be placed at Mount Hope Cemetery starting at 1200 with the VFW and Legion participating. Help is needed at both locations. Expect a ROBO call to remind all of you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee-Bob Syring, the issue with our taxes being filed late has been nearly resolved.
 - Our grant to Trans Canada was submitted for the purchase of three additional motorized wheelchairs and a set of batteries (maybe 2) for one of our AEDs. We will be in contact with the dairy farm in Milbank and inquire about their grant program.
 - The committee is looking for ideas on how to phase out the chapter once we are down to the last man standing. Contact Bob Syring if you have ideas.
- Membership report – Denny Solberg; 492 VVA and 78 AVVA.



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- Communication – We will be showing our video in Clear Lake on the 23rd.
 - Elk Hunt –The drawing will be held during our June meeting.
 - Honor Guard. We did no funerals in Watertown. One funeral in Milbank and another is scheduled for this week on Tuesday. Floyd Hermans took this opportunity to thank the chapter for our support after his unfortunate flooding.

OLD BUSINESS; And Other Announcements;

- President Denman asked those present about the designation of the Red, White and Blue identified individuals in our newsletter. There were a few members that spoke up and it was confirmed the designation is for those members that were instrumental in the startup of our chapter and were key in the purchase of supplies and equipment in order to have a functional chapter. A new group will discuss the possibility of expanding or modifying the criteria to reflect current times.
- 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.
- Discussion is ongoing concerning our attendance at the National Convention on August 6th. We have \$5000 budgeted and can send up to 10 delegates. Costs are yet to be determined.



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NEW BUSINESS

- The American Legion is looking for volunteers to place the wreaths during Memorial Day services. They are seeking 1 member from each branch of service. Please step up for this function.
- On June 14th, Flag Day we will have our bus going to Brookings to staff the three locations, Lowes, Walmart and HyVee. Volunteers are needed. We have three already but need another dozen. Kay has a sign-up sheet. On June 10th we will hand out flags at the Watertown and Milbank locations. Step up and volunteer in this important activity and fund raiser.
- There will be a South Dakota Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication in honor of HM2 Charles T. Langenfeld. The ceremony will take place at the Redlin Art Center in Watertown at 2:00 pm (CT) on July 1st.
- Our summer picnic is set for August 26th at the Elks. Jim Hanson, Jerry Denman and Herb Carstens will be organizing it. Additional volunteers are needed. More details will be provided at the June meeting.
- 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

- Red Wilk suffered a minor stroke and is also fighting kidney infection but word is he is on the mend. He was to be a speaker at Willow Lake on Memorial Day.



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- A teacher in the Sisseton high school had her Junior Class English III students study the Vietnam War for 1 month and subsequently all the members of her class (32 students) wrote thank you notes to our chapter. In reading some of the notes it became apparent prior to this instruction the students had very little knowledge of the war and their notes were truly heartfelt.

ADJOURNMENT

- 50/50 Drawing won by green ticket #005 and was worth \$85. \$50 came back to the chapter.
- A motion was made, and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Ending Prayer and Flag Salute were conducted, meeting ended at 2005.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Secretary Earl F. Cass