



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1054

P.O. Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

nedsvva@yahoo.com

nesdvva.org



General Membership Meeting July 20th, 2023,

General Membership Meeting Minutes: July 20th, 2023

Meeting called to order by President West @ 1903

Minutes taken by Secretary Earl F. Cass

Chaplain Foster Opened the Meeting with Prayer

Flag Salute & Pledge of Allegiance led by President West

Officers Roll Call was taken

Officers		Mar 18	Apr 20	May 18	Jun 15	Jul 20
Pres	Gordy West	1	1	1	1	1
SR VP	Bob Syring	1	1	1	E	1
Jr VP	Darrel Boyle	1	1	1	1	1
Treasurer	Bob Frink	1	1	1	1	1
Secretary	Earl F. Cass	*	*	*	1	*
Chaplain	Troy Foster	E	1	1	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 \$121,044.17. Less detailed slides were also presented with an opportunity to ask questions. Bob also reported the Community Transit is planning to haul the VVA Convention attendees to the Sioux Falls Airport and back at no charge, including luggage.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President West stated the plaque commemorating a \$6000 donation from Tracy Lambert on behalf of his father was presented to Tracy and he indicated sincere appreciation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee-Bob Syring, noted our tax issue has been resolved. We still need suggestions to decide how to settle our financial accounts when the last man is standing and what we want to do and how it should be done.
- Membership report – Denny reported we have 492 VVA and 71 AVVA.
- Communication – Phil Braeger reported he was elected Chair of the SD Vets Council. August 9th is the deadline to apply for a 1 year retroactive Pact Act benefit. A discussion ensued about transportation concerning veteran's access to care. The Watertown CBOC will receive a bus and a designated driver soon. It is very important for you to apply for the hypertension benefit even if you receive a "zero" compensation for it. If you pass due to this disease your family will be compensated.
- The fundraiser to establish a DAV bus in Milbank is proceeding very well. There will soon be three ways for a veteran to be transported to SF for medical care.
- The VA is still looking at putting a Veterans home in the eastern part of the state. Veterans with 70% or greater will be able to live in this home with some exceptions depending on the individual's injuries.
- Estelline SD has an exceptional Veterans Memorial which was spearheaded by our member Don Zaft. If you get a chance to visit it would be well worth your time.



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- Honor Guard. There were three funerals in Milbank and they participated in a flag ceremony for an individual to be interred. Watertown has one scheduled for Saturday.

OLD BUSINESS

- 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.
- We are sending 8 delegates to the National VVA convention in Orlando. Our goal there will be to sell copies of the video we made. We will also determine what the intent is for AVVA members as many are younger than our VVA members. All attendees are asked to wear orange on Aug 11th in memory of the Agent Orange situation plus it is POW/MIA day. Shirts are available at J&B screen printing. All hotel reservations and registrations have been made.
- A motion was made and passed at the BOD meeting to drop our asking price to \$100 for our video. The packaging for our video was shown and appeared very professional.
- Fall picnic will be on August 26th at the Elks and will cost \$10.00 per person with the Elk's staff doing all the food prep and cooking. We will buy the meat from Jorgenson's.
- Bull Bash, we are planning to take our bus down to Huron if needed. All honorees should have been contacted by now and if not they need to call Red's daughter or Bob Syring. There will be special parking and seating for the honorees.



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NEW BUSINESS

- Bob Frink stated there will be a meeting this month with Todd Rose concerning our annual XMAS gift card program plus how we can help needy veterans.
- A tape of Bob Hope entertaining our troops is planned to be shown at the picnic.
- State fair booth. Kay is putting together a list of volunteers. We will determine some sort of give away. Jerry Denman will head up the staffing and we may take our bus if needed.
- One of our members contacted Bob Frink and offered a check for \$500 towards some project needing funding. We plan to give the check to the DAV for transportation project funding. Valley Queen also donated \$3000 so that project is well on its way.
- Ray Feist wrote a book, "A Soldier's Story From Beginning To End" and has had it published. He showed a copy to the group and also donated it to the 50/50 drawing tonight.

SICKNESS / DISTRESS and GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Rhonda Boyle has some blood clotting issues.
- Herb Leeseberg had heart valve replaced
- Quartermaster gave away some additional surplus items.
- Summer hats are now available at J&B screen printing

ADJOURNMENT

- 50/50 Drawing won by ticket #2425 and was worth \$96.00
- Ray's book was won by ticket #2408



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- A motion was made, and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Ending Prayer and Flag Salute were conducted, meeting ended at 2010.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Secretary Earl F. Cass

