



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1054

P.O. Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

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General Membership Meeting June 15, 2023,

General Membership Meeting Minutes: June 15th, 2023

Meeting called to order by President West @ 1908

Minutes taken by Secretary Earl F. Cass

Alt-Chaplain Hanson Opened the Meeting with Prayer

Flag Salute & Pledge of Allegiance led by President West

Officers Roll Call was taken

Officers		Oct 20	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 20	May 18
Pres	Gordy West	1	1	1	1	1
SR VP	Bob Syring	1	1	1	1	E
Jr VP	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	E



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 mentioned that there will be a Blood Drive at the Watertown CBOC on June 20th from 1300 till 1600. He then gave the financial report. Our net worth was \$119,282.80 after an entry indicating a double check payment was discovered during the meeting. Less detailed slides were also presented with an opportunity to ask questions. A plaque commemorating a \$6000 donation from Tracy Lambert on behalf of his father was shown.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A plaque was presented to Doug and Mary Modica thanking them for all the work they do on behalf of the Chapter.
- Our Flag Day fundraising was a huge success thanks to a large number of members stepping up and helping at all of the locations. A total of \$9233 was raised at Milbank, Brookings and Watertown. During our Flag Day fundraiser a gentleman from Wallace SD gave us a check for \$100. We will send him a thank you note and one of our coins.
- State Fair – we will be staffing the Veterans building on August 28th, details to be determined. Volunteers will be needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee-Jim Hanson, introduced Dale Christianson, a member of our chapter who spoke about the possibility of what to do with our funds once we get to the “Last Man Standing” situation. There are many options within the Watertown Area Community Foundation with a great deal of flexibility. We will need to decide what we want to do and how it should be done and they take care of it until the money is gone. The issue of our late filing for last year’s taxes is still up in the air.
- Membership report – 497 VVA and 71 AVVA.
- Communication – No committee meeting was held and no new information to report but we are still working with the local schools.
- Elk Hunt –The drawing will be held tonight.



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- Honor Guard. We did no funerals in Watertown but there is one scheduled for tomorrow. Three funerals in Milbank and another is scheduled for early July.

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.
- 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.

NEW BUSINESS

- The National VVA convention will be held in Orlando starting on the 8th of August and ending on the 12th. We hope to send 10 delegates and will arrive early to set up our booth. We intend to sell copies of our video to other chapters for \$200. We will be setting up on the 7th and have a 10X10 booth reserved. There was much discussion concerning what the chapter should pay for as far as expenses and in the end a motion was made, seconded and passed to pay for the same items as last time. We will not pay for airfare or lodging for spouses with one exception. Kay Solberg's air and lodging will be covered as payback for all the work she does for the Chapter.



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ELK HUNT DRAWING

The following persons won a prize in our 2023 drawing.

1. Ryan Root, Watertown, SD wins the Elk Hunt
2. Aaron Johnson, Bristol, SD wins \$2000
3. Jeff Tschakert, Florence, SD wins \$400
4. Tony Bullert, Watertown, SD wins \$400
5. Kelly Byer, Watertown, SD wins \$400
6. Art Schmitz, Boyd, MN wins \$400
7. Kevin Holiday, Hayti, SD wins \$250 gift certificate to Jorgenson Meats

SICKNESS / DISTRESS and GOOD OF THE ORDER

- A suggestion was made to read the names of those members passing since our last meeting. President West agreed it would be a good thing to do and plans to continue the practice.

ADJOURNMENT

- 50/50 Drawing won by ticket #2079 and was worth \$94.00
- 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