



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1054

P.O. Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

nedsvva@yahoo.com

nesdvva.org



## General Membership Meeting August 17th, 2023,

**General Membership Meeting Minutes: Aug 17th, 2023**

**Meeting called to order by President West @ 1901**

**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		Apr 20	May 18	Jun 15	Jul 20	Aug 17
Pres	Gordy West	1	1	1	1	1
SR VP	Bob Syring	1	1	E	1	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	E	1	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 \$117,295.39. Less detailed slides were also presented with an opportunity to ask questions.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President West reminded everyone about the picnic coming up on the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month. A video of Bob Hope entertaining the troops will be shown. Elk’s staff will do all the work. A bottle of Jack Daniels Single Barrel will be available through a silent auction.



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- A reminder about the state fair coming up and the bull bash. Our bus will be running if there is enough interest. See Jim Hanson after the meeting so we can get a head count.
  - Organization plate stickers are now available for \$1 at Classroom Connections.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee-Bob Syring, an attempt was made to contact Trans Canada concerning the status of our latest grant request but no luck. 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 – no membership report as there is a software issue which has Denny as being not authorized to log in.
- Communication – State Council meeting, discussion of a Veteran's home on the east side of SD. Cost estimates are in the \$70 to \$100 million dollar range. The state would need to come up with the money so don't hold your breath just yet. An increase in County VSO wages is being considered. Admission to State Parks is being considered for disabled vets and also a tax exemption for some level of yet to be determined disability rating. Also much discussion of the PACT Act. Three of our members met with Todd Rose and discussed options for providing help to veterans in need. Further discussions concerning this issue are coming.
- Scholarship –Earl has contacted the school and learned the individual with whom Phil was corresponding was no longer employed by the school but will contact the brass and have them contact me. So far no luck but Earl will pursue.
- Our chapter was given 3 bottles of Jack Daniels Single Barrel from Williquors. The bottles are engraved with the VVA logo. A motion



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was made and seconded to purchase a case and then raise funds with sale or raffle of the bottles. We will also see if we can get half of them engraved with our Chapter of the Year logo. One bottle will be in the picnic silent auction

- Honor Guard. There was one funeral in Milbank with another planned for this coming Monday. Watertown had on this month and another planned for tomorrow.

### 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.
- Convention – the convention went well but movie sales were a tough go. Many participants expressed interest but had no authority to purchase so will go home and see what transpires in their chapters. Many thanks to Jim and Cathy Hanson for leading the effort. There were however issues with the quality of food provided, the cost of services and overall organization of the event. A suggestion was made concerning having wives attend the school presentations and we will look into it. Some chapters have gone to having daytime meetings as our members are all getting older and night time traveling is more difficult.

### NEW BUSINESS

- No new business was brought up.



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## SICKNESS / DISTRESS and GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Troy Foster had a mild heart attack but is back on his feet.

## ADJOURNMENT

- 50/50 Drawing won by ticket #2570 and \$50.00 was given back.
- A motion was made, and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Ending Prayer and Flag Salute were conducted, meeting ended at 1947.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Secretary Earl F. Cass

