



Vietnam Veterans of America of Northeast South Dakota

(Vietnam and Vietnam Era Veterans)

Chapter 1054

605-956-8820

PO Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

Meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of each month:
7 pm at the Elk's Lodge, 300 West Kemp St., Watertown, SD

Email: vets@NESDVVA.org Website: www.NESDVVA.org Sept./Oct 2023



Commander's Corner,

Summer has really gone by fast but we have had a good year so far.

In August, 8 VVA members and 4 AVVA members went to the National Convention in Orlando, Florida. While Florida offers lots to see and do, the heat index was 113 degrees every

day. Needless to say no one really wanted to be outside very much. The Convention was held at the Rosen Centre and Hotel, which we also stayed (most of us on the 21st floor.) It was a great place to stay and to hold a convention. They had trolley's to take us to several places in the evening to eat. See the report inside for what happened during the convention.

We had a great turn out for our annual picnic. We go the meats from Jorgenson Meats and the Elk's did all the cooking this year. We saw several out of town Vets that we haven't seen for a while which was great. Thanks to everyone that brought a dessert. No one has better desserts than us.

Tracy Lambert, besides donating a cash donation to our Chapter, gave us 3 bottles of whiskey with our Chapter's logo glass etched on it. Floyd Hermans bought one at the picnic and the other 2 will be auctioned off at the Christmas party this year. If there is interest in more bottles, we can order them, so get a hold of myself or Bob Frink.

Congratulation to those that were honoured at the Bull Bash this year at the State Fair. 10 members from our Chapter were included: Jerry Denman, Darrell Berning, Jim Hanson, Steve Wicks, Bob Frink, Ed Timm, Don Zafft, Bob Lower, Richard Rubel and Gary Wolkow. This was a presentation by Red Wilk at the SD State Fair. He honours Veerans every year for their military service. Thanks Red, for honouring the Vietnam Veterans this year.

Please remember all the veterans in your thoughts and prayers that are going through medical challenges.

We know some things in life can throw us for a loop, but we need to help when we can and know we are all her for one another.

See you at the September meeting, if not before.

Gordy West

President of Chapter 1054

Troy Fost received several thank yous after a program that they did in Sisseton. We have shared them throughout this issue.

We would like to thank you for serving in the Vietnam War. My class spent about a month working on & researching the Vietnam War. I found this war interesting and enjoyed doing so. I want to thank you for everything. For anything & everything that you have served in. We love & appreciate you so much!

Sisseton HS

VVA Board of Directors:

President: Gordy West 605-237-8083

Vice President: Bob Syring, Willow Lake 605-625-5010

Second Vice Pres: Darrell Boyle, Wtn 605-881-5569

Secretary: Earl Cass, 605-237-4419

Treasurer: Bob Frink, Milbank 706-217-5950

Board Members:

Brian DeBoer, Wtn 605-868-0955

Jim Strom, Clear Lake 253-677-0821

Sherry Janssen, Wtn 605-237-3236

Jim Hanson, Wtn 605-880-5029

Herb Carstens, Wtn 605-520-9798

Dennis Solberg, Wtn 605-880-4225

Floyd Hermans, Milbank 605-880-2711

Phil Braeger, Wtn 605-881-6782

Jerry Denman, Wtn 605-880-3630

Jerry Caulfield Wtn 304-282-9990

Troy Foster, Peever, Chaplain 605-268-4673



Notes from Todd Rose
 (Veterans Service Officer
 for Codington County)
 The Codington County VSO
 office has moved to a new location:
 101 19th Street NE, Watertown, SD



We are about a block north of the Watertown VA clinic on the west side of 19th St, (the old Steve Gales State Farm Insurance office). We will be getting a new sign out by the road soon and plan to have an open house maybe Oct or Nov. You can also stop in and say hello. Just a couple quick reminders, if you have been listening to the news you have heard about filing deadlines with claims

dealing with Honor the Pact Act (Toxic Exposure), please remember that you can always file a claim for a diagnosed presumptive condition.

Please support the following businesses that are supporting us.

Puthoff Insurance Agency

Ag Underwriters LLC

Jim Knudson, CIC

P.O. Box 16
 1608 9th Ave SW
 Watertown, SD 57201
 Office: 605-886-9319
 Fax: 605-886-9356
 jim@puthoffsinsurance.com



Next, if you are a veteran and you are wanting military honors when you pass, please take the time now to locate your DD 214 (Active-Duty Discharge papers) or an NGB 22 (National Guard Discharge papers). Don't put this responsibility on your family to try and locate. Our office does not have access to everyone's military paperwork. Only if we have filed a claim for the veteran, might have a copy. Please share this paperwork and your final requests with your family, so they aren't stressed and struggling with these decisions. Do you know what veteran burial benefits you are eligible for?

Lastly, if you haven't stopped in to see what VA veterans benefits you might be eligible for and or if any of the changes to the laws and regulations recently. I would encourage you to stop in and see your local VSO. Thank you for your service!



**No Job too Big or
 Too Small...**

- o Remodel
- o New Homes
- o General Contractors

868-1410
 Watertown



Travas Uthe
 travsoutfitter@midconetwork.com

**TRAV'S
 OUTFITTER**

Hwy 212 9th Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

Phone (605)882-1739
 Toll Free 1-866-508-5894

Fax (605)882-1758
 Boot Truck (605) 880-6665
 www.travsoutfitter.com

Thank You!

- * for risking your life
- * for fighting for our Country
- * for your sacrifices
- * for your services
- * for your dedication
- * for your time
- * for **BEING YOU!**

Thanks for fighting for our country. Can't imagine what you guys had to go through. Dealing with trauma or PTSD must've been hard. Once again thank you for everything you guys had done for us.
 Rainie

Address Changes.....

If you have recently moved could you please drop us a note with your new address...either to k_solberg@yahoo.com or VVA Newsletter PO Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

12 VVA and AVVA Chapter 1054 Members Attend National Convention on Orlando, Florida



The National VVA Convention kicked off on Wednesday with the color guard presenting colors and also flags for each branch of the service. The National Anthem was presented and speakers presented programs that were available for the Veterans, both health and other services.



More than 750 Veterans and a couple hundred AVVA members were present to find out what was the future of the organization and to hear what programs existed and were to be available for the Veterans.



Chapter 1054 had 9 delegates attend the convention. Pictured here is Darrell Boyle, Gordy West, President, and Dennis Solberg.



Other delegates included, Jim Strom, Doug Modica, and Jim Hanson. Not pictured is Ray Feist, Jerry Caulfield

Thank You

I would like to say thank you to the board and members for paying my expenses to attend the convention. We met some very interesting people, ate some great food and enjoyed the time we had with everyone. Thanks again.

Kay Solberg



Electric Wheel Chairs available for members!

We have two electric wheel chairs. If you are a Veteran or your spouse is in need of an electric wheel chair:

Contact: Bob Syring 605-625-5010
or Phil Braeger 605-881-6782

12 Minute Video Sold at National Convention

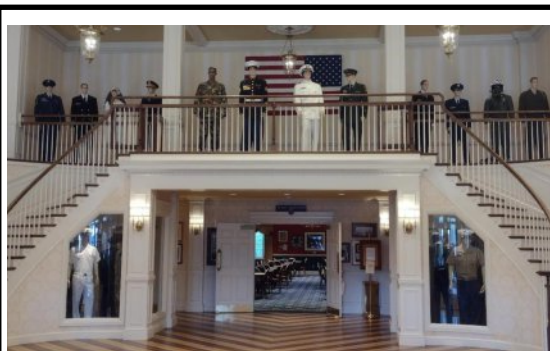


As many of you know our chapter made a 12 minute video of what happened in Vietnam. It included music of the 60's, clips of several things that happened and facts about what happened during the war. Stephen Annette, Phil Braeger and Bob Syring narrated it. The video was put on jump drives and we had a vendor booth to sell our story to others that could use them in schools, special programs or to just share with their families. All the delegates took turns working the booth and sharing the activities and programs that we do in our chapter. If any members are interested in purchasing one they are \$100 and you can contact any board member.

Josh Davis, undersecretary for the VA talked to us about the Pact Act. This year already they have had more than 2 M new claims, 33% over last year equalling \$1.6 billion, They had 20M claims in one day. He ended his program with "America without its Soldiers, is like God without his Angels".

Tuesday night was the Welcome Home evening that we attended. A buffet was held with a band with 12 piece musical instruments playing Chicago, Blues Brothers, Tina Turner and Aretha Franklin.

Since we arrived early to the convention we set out every evening to find some restaurants that are different from what we have here. We ate at the Everglades, in the hotel testing out the seafood, Denny's was right next door for breakfasts, Red Lobster was a favourite for a few, Seabrist Steakhouse, and on Thursday we went to a Mexican restaurant, where to our amazement, when we had finished with our drinks and meal a gentleman at the next table picked up the tab, before he left so we didn't get a chance to thank him, for our whole group. Thanks to the gracious person for our meal.



The VVA Chapter in Orlando was in charge of the displays. They had lots of photos, uniforms, items covering WWI, WWII and the Vietnam War. It took them 2 years to collect everything and decide when they wanted everything to be placed on the walls.



A spouse's field trip was on Thursday as buses took us to the Villages to tour and see what they were about. They have 7 recreation centers, one of which is done all in military memorabilia.



We ate at a restaurant called Cody's and in the afternoon took a trolley ride in air conditioning because it was 113 outside. Ice cream was pretty good that afternoon too.



Breakfast time seemed to be always at Denny's..... We could always find some of us every morning here cause it was right next door, and who wants to walk far in the heat....

Breakout sessions were also attended by the members of our group. Membership shared many statistics including the largest groups of veterans in our organization right now is 70-75 year old. Imagine that.

Of course one the biggest issues facing the group, is whether or not we should become a last man standing organization or just what is the future of the National VVA. A motion was made to terminate the group in 4 years, but it was felt by many, that we would not be able to function, basically we'd become a lame duck. So an amendment was made to strike the date and add, "a date would be determined at a later date". Motion passed.

Entertainment at the Convention



Tuesday evening was Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran night. A 12 pce band played Chicago, Blues Brothers, Tina Turner, and Aretha Franklin music.



Friday night was a "fun night" with a banquet and this group....the Beatles Revisited, playing Beatles music for an hour and half. Great music and fun times.

Pictured above here are Barb & Jim Strom, Jim & Cathy Hanson, Pat & Jerry Caulfield, Kay & Denny Solberg, Doug Modica and Gordy West. Not Pictured are Ray Feist and Darrell Boyle.



Just to let you know there were a few other things that happened but we promised Gordy what happens in Orlando will stay in Orlando.....



Each issue of the newsletter is downloaded to our website nesdvva.org for a copy in full color.

Sept 2023

- 2 Milbank DAV
- 4 Labor Day
- 5 Codington Co Vets Council
- 7 Vets Council Radio Show
- 11 Patriot Day
DAV Wtn
- 13 VFW Auxiliary
- 14 American Legion
- 15 POW/MIA Day
- 17 Constitution Day
- 18 Air Force Birthday
Sons of the American Legion
- 19 Marine Corp League
Milbank American Legion
- 20 VFW Monthly Mtg
- 21 **5 pm VVA Chapter Board Meeting**
7 pm VVA Chapter Meeting
- 22 First Day of Autumn
- 24 Gold Star Mother's Day



October 2023

- 2 American Legion Aux
- 3 Codington Co Vet's Council
- 5 Veteran's Radio Show
- 7 Milbank DAV
- 9 Native American Day
American Legion Riders
DAV
- 11 VFW Aux Mtg
Milbank VFW Mtg
- 12 American Legion
- 16 Sons of the American Legion
- 17 Marine Corp League
Milbank American Legion
- 18 VFW Member Mtg
- 19 **5 pm VVA Board of Directors**
7 pm VVA Chapter Meeting
- 27 Navy Day
- 31 Happy Halloween

Thank you to Tracy Lambert



Chapter 1054 would like to thank Tracy Lambert for the large donation he gave to us. Along with the cash donation he has had a special whiskey engraved with our name. They will be available for purchase or you could win one at the picnic or Christmas party in December.

I am apart of the English III class at the High School. These past couple of weeks we have spent time researching & learning about the Vietnam War. I have learned so much and want to do something but also want to say thank you. I know this is a very small gesture but I understand March 29th- April 2nd is Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. So I would like to say Welcome Home an we thank you so much for your service.....

Thank you for doing what you did in Vietnam. I don't think I would be able to do it. Mason

Editor's Note: In our last addition I forgot to include Carol Braley and Glenn Folk with the Flag Day Volunteers, I am so sorry they were left off and know we appreciate them volunteering.

Monthly Meeting Locations (alphabetical order)

American Legion-American Legion in Watertown
Codington County Veterans Council VFW Wtn
DAV American Legion in Watertown
Marine Corp League VFW in Watertown
Milbank American Legion American Legion in Milbank
Milbank DAV the American Legion Hall in Milbank
Milbank VFW VFW in Milbank
VFW VFW in Watertown
VVA Chapter 1054 Board of Directors 5:00 pm at Elk's
VVA 1054 Reg Mtg 7 pm Elk's Lodge
300 W Kemp 7 pm, 3rd Thursday of the Month



CBOC News Dr. John Sneden

Body mass Index (BMI) is a way to figure out your weight category. It uses the ratio of your height to your weight. BMI is a measure of your weight that is corrected for height. Knowing your BMI is a way to tell if you are at a healthy weight, underweight, or overweight.

The higher your BMI, the greater your risk for weight-related health problems.

What BMI means for adults: BMI below 18.5 is underweight BMI 18.5-24.9 healthy weight or idea body weight. BMI 25-29.9 is overweight. BMI over 30 is Obese and BMI 40 and over is sever obesity. If you are overweight, make changes now before serious health effects become present. If you

are obese you may already be experiencing adverse health effects. Institute changes now to prevent further complications. And if you are severely obese you probably already have serious adverse health effects.

Symptoms and signs of obesity are: sweating, fatigue, joint & back pain, difficulty breathing, sleep problems including snoring, difficulty with physical activity, low confidence and feelings of isolation and high blood pressure and other symptoms of metabolic symptoms. Health effects could include, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, arthritis, some cancers depression, gout and many others.

Good health is important.

Application for Membership Chapter 1054

Name _____ Male _____ Female _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ work/cell phone _____

Branch of Service _____ Email _____

Type of Membership (Please check one)

_____ \$50 (Lifetime Membership) _____ AVVA Membership is \$175 for those under 60 years of age. AVVA Membership is \$100 for those over 60 years

Must submit copy of Drivers license.

Method _____ check _____ Money Order
_____ Credit Card _____ Mastercard _____ Visa _____ Discover

Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Pin # on back _____

Signature _____

Eligibility: Membership is open to US Armed Forces Veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between Nov. 1, 1955 and May 7, 1975 or any duty location between Aug. 5, 1964 & May 7, 1975. You must submit a copy of your DD-214 with this membership. VVA is a non-profit, Veterans service organization. Programs and services are funded by member dues and public donations. Please send application to Dennis Solberg, 1323 Grandview Dr, Watertown, SD 57201

Join as a Life Member

Performance

Towing and Recovery

24 hours-Local-Long Distance

Phone (605) 753-0084

24-Hour Cell: (605) 884-6024

Toll-Free (855) 540-6689

1402 26th Street Southeast

Watertown, SD 57201

www.watertowntown.com

Light

Medium

& Heavy Duty

Thanks to

Glacial Lakes Energy

for helping
with the Fuel
for the VVA Bus!

301 20th Ave SE Watertown.SD 57201
605-882-8480



**Vietnam Veterans of
America of Northeast
South Dakota**
PO Box 1062
Watertown, SD 57201

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
WATERTOWN, SD
PERMIT NO 9

Address Service Request

The following businesses support our newsletter. Please support them.



Offers
Homes
for Heroes
Program

As a Veteran you qualify.....

Call Jody Fiedler
605-881-5585
or 605-753-0137



Ryan Van Dusseldorp, Owner
511 4th St SW
Watertown, SD 57201

605-882-3236
605-882-5710 fax

**HomeTown
BuildingCenter**

We Measure Up
3 4 5 6 7

HomeTownBuildingCenter.com

S Hwy 20

"Service You Can Depend On"



**Sales & Service
since 1911**

Appliances and
electronics for
your home!

7 N Broadway PO Box 1566 Watertown, SD 57201
605-886-4060 jim@dugansales.com
dugansalesandservice.com

Jim Dugan Co-Owner