



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1054

P.O. Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

nedsvva@yahoo.com

nesdvva.org



General Membership Meeting September 21st, 2023,

General Membership Meeting Minutes: Sep 21st, 2023

Meeting called to order by President West @ 1903

Minutes taken by Secretary Earl F. Cass

Alt-Chaplain Frink 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	1	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 gave the financial report. Our net worth was \$112,444.12. Slides were also presented with an opportunity to ask questions. Treasurer Frink then stated his intention to renew 2 CD’s coming due. He is planning to invest in 2 new CD’s at the \$31,000 amount with one at a 6 month term and another at a 1 year term. Both CD’s will earn approximately 5.5%. A motion was made and seconded in support of this plan. Treasurer Frink also initiated our annual Xmas gift card program. He indicated the spreadsheet which will be given to the VSOs will be clear in stating the benefit is for Veterans in need.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Long time teacher at Watertown High School and current bookstore owner Donus Roberts alerted the group about a book signing coming up on October 21st from 1200 until 1400 at his book store on South Maple in Watertown. The book was written by a World War II veteran, Charles M. Rogers and is called South Dakota Stories from World War II. A lifelong resident of South Dakota, Charles Rogers is a retired history professor and a member of the South Dakota State Historical Society.
- Jim Felberg will be made an AVVA member and the Chapter will pay his dues as a thank you for assisting us with the audio/video equipment.
- The 2023 Bull Bash went off very well with around a dozen of our members being honored. A video of the ceremony was made.
- Two members of the staff at the Watertown CBOC gave a very detailed description of the services the facility provides. Both individual are Social Workers with the VA.
- Todd Rose made sure the members were aware of the new location for his office. It's about a block north of the Watertown CBOC on the west side of the road. 101 19th St SE. He also spoke about his success and abilities of the office to pursue claims and the importance of the new PACT Act.
- Treasurer Frink noted in the last edition of the Legion News there was an article discussing a promising solution to those veterans suffering from PTSD. Initial results indicate nearly a 90% success rate. He also indicated he has handouts explaining the issue of secondary issues related to Service Connected Disabilities and encourages members to look into this.



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COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee-Bob Syring, a meeting of the committee was held with the intent of developing a 2024 budget. A final number of \$71,000 was determined and it is intended the budget will be neutral with income matching expenditures.
- Membership report – BOD member Solberg reported 481 VVA members and 71 AVVA members for a total of 552.
- Communication – Nothing new to report as no meetings took place.
- Honor Guard. There were three funerals in Milbank with Honor Guard participation at an internment for a Vet in the State Cemetery. Watertown had none but will participate in one this Saturday in Henry for a 94 year old. Watertown also had an Honor Guard contingent present on the 17th green at the Sanford golf tournament in Sioux Falls. Members were interviewed and felt it was an honor to participate. The news clip of our members is posted on our Facebook page.
- Elk Hunt – tickets have been ordered.

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.
- Scholarship – Secretary Cass was successful in contacting the ROTC at School of mines and presented the scholarship during halftime of the season opening football game.



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NEW BUSINESS

- Significant discussion concerning the start time of the next few meetings and the upcoming Xmas party. Many of our members expressed a desire for an early start time due to the hazards of driving home after the meetings in the dark along with potentially bad weather. After some time it was determined to start the Xmas party at 1300 on December 2nd at the Elks. For the next 5 months the meetings will be on the third Saturday of each month with the BOD meeting starting at 1000 and the general meeting starting at 1100.
- BOD member Denman reported that the eternal flame in Pierre is failing and a local commission has been set up to coordinate relocation of the various Veteran memorials around the lake. A group headed up by member John Moisan is spearheading an attempt to influence and be part of the decision making for this project. He is looking for a letter of support from us. BOD member Braeger will bring this issue up at the next State Veterans Council meeting.

A motion was made and seconded stating “a letter of support will be drafted indicating our preference is to keep all the veteran memorials in one place and involve veteran groups in the decision making process”.

- There was discussion of our State Fair booth and a suggestion was made to consider starting a VVA Sons and Daughters organization. This group could be a recipient of our funds when the last man is standing.



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SICKNESS / DISTRESS and GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Dave Vosberg at hospital in Fargo for cancer tests
- Denny Solberg going into hospital for hernia surgery
- Dale Fonken's son (Andy) who is 43 had a heart problem and had 2 stints put in last week in Sioux Falls

ADJOURNMENT

- 50/50 Drawing won by ticket #2744
- A motion was made, and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Ending Prayer and Flag Salute were conducted, meeting ended at 2024.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Secretary Earl F. Cass

