



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1054  
 P.O. Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201  
 nedsvva@yahoo.com      nesdvva.org



## General Membership Meeting February 17, 2024

**General Membership Meeting Minutes: Feb 17, 2024**

**Meeting called to order by Senior Vice President Bob Syring @ 1114(est).**

**Minutes taken by Secretary Earl F. Cass**

**Alt-Chaplin Zafft Opened the Meeting with Prayer.**

**Flag Salute & Pledge of Allegiance led by Senior Vice President Bob Syring.**

**Officers Roll Call was taken**

Officers		Aug 17	Sep 21	Nov 18	Jan 20	Feb 17
Pres	Gordy West	1	1	1	E	E
SR VP	Bob Syring	1	1	E	1	1
Jr VP	Darrell Boyle	1	1	1	1	1
Treasurer	Bob Frink	1	1	1	1	1
Secretary	Earl F. Cass	*	*	E	*	*
Chaplain	Troy Foster	E	1	E	E	E

Key 1 = present, 0 = absent, E = excused, \* attended via zoom # = unable to attend due to absence of the Zoom, 2 = present via mobile phone

- Meeting Minutes – Secretary Earl F. 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 \$96,159.03. Slides were shown representing the past 6 years which indicated the Chapter is tracking on a very sound not-for profit basis yet meeting our goal of providing support to Veterans in need.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bill Duncan from the VVA Chapter 805 in Roseburg, Oregon was to be on a Zoom call with us today but is now unavailable. He was intending on discussing their Chapters recent use of our video and the outstanding response received from the audience. They had 8



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veterans participate and the presentation took over 5 hours.

- It was again emphasized that we need to renew our efforts in promoting the presentation of our video. Maybe not just limit it to schools but seek out other organizations as well.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee-(Bob Syring) our issues with the IRS are now believed to be finally resolved. We needed to change the date of our fiscal year to February for filing with the IRS and Bob and Bob are no longer facing time. Gift cards totaling \$650 have been returned due to bad addresses. A review of our process will be undertaken to ensure the planned recipients get the cards.
- Membership report – (Denny Solberg) we have 482 VVA members, 73 AVVA members for a total of 555 members. All members need to be vigilant in reporting member deaths to the committee. If you hear of a member death, please report it.
- Communication – Items of interest presented by Phil Braeger were; The planned Veteran Transportation Van and driver in Watertown is on hold. Our state legislature has approved a new medal to be awarded to Veterans exposed to Agent Orange and must be requested by the veteran by completing an application. The PACT Act has now added a number of US states where exposure to Agent Orange is now recognized as a location of exposure.
- Honor Guard. Milbank participated in two funerals. Watertown provided a Color Guard for the Farm Show.
- Elk Hunt – no report on sales was provided but they are lagging due to the very cold weather experienced earlier in the year. We need to review our current goals as it is rumored that the provider for this fund raiser may retire. A motion was made and seconded that we will



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fully fund 2024 and 2025 and review our position as 2026 approaches. Our membership continues to age and our past goals may not be as achievable.

#### OLD BUSINESS,

- Don Zafft is here today and will present his slide show of pictures showing the Estelline Veterans Park called Reflections Memorial Park. Web address is <https://www.stellinesd.com/reflection.htm>
- The SDSU Vs Denver Basketball game will be on February 22. Brian DeBoer reported the van will be going down and will be full. Meet behind Perkins for a 1700 departure time. We will have a special section to sit in and will be recognized at halftime. Denny Solberg prepared a written statement that we hope can be read on our behalf. The statement is as follows:

In our presence this evening, we have members of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1054 of Northeast South Dakota.

In 2021, Chapter 1054 was awarded Chapter of The Year amongst over 650 Vietnam Veterans Chapters in the United States, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam.

The members of Chapter 1054 have raised over \$1,000,000 to help all veterans in need.

Please welcome members of Chapter 1054 and all veterans here tonight.

- We have yet to hear from Ford as to whether we will have the 'Ford Driver' event this year. Randy Holiday will investigate.
- TransCanada grant, Bob Syring will develop the application and is thinking of requesting AEDs for us to donate at worthy locations. He will also look into submitting a grant to some of the local dairy operations.



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- 2024 elections are fast approaching and Denny is looking for names. There are currently 4 or 5 names for the board and one for the president.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Don Zafft presented his collection of photos taken at the Reflections Memorial Park in Estelline SD. A truly magnificent park. Web address is <https://www.stellinesd.com/reflection.htm>
- Dakota Connection is planning a Welcome Home celebration for Vietnam Vets on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 1100 till 1300. There will be a meal provided for a Veteran and a guest. There will be a short program as well.
- A welcome home Vietnam Vets dinner will be held at the Watertown VFW on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 1130.
- Our inventory of flags will be conducted and an order placed. The VFW, Legion and Marine Corp League will split the cost of the flags if we bill them

### SICKNESS / DISTRESS and GOOD OF THE ORDER

- None noted
- 50/50 drawing won by green ticket #33073 worth \$60, \$15 donated back to club.

### ADJOURNMENT

- Next meeting will be on March 23<sup>rd</sup> in the morning again.



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- A motion was made, and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Ending Prayer led by Don Zafft, and Flag Salute were conducted, meeting adjourned at 1220(est).
  - Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Secretary Earl F. Cass.

