



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1054

P.O. Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

nedsvva@yahoo.com

nesdvva.org



General Membership Meeting April 18,2024

General Membership Meeting Minutes: Apr 18, 2024

Meeting called to order by President West @ 1801(est)

Minutes taken by Secretary Earl F. Cass

Alt-Chaplin Frink Opened the Meeting with Prayer.

Flag Salute & Pledge of Allegiance led by President West

Officers Roll Call was taken

Officers		Nov 18	Jan 20	Feb 17	Mar 16	Apr 18
Pres	Gordy West	1	E	E	1	1
SR VP	Bob Syring	E	1	1	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	E	E	1	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 \$108,222.83. Slides were shown representing the income and expenses and an opportunity to ask questions.

SPECIAL REPORT

- The last time our bus was used a serious vibration occurred with the rear suspension. The bus was taken to WW Tire for further inspection which revealed new tires were required.



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- Meet at the Mount Hope Cemetery at 1230 on May 23rd to help put out flags at the headstones of veterans. Lori and Dean Halajian are again heading up this activity. We now have 15 flag inserting tools curtesy of Mack Steel. These tools make inserting the flags in the ground much easier.
 - Another presentation on refurbishing your license plate frame was made and it can be done for about \$2 dollars or you can buy a new one for \$15 at Classroom Connection.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee-(Bob Syring) Our tax reporting issue is now completely resolved and our 1099 will be submitted shortly.
- Membership report – (Denny Solberg) we have 482 VVA members, 71 AVVA members for a total of 553 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 – The South Dakota agent orange medal is now being shipped to those that qualified for it. Some of our members have received theirs.
 - The Caufield scholarship checks have been sent to SDSU for 2 Air Force and 1 Army recipient to be awarded on April 19th.
 - The Watertown VA bus driver was selected and then changed his mind; now another selection must be made.
 - The DAV state convention is next weekend and this issue is sure to come up when discussing resolutions.
- Honor Guard. Milbank participated in five funerals plus 1 this weekend. Watertown participated in three funerals and will be providing a Color Guard and rifle squad on the 29th.



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- Elk Hunt – no report on exact sales was provided but we are about 90% sold. Members were asked to turn in any outstanding tickets tonight.
 - On April 20 and 21 there will be a Vietnam Veterans reunion held in Mitchell. There is a \$60 registration fee per attendee that covers a banquet and a member service. Any profits go towards Scholarships for Vietnam Vets descendants.
 - We hope to learn more this next week about the buses being retired at Watertown Transit.
 - If you have an issue with the VA one option is to contact Phil Braeger and he will try to help you, beware of some generic drugs.

OLD BUSINESS,

- 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 reported his contact with them has retired but he will continue to pursue.
- 2024 elections are tonight and Denny has names for all officer positions as well as 4 board member candidates.
- Three of our members which are also members of the DAV have written 2 resolutions to be considered at the DAV State Convention this coming weekend. One resolution concerns veteran transportation and the other one concerns record keeping of volunteer hours.



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NEW BUSINESS

- Bo Syring reported this will be Red Wilks last year of honoring veterans at the State Fair. He plans to honor 6 veterans (already chosen) this year plus he wants a WWII and Korean War vet as well.
- Veteran of the Year applications are available. Requests are for one veteran from each organization prior to July 1st.
- Elections tonight have 4 individuals running for 3 open BOD positions. Jerry Denman is running for President as Gordy West declined to run again. All other officers are running unopposed for their respective positions. Dennis Solberg will run the elections.
 - Jerry Denman received a nomination for President with no other nominations received from the floor. He was successfully elected.
 - Bob Syring received a nomination for Senior Vice President with no other nominations received from the floor. He was successfully elected.
 - Darrel Boyle received a nomination for Junior Vice President with no other nominations received from the floor. He was successfully elected.
 - Earl Cass received a nomination for Secretary with no other nominations received from the floor. He was successfully elected.
 - Bob Frink received a nomination for Treasurer with no other nominations received from the floor. He was successfully elected.
 - Board members were then elected utilizing written ballots. Successful candidates were Randy Holiday, Herb Carstens and Floyd Hermans.
- All new officers and Board members will be sworn in at the next meeting.



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- Another VVA Chapter saw our newsletter and requested our contact list for the Maui veterans so they can donate to them also.

SICKNESS / DISTRESS and GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Greg Overby was in the ICU but is now home recovering from a car accident.
- Troy Foster was advised by his Dr. to slow down his involvement in his many activities.
- 50/50 drawing won by green ticket #3662 worth \$108.
- A discussion was held at the BOD meeting concerning the disposition of our remaining etched bottles of Jack Daniels Single Barrel. A motion was made and seconded to pull a name out of the hat from all the attendees present at the meeting including the zoomers starting tonight. This will be done 5 times in an effort to boost attendance at meetings. Dave Wicks was the first winner.

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion was made, and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Ending Prayer led by Alt-Chaplain Frink, and Flag Salute were conducted, meeting adjourned at 1957(est).
- Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Secretary Earl F. Cass.