



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1054

P.O. Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

nedsvva@yahoo.com

nesdvva.org



General Membership Meeting March 16,2024

General Membership Meeting Minutes: Mar 1, 2024

Meeting called to order by President West @ 1112(est)

Minutes taken by Secretary Earl F. Cass

Chaplin Foster Opened the Meeting with Prayer.

Flag Salute & Pledge of Allegiance led by President West

Officers Roll Call was taken

Officers		Sep 21	Nov 18	Jan 20	Feb 17	Mar 16
Pres	Gordy West	1	1	E	E	1
SR VP	Bob Syring	1	E	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	1	E	E	E	1

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 \$100,772.97. Slides were shown representing the income and expenses and an opportunity to ask questions.
 - Dusty Johnson plans to hold a pinning ceremony on the 25th, details to come.
 - Veterans’ transportation issue has now been solved with the VA approval of the Watertown-Sisseton Transit company recognized as a provider for the 14 county area of our purview. Veterans must be at least 30% disabled.



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- Finance Committee-(Bob Syring) The annual 2023-2024 990EZ, Schedules G and O are calculated report has been completed and will be electronically filed soon.
 - Scholarship checks totaling \$2250 have been issued.
 - Gov Noem has proclaimed March 29th as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day.
 - Veterans have an opportunity to have their name, military branch and home state etched in a memorial located in Springfield TN for \$150 with an orange heart included if suffering from or died due to agent orange.

SPECIAL GUESTS

- Bill Duncan and Roger Boucock from the VVA Chapter 805 in Roseburg, Oregon participated on a Zoom call with us today. They discussed their Chapters recent use of our video and the outstanding response received from the audience. They showed the video 4 times to 35-40 students at a time. They had 8 veterans participate and the presentations took over 5 hours. They are a very busy chapter as their county has a National Cemetery and they doo approx 150 funerals a year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- On March 30th at 1000 there will be a ceremony on the Watertown courthouse lawn celebrating the National Vietnam War Veterans Day with a lunch provided by the VFW at 1130.
- Chapter 1054 Card Group was recognized and thanked as a vital part of our organization.



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- Quartermaster Carstens reported a new selection of vests, sweatshirts and hoodies are available at J&B Screenprinting. No inventory will be maintained by the chapter.
- It was again shown to the group how easy it is to update your VVA license plate frame for very little cost or buy a new one for \$15.
- Board Member DeBoer was congratulated and thanked for his efforts in organizing our chapter members attending the SDSU basketball game where we were recognized by approx. 3000 attendees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee-(Bob Syring) our issues with the IRS are now believed to be finally resolved. We will be submitting our 1099 soon and a few outstanding small items will be resolved.
- 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 – No report available
- Honor Guard. Milbank participated in two funerals. Watertown provided a Color Guard for a parade in Henry.
- Elk Hunt – no report on exact sales was provided but we are about ½ sold. Members are at a home show today.



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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 will develop the application and is currently on hold as he gathers additional information. He will also look into submitting a grant to some of the local dairy farms.
- 2024 elections are fast approaching and Denny has names for all officer positions as well as 3 board members.
- The Welcome home ceremony at the Dakota Connection Casino was attended by approx. 40 of our members and a photo was shown. Our chapter was recognized and Senator Rounds was there.
- An agent orange medal is available to SD veterans exposed and afflicted with one or more of 19 recognized conditions. The medal must be applied for by the veteran.
- A welcome home Vietnam Vets dinner will be held at the Watertown VFW on March 30th at 1130.

NEW BUSINESS

- Each year Red Wilk honors Vietnam Veterans during a ceremony at the beginning of the state fair. It's thought that this will be the last year and Bob Syring is looking for names of those wishing to be recognized.
- 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.



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- Our next meeting will be on Thursday evening April 18th at the Elks Lodge.

SICKNESS / DISTRESS and GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Connie Millers sister passed away.
- Glen Folk is returning home today after a short stay at the VA in Sioux Falls.
- 50/50 drawing won by green ticket #516 worth \$65.

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion was made, and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Ending Prayer led by Chaplain Foster, and Flag Salute were conducted, meeting adjourned at 1212(est).
- Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Secretary Earl F. Cass.