General Membership Meeting August 15,2024

General Membership Meeting Minutes: Aug 15, 2024
Meeting called to order by President Denman @ 1900
Minutes taken by Secretary Earl F. Cass
Chaplin Foster Opened the Meeting with Prayer.
Flag Salute & Pledge of Allegiance led by President Denman.
Officers Roll Call was taken

Officers		Mar 16	Apr 18	May 16	Jun 20	Jul 18	Aug 15
Pres	Jerry Denman	*	1	1	1	1	1
SR VP	Bob Syring	1	1	E	E	E	1
Jr VP	Darrell Boyle	1	1	1	*	1	1
Treasurer	Bob Frink	1	1	1	1	1	1
Secretary	Earl F. Cass	*	*	1	*	E	*
Chaplain	Troy Foster	1	E	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

- <u>Meeting Minutes</u> –Secretary Cass read the minutes of the last meeting which were then approved by the membership.

- <u>Treasurer's Report</u> – Treasurer Bob Frink gave the financial report. Our net worth was $116,180.53. Slides were shown representing the income and expenses and an opportunity to ask questions

SPECIAL REPORT
- The annual summer picnic is this coming Saturday at the Elk's Lodge starting at 1300. Food is being prepared by staff at the Elks and members of the chapter. Attendees are asked to bring a desert.
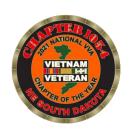
COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee- (Bob Frink), reports we have finally resolved the issue of our tax filings according to Andrea Rose-Prehn. No further actions are required.

- Membership report –BOD member Solberg reports 478 VVA members and 71 AVVA members for a total of 549.

- Communication – BOD member Braeger reports the SD Vets Council will meet in Pierre this coming Wednesday. He also mentioned that the VA is discontinuing providing over the counter medications and nutritional supplements commencing immediately. He also reported the check-in kiosks will be returning.

- Honor Guard. Milbank had 2 Honor Guard events this period. Watertown; did not have any events this period.

- Elk Hunt –nothing to report. (All done for this season)

OLD BUSINESS,

- Restarting the video presentation of our Vietnam Veteran Video is currently underway. We are working with Bill Cuningham from the Inwood Iowa school setting dates and times.

- Another request for any member interested in attending the VVA Leadership Conference in Reno NV came up with no takers.

- Discussion concerning our legacy has included some form of collaboration with Habitat for Humanity.
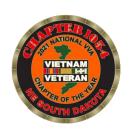
- The purpose of our donation last month to the Agent Orange Medal program was to support them by covering some of the travel expenses.

- The issue of providing a larger donation to the Gold Star Memorial in Aberdeen came up at the BOD meeting again. A motion was made to provide $3000 towards their goal. The motion died for lack of a second.

NEW BUSINESS

- Treasurer Frink pointed out the fact that veterans in the VA have a membership card which expires and reminded all VA members to review their cards. A new card can be obtained through a local CBOC.

- Discussion was held concerning the $2500 donation to one of the couples that lost their home during the flooding near Dakota Dunes. Discussion was held at the BOD meeting concerning providing a donation to Tim and Gina Davis who also lost their home during the flooding near Dakota Dunes. A motion was made and seconded to provide $1000 towards their recovery. The motion passed.

- The SD State Fair is coming up and the day honoring Veterans will be August 29th (Thursday) and volunteers are needed to staff our booth that day.

- Codington County is seeking names of Veterans to be nominated for Veteran of the Year. We nominated BOD member Jim Hanson.

- On September 15th we are again invited to provide flag pin attendees at the Sanford International Champions Golf Tournament in Sioux Falls. We will be attending the flag on the 17th green starting at 1300 until 1500. Members are encouraged to participate.

- A suggestion was made by Sr. Vice President Syring that we should increase the amount of money of our Xmas gift cards to compete with inflation. The finance committee will look into this. We also need to ensure the recipients are truly in need.

- A suggestion was made by the Elks manager that he could provide a predetermined meal before each meeting in an attempt to increase attendance. The chapter would pay for these meals. A motion was made, seconded and approved to pay for the meals for a VVA member or an AVVA member. The meals are expected to cost $10 to $12 per person.

- Kay Solberg reported the Watertown VFW Post 750 Auxiliary has become aware of numerous issues with the mounting of Veterans medallions on their headstones. Many are loose and some have fallen off. They have arranged and hired one of our own (Floyd Hermanns) to repair the mounting and/or reattach these medallions at both Mount Hope and St. Marys cemeteries in Watertown.

SICKNESS / DISTRESS and GOOD OF THE ORDER

- AVVA member Don Pasch recently had a quadruple bypass and is still in serious condition in Minneapolis fighting a heart rate issue.
- We welcomed Chaplain Foster and Sr. Vice President Syring back at the meetings.

- 50/50 drawing ticket #4989, Connie Miller was the winner.

- The engraved bottle of Jack Daniels Single barrel was won by Ticket #48494904, Sherry Jansen was the winner.

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 1939

- Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Secretary Earl F. Cass.