



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1054

P.O. Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

nedsvva@yahoo.com

nesdvva.org



General Membership Meeting June 20,2024

General Membership Meeting Minutes: June 20, 2024

Meeting called to order by President Denman @ 1901(est)

Minutes taken by Secretary Earl F. Cass

Alt-Chaplin Frink Opened the Meeting with Prayer.

Flag Salute & Pledge of Allegiance led by President Denman

Officers Roll Call was taken

Officers		Feb 17	Mar 16	Apr 18	May 16	Jun 20
Pres	Jerry Denman	*	*	1	1	1
SR VP	Bob Syring	1	1	1	E	E
Jr VP	Darrell Boyle	1	1	1	1	*
Treasurer	Bob Frink	1	1	1	1	1
Secretary	Earl F. Cass	*	*	*	1	*
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 \$119,351.51 Slides were shown representing the income and expenses and an opportunity to ask questions. He also reported our plan for CD management is in place.
- Kay Solberg gave a report detailing the funds raised during our Flag Day endeavor. Another good year with \$9406 raised. It was emphasized that participation in this event is crucial and more members need to participate not just the usuals. Kay also mentioned she had sent a thank you note to all the businesses that allowed us to greet their customers at the door. In Watertown we worked at



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Runnings, Walmart West door, Walmart East door, County Fair and HyVee raising a total of \$5292 and had 34 workers. In Milbank we raised \$437 with 2 Veterans working only 3 hours because they had a funeral that day. On June 14th a bus went to Brookings and passed out flags at Lowe's, Walmart and HyVee with 14 workers and we raised \$3640. That makes for a total of \$9443 raised this year which is \$210 more than last year.

SPECIAL REPORT

- Next month we will have a special guest named Bobby Tynor from South Carolina and he will be speaking about the Agent Orange medal currently available to Vietnam Veterans. There is still time for submitting a request to receive the SD Agent Orange medal. Many of our members have received theirs.
- Milbank ballpark (we provided some funds) has been named to have opening day for Legion baseball next year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee- no additional report
- Membership report – we currently have 480 VVA members and 74 AVVA members. All members need to be vigilant in reporting member deaths to the committee. If you hear of a member death, please let us know.
- Communication – did not meet but stressed the fact that we need to nominate one of our members for the Chet Sorenson award. There is a form to be filled out and brought to the next meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed at the Board meeting to nominate Phil Braeger for this award.



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- Honor Guard. Milbank participated in six funerals and the Memorial Day ceremony. Watertown participated in one funeral for a special member, Darwin Clyde and the Memorial Day ceremony by providing a Color Guard and the rifle squad on the 27th. President Denman was named as the 2024 Commander of the Troops for the ceremony.
 - Elk Hunt – all tickets have been sold to the tune of \$30,500 and we are ready for the drawing tonight. Thanks to all who sold tickets.

OLD BUSINESS,

- Secretary Cass developed a Travel Policy document and reviewed the contents with the board. After a brief discussion the document was approved by the Board and will be in place going forward.
- Board member DeBoer brought up his request at the Board meeting for our financial support towards a park in his neighborhood. There will be a 6 X 10 flag and pole with a 1/5-mile walking path and benches around the Willow Creek Pond. A motion was made seconded and passed at the Board meeting to provide \$1500 towards their goal and perhaps consideration of some form of recognition of our chapter.
- AVVA member Mary Modica is seeking additional members for their Card Group. Anyone willing to volunteer may contact her for additional information.
- Our group experienced great support from the National Guard and Knights of Columbus in placing flags in the two Watertown cemeteries.



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NEW BUSINESS

- A request came up at the BOD meeting for a financial donation towards the Roberts County DAV van. They need to come up with \$20,000. They have secured a driver and are seeking one more. All veterans will be able to utilize the van and other vets' organizations are also chipping in. A motion was made, seconded and passed at the Board meeting to provide \$2000 towards their goal.
- We received a request for funds from a chapter in Florida made up of incarcerated veterans. After review and discussion of the request a motion was made, seconded and voted down concerning us providing funds.
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), a non-profit dedicated to building beds for children in need approached us for funds. A motion was made, seconded and passed at the Board meeting to provide \$500 towards linens and pillows.
- AVVA and Card Group member Mary Modica requested help from all the members in advising her and the Card Group of any members passing away. It's very difficult to ensure the information they have is up to date.
- A request was made seconded and passed at the Board meeting to provide \$250 to DAV Chapter 19 in Aberdeen. Funds are also being sought from the American Legion with the monies going towards the Gold Star Monument in Aberdeen.

SICKNESS / DISTRESS and GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Our summer picnic will be coordinated by Brian DeBoer and Denny Solberg. The picnic will be at the Elks on August 17 and deserts are requested.



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- 50/50 drawing ticket 4716 was drawn worth \$80
 - The monthly engraved bottle of Jack Daniels Single barrel was won by President Denman who requested another name be drawn. The next winner was Frank Greer.

ELK HUNT DRAWING

The following people won a prize. Thanks to all those that bought a ticket.

1. Josh Blais - hunt
2. Jake Nelson - \$2000
3. Darlene Cunningham - \$500
4. Leilah Pietz - \$500
5. Greg Johnson - \$500
6. Phil Schwan - \$500
7. Cindy Angland – meat bundle

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 1946(est).
- Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Secretary Earl F. Cass.