



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1054

P.O. Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

nedsvva@yahoo.com

nesdvva.org



General Membership Meeting October 17,2024

General Membership Meeting Minutes: Oct 17, 2024

Meeting called to order by President Denman @ 1900

Minutes taken by Secretary Earl F. Cass

Alt-Chaplin Trepanier Opened the Meeting with Prayer.

Flag Salute & Pledge of Allegiance led by President Denman.

Officers Roll Call was taken

Officers		May 16	Jun 20	Jul 18	Aug 15	Sep 19	Oct 17
Pres	Jerry Denman	1	1	1	1	1	1
SR VP	Bob Syring	E	E	E	1	1	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	1	*	*
Chaplain	Troy Foster	E	E	E	1	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 Cass read the minutes of the last meeting which were then approved by the membership after noting one correction.
- Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Bob Frink gave the financial report. Our net worth was \$111,416.10 Slides were shown representing the income and expenses and an opportunity to ask questions was provided.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee- (Bob Frink, Bob Syring), reports we have finally resolved the issue of our tax filings according to Andrea Rose-Prehn. We were able to submit our tax filings and now are considered to be in good standing.



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- Membership report –BOD member Solberg reports 477 VVA members and 75 AVVA members for a total of 552.
 - Communication – nothing new to report
 - Honor Guard. Milbank and Watertown had no events.
 - Treasurer Frink noted that there are now two methods of transportation for veterans in our area. A bus operated by Veteran Transportation Services (VTS) and A DAV bus. There are no preconditions required for the VTS bus.
 - Elk Hunt –nothing to report. (tickets should be available in November)

OLD BUSINESS,

- President Denman has spoken with all of the VSO's in our service area except the one in Deuel County about our latest Xmas gift card policy. We expect to receive numbers by the end of October. Roberts County has a program where boxes of food are given to veterans in need and wishes us to participate in that program in November and December. A motion was made, seconded and approved at the BOD meeting to redirect our funds for Roberts County towards their program. The dollar amount will be close to the same. A motion was made, seconded and approved at this meeting to redirect our funds for Roberts County towards their program.
- Our chapter was given a 3-wheeled motorized scooter that needed a little TLC. President Denman obtained the unit and has refurbished it to where it is now part of our fleet of vehicles available to veterans. Kay and Denny Solberg stated they have a spot in their facility where these vehicles can be stored pending checkout to veterans. A rental charge for the space has yet to be determined.



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- President Denman has spoken with SD Game, Fish and Parks staff concerning the ramps for wheelchair access to boats. They are busy right now getting ready for winter but hope to discuss the issue further in December.
- BOD member DeBoer reported there are no longer free tickets available to veterans at the Veterans Appreciation Day game at SDSU. We will no longer be sending our bus down there.
- BOD Member Solberg reported he is looking into the possibility of obtaining tickets for the Vets Appreciation Day game at USD on Nov 9th. He will let us know.
- Our work towards showing the Vietnam Video and providing a veteran discussion continues. We have numerous presentations scheduled starting with Nov. 4th at Great Plains Lutheran School, Nov 6th at IC Catholic School and Nov. 12th at both Brookings and Waverly schools. A chapter in Rosewood, Oregon purchased our video and will be showing it 8 times in one day.
- Williquors of Sioux Falls was able to provide us with 2 more cases of Engraved JD Single Barrel bottles to continue our promotion towards member monthly meeting attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

- A discussion ensued concerning our meeting being moved to Saturday mornings again this winter. A motion was made, seconded and approved to start having our meetings on the third Saturday of the month starting in November and continue until and include the March meeting. BOD meeting will be at 1000 and the General meeting will be at 1100. President Denman will discuss the issue of the provided meal with the Elks manager. The next meeting will be in the morning on November 16th.



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- Our chapter did end up sending a check for \$5000 to the North Carolina Veterans Council in response to the deadly hurricane that recently struck there. A question came up concerning the next hurricane that struck Florida and should we support them also. Secretary Cass suggested we need a defined method of distribution prior to sending funds just like the other situations we have donated to. We have a member living there who will attempt to get us some information. A motion was made, seconded and approved to provide funds of \$5000 once we have more information.
 - BOD member Brian DeBoer suggested next year we should put our bus in the SDSU Hobo Day Parade in Brookings SD in an attempt to get more exposure.
 - President Denman has spoken with individuals at the Watertown Cemeteries concerning the issue of reattaching/repairing the various veteran medallions and apparently, they have no funds available for this work. A discussion followed and it now may be too late in the year to tackle this issue. Floyd Hermans still needs an accurate count and locations and is still willing to do the work in the spring. A suggestion was made to place ads in local newspapers seeking additional supporters for the project.
 - Our 2024 Xmas party will be at the Elks on December 14th. Details to be determined.
 - Watertown will again have a Holiday Lighted Parade and is requesting we provide security at the street intersections again.
 - Watertown VFW Post 750 is in charge of the Veterans Day Ceremony this year. They are requesting a color guard from us.



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SICKNESS / DISTRESS and GOOD OF THE ORDER

- AVVA member Barb Folk is currently in the hospital but is scheduled to be released soon. She is very ill.
- Chaplain Troy Foster is going into the hospital for examination of his ears related to loss of balance.
- Royce Strasser is ill and in the hospital.
- 50/50 drawing ticket #361, Lori Halajian (again) was the winner of \$95.
- The engraved bottle of Jack Daniels Single barrel was won by Ticket #297, Bill Cunningham was the winner.

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion was made, and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Ending Prayer led by Alt-Chaplain Trepanier, and Flag Salute were conducted, meeting adjourned at 1948
- Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Secretary Earl F. Cass.