



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1054

P.O. Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

nedsvva@yahoo.com

nesdvva.org



General Membership Meeting September 19,2024

General Membership Meeting Minutes: Sep 19, 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		Apr 18	May 16	Jun 20	Jul 18	Aug 15	Sep 19
Pres	Jerry Denman	1	1	1	1	1	1
SR VP	Bob Syring	1	E	E	E	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	E	1	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 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 \$116,163.29. Slides were shown representing the income and expenses and an opportunity to ask questions

SPECIAL REPORTS

- We have two guests tonight from Milbank who are wishing to become members.
- President Denman informed the group about the very nice thank you notes he received from the recipients of quilts from us during the State Fair.



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- Todd Rose, Codington and Hamlin Counties VSO gave a presentation concerning many topics, some of which were: He and Jay Roberts (Co-VSO) presently have 213 open claims they are working on, 99 pending claims and 109 completed claims. Currently there is \$93,000 being paid to veterans each month in Codington and Hamlin counties. There is over \$733,000 in catchup funds being delivered, The VA has processed over 2,000,000 claims and are currently working on another 1,000,000 claims. If you have an issue with matters concerning billings they really can't help in that arena.
- Byron Callies was recently voted out of his position as a State Senator and Denny Solberg will be running for the position.
- Floyd Hermans reported he may soon be requesting assistance from the National Guard in determining the number of headstones needing attention to the medallions indicating Veteran status.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee- (Bob Frink, Bob Syring), reports we have finally resolved the issue of our tax filings according to Andrea Rose-Prehn. But when we tried to submit our tax filings the website would not allow us to do so. We will continue to work with Rep. Johnson's office to come to a final and complete resolution of this issue.
- Membership report –BOD member Solberg reports 478 VVA members and 71 AVVA members for a total of 549. We are currently the 12th largest chapter in the nation.
- Communication – nothing new to report



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- Honor Guard. Milbank had 1 Honor Guard event this period. Watertown also had 1 with another planned for this weekend and 5 of our members participated in the Sanford golf tournament as pin handlers on the 17th green. Some pictures were taken and reportedly will be sent to us.
 - Elk Hunt –nothing to report. (All done for this season)

OLD BUSINESS,

- Remember to check your VA card for expiration date.
- Tonight was the first occasion where our members can eat free at the Elks as part of our efforts to increase attendance at meetings. Tonight it was a tator-tot hot dish meal.

NEW BUSINESS

- At the Board meeting our Finance Committee suggested we up the amount of funds we hand out during our Xmas gift card program. Much discussion was had and in the end a motion was made, seconded and approved to raise the dollar amount of the top three cards and eliminate the bottom two cards from the program. The amounts will now be \$350, \$275 and \$200. Our Xmas gift Card policy document was also modified and approved by the board. A motion was made seconded and approved by the membership.
- An issue with our motorized wheelchair arose and it was determined our chapter should have a Policy/Procedure document outlining their use. Secretary Cass developed and document which was discussed during the Board meeting and a motion was made, seconded and approved for implementation going forward. The document includes a policy section describing who can use the chairs, how the chairs can be used, cost for using them, storage and upkeep and other items. There is also a procedure section describing how a veteran



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goes about obtaining a chair and a form which must be completed that documents the details of the user and the agreement they must sign to obtain one. A motion was made seconded and approved by the membership.

- A new program initiated by the SD Game, Fish and Parks has them installing a ramp system at lake access points near the boat ramp. The lifts allow a person in a wheel chair to be lifted onto a boat away from the dock in order to expedite the often-difficult wrangling to get someone in a wheelchair onto a boat. A motion was made seconded and approved to participate in this program but additional information is needed. Contact will be made with the welding class at Lake Area to see if the cost could be reduced if they were to build the ramps. A lift is tentatively planned for Sailboat Landing on Lake Kampeska in Watertown. Two others have been installed, one in the Black Hills and one on the Missouri River in Chamberlain at the American Creek Marina
- Kay Solberg reported at the Board meeting the Watertown VFW Post 750 Auxiliary had 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. The initial \$2000 pledged by the Auxillary soon became insufficient to accomplish the task and funds are being solicited from other groups. A question was raised about such a program in all the other counties we serve in. We agreed to participate but need more information which will be forthcoming.
- Board Member DeBoer informed the membership about an upcoming Veterans Appreciation Football game at SDSU on November 2nd at 1400. He is seeking interest from our members in order to line up sufficient seats as they are in very high demand. A show of hands seemed to support approximately 18 attendees from



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our chapter including spouses. Plans are to use the chapter bus.

- Our Vietnam War video - AVVA member Kay Solberg reported she has the names of all the local principles and Social Studies instructors and has contacted many. Waverly school has set a date of November 12th at 1345 for a presentation there. Board member Braeger requested our members contact the schools in their area to help identify those showing interest.
- A short discussion was held concerning our Xmas party and Kay volunteered to check into open dates at the Elks.
- BOD member Phil Braeger reported we now have 4 engraved bottles of JD Single Barrel left and we plan to use 2 of them at our Xmas party. A motion was made, seconded and approved at the Board meeting to request Williquors to engrave 2 more cases and we will continue to present them at our meetings as encouragement for meeting attendance.

SICKNESS / DISTRESS and GOOD OF THE ORDER

- AVVA member Don Pasch recently had a quadruple bypass and is still in serious condition but recovering at home.
- Darrell Burning a long-time member now living in Minnesota has been diagnosed with Parkinsons Disease
- We recently became aware of a motorized scooter available to us at no cost. It does need some TLC but it will become part of our motorized fleet available to Veterans.
- 50/50 drawing ticket #163, Dana Jones was the winner of \$90.



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- The engraved bottle of Jack Daniels Single barrel was won by Ticket #131, Glen Folk 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 1952
- Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Secretary Earl F. Cass.

