



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1054

P.O. Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

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nesdvva.org



General Membership Meeting November 23, 2024

General Membership Meeting Minutes: Nov 23, 2024

Meeting called to order by President Denman @ 1105

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		Jun 20	Jul 18	Aug 15	Sep 19	Oct 17	Nov 23
Pres	Jerry Denman	1	1	1	1	1	1
SR VP	Bob Syring	E	E	1	1	1	E
Jr VP	Darrell Boyle	*	1	1	1	1	*
Treasurer	Bob Frink	1	1	1	1	1	1
Secretary	Earl F. Cass	*	E	1	*	*	*
Chaplain	Troy Foster	E	E	1	1	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 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 \$111,416.10 Slides were shown representing the income and expenses and an opportunity to ask questions was provided.
- A guest was present and became a new member, Lynn Jensen and he was a Navy guy. Go Navy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee – Board Member Hanson spoke about the meeting held recently where they developed the budget for 2025



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totaling \$21,500 which will be revenue neutral. It was mentioned that new and innovative methods of fundraising may be needed.

- Membership report –AVVA member Solberg reports 477 VVA members and 74 AVVA members for a total of 551.
- Communication – Communication – no meeting was held but the SD Veteran Council did meet and there were Legislative Roundtables conducted in both Sioux Falls and Watertown and there are now numerous sponsors supporting the Rural Veteran Transportation bills in the State House and Senate. Also, there were 4 successful school presentations of our video. There is also now a Veteran Transportation Services van stationed in Watertown. No preconditions are required except for a bonafide VA appointment.
- Honor Guard. Milbank had 1 event and Watertown had no events but did attend 2 funerals for AVVA members Don Pasch and Barb Folk. Both groups also participated in Veterans Day ceremonies.
- 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 as noted above.
- Elk Hunt – tickets are in and should be available in January.

OLD BUSINESS,

- Our school presentations were very well attended; at the IC school we had 56 students, Brookings had approx. 250 students, Waverly SD had 25 students and the Milbank Library had 20 attendees and the event was covered in the local newspaper.
- Our chapter still intends on providing funds to the Florida State VVA



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Council to purchase 4 generators for use by veterans after a calamity such as the last hurricane. In the end the generators will be owned by that council and they will be responsible for them. 2 will be located on the east coast and 2 on the west coast.

- Our Xmas party will be held at the Watertown Elks Club on December 14th starting at 1700 until it ends. There is a cost of \$15.00 per person and Kay has the tickets.
- We still need volunteers for the intersection security and to hand out candy canes during the Watertown lighted parade on November 29th. Please remember this is also a fund raiser for us so participate and meet at the Post office at 1730 with the parade starting at 1830.
- Three of our members attended the Veterans program held at the Joy Ranch retreat facility. BOD member Hanson reported it was a fine program and wished more of our members had attended. The facility is thinking of us providing a showing of our video for groups there at a later date.
- A collection of slides was presented reflecting the new check-in procedures that are being implemented at the VA facilities. Supposedly a more computer oriented, sleeker and comprehensive methodology that so far has our heads shaking. The slides also spoke about massage therapy and the new schedules associated with it. There will also be a significant change to how we log into My Healthy Vet.
- It was noted that the Third Annual Day County Veterans Appreciation Banquet was held November 23rd and is sponsored and coordinated by the Day County VSO. Support for the banquet comes from the local community and this year exceeded \$18,000 with over 388 veterans and their spouses attending.



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NEW BUSINESS

- Almost all of the Xmas gift cards have been handed out to the veterans. In Roberts County we will be passing out food baskets as agreed upon in lieu of gift cards. This will take place on the 27th at 0900 at the Dakota Crossing. We will hand out 20 boxes and local providers will hand out 30 more boxes all on a first come basis.
- President Denman spoke briefly on the changes we will be faced with concerning the transition of the VVA to whatever we become. For now, we intend on taking a wait-and-see posture and tackle the issues as they come up. One significant item is we are no longer a “last-man-standing” and the goal for the VVA now is to become a succession type of organization. The calendar of National now only goes out to 2028.
- We will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army on December 5th at the usual locations and as usual volunteers are required. Times are starting at 1000 and ending at 1800. Sufficient volunteers were secured during the meeting.
- BOD member Braeger pointed out that the new governor of South Dakota, Larry Rhoden is a six-year veteran of the National Guard.

SICKNESS / DISTRESS and GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Fortunately, nothing came up.
- 50/50 drawing ticket #5596, Curt Lamb was the winner of \$87.50.
- The engraved bottle of Jack Daniels Single barrel was won by Ticket #5550, Dennis Anderson was the winner.



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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 1151. Attendees were reminded to stay for lunch. We had 66 attendees today.
- Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Secretary Earl F. Cass.

