

The Veteran's Voice

April 2009

Vol. 8, Issue 4

North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc.

April Meeting

Attendees: John Odom, Lee Wilson, Joe Harsch, Bob Matthews, Ron Wagoner, Ron Harris, Dave Samuels, Bud Gross, Lee Booher, Bobby Thrower. Dinner provided by...**NO DINNER!** Dinner next month will be provided by Bud.

Finance

Checking: \$1,205.49/ **Vietnamese Orphanage:** \$2,077.00/ **Bridge Back:** \$21,514.39/ **Saving:** \$2,274.90/ **Scholarship:** \$24,523.44.

Education

Scholarship essays: Eight (8) were received, reviewed and scored. The quality of the essays is much better this year than in recent years. The attendees reviewed the evaluation sheet. The reader's scores were tallied and one essay was rated the highest. The results were voted on and accepted. It was decided to award \$1,000.00 to the highest rated and \$500.00 to each of the next three highest rated. Letters will be sent this week.

High Schools: Bob Matthews continues to work with the high schools to expand the LOV classes, enhance the classes with Vietnam veteran speakers and spread the work of our Bridge Back trip to Vietnam. He continues to receive very positive reports and responses about the program. Cary High School has requested that they be the lead group for future DC trips. Bob and other NCVVI members recently spoke to a large number of students and faculty at Knightdale High School. We have also been invited to Eastern Alamance High School in Mebane, N.C. We are expecting a very large number of students and faculty. The school is gathering medical supplies for us to deliver to the orphanages during our Bridge Back trip. They also plan to make a monetary donation to support our efforts to spread the work of LOV.

Bridge Back: Bob Matthews shared more information on the Bridge Back Vietnam Trip. Everything looks to be on schedule to leave RDU at 4:00 PM on October 13, 2009 and return to RDU on October 25, 2009 around 3:27 PM. He also passed out copies of the Global Spectrum preliminary itinerary and ticket information. More information will follow concerning shots and other personal interest. If you are planning to go on this trip and missed this meeting, please contact Bob Matthews for more information at (919) 469-9892. Part of the reason for this trip is to expand our knowledge of Vietnam so we can enhance the LOV classes.



Finances

Education

Scholarships

High Schools

Bridge Back

Wake Co. Vet. Council

Upcoming Events

Old Business

New Business

President

Ron Wagoner

Vice President

Bo Williams

Treasurer

Bud Gross

Secretary

Bobby Thrower

Directors

Bill Dixon

Joe Harsch

John Odom

Bob Matthews

Al Ely, III

Wake County Veterans Council

The Wake County Veterans Council is looking for someone who is interested in chairing the 4th July parade. This is another great opportunity to get active in your city and Veterans groups. Please contact Bill Dixon (2008 Chairman of Parade) for more information. Email --oldshoerealtor@nc.rr.com

Upcoming Events

May 2: POW/MIA service at State Capital. A new Coast Guard flag will be added to our present array of flags on display during these services.

May 9: (Saturday) 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM -Raleigh Elks Club #735 - 5538 Lead Mine Rd., Raleigh - invites all Veterans to an open house to honor and record the histories of Veterans. The “Veterans History Day Celebration” is co-sponsored with the National Veterans History Archival Institute. All Veterans are encouraged to come and record their military histories.

May 24: (Sunday) Raleigh Post One of the American Legion will sponsor the Memorial Day Service at the Raleigh National Cemetery, 501 Rock Quarry Road. The Raleigh Concert Band will start playing at 1:30 PM with the service to start at 2:00 PM. Representatives of several patriotic organizations will place wreaths at the graves of our fallen comrades. The guest speaker will be Elree Smith, Vietnam Veteran and past State Commander of the Department of North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars and past Commander of the North Carolina Veterans Council. Public invited. No fee.

May 25: Memorial Day celebration at State Capital grounds. Our service will be held at the Vietnam Memorial Statue. We are considering several ideas to properly honor all veterans. Other groups will also hold services on the grounds around the Capital.

June 13: 11:00 AM - Onslow County dedication of Glass Wall.(Vietnam Veterans Memorial).

July 4: Our POW/MIA service will be held at the Vietnam Memorial Statue at the State Capital. Other organizations will also have services on the Capital grounds throughout the day.

August 29: (Saturday) 6:00 PM --IMPORTANT --Your Help Is Needed --- Our group (NCVVI) will be the guest of the Heather Hills Tennis/Swim Club. Starting at 6:00 PM, we will operate “Casino Night”. Our last event at Heather Hills was a big success and we expect a large turnout of players this time. Your help is needed to operate the tables and assist in making the show happen. Why attend?? 1) sights are great! 2) Fun for all; 3) Cost to us is FREE; 4) Without your help, this event could be an embarrassment to our organization! 5) This has proven to be an excellent source of income for us to support our programs; 6) The more help we have the more time we have to enjoy the sights and the participants; and 7), NCVVI is your organization – why not be a part of the fun? Contact David Samuels - Email – dsamuels-berthel@bellsouth.net if you can help.

The Veteran's Voice

Old Business

The first National Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29, 2009, was a great success. We are planning to celebrate next year with some refinements to the program. Thanks to everyone who assisted and special thanks to the Raleigh Elks Lodge #735 for the use of their facilities. Also special thanks to the cook, Jim Walsh, Joe Harsch's step-son. The food and fixings were great! Feed-back was very positive. A wonderful card was received from one of the Blue Star Mothers of N.C., in which was this statement: "Please extend my deepest appreciation to all NCVVI members. It was an honor to spend the afternoon with the group. I believe it was a success for the first time. To be among such a wonderful group of men and women who continue to represent our country with such pride was very special for me. I pray that my son will represent our country with pride and make all of you proud." Signed "Peace & Blessings, Denise, Proud Air Force Mom".

New Business

A discussion was held on extending news of our NCVVI organization to different newspapers. Ron Wagner will check into this.

A new tent has been purchased to compliment our displays.

Annual dues are another part of our finances. They help to pay for postage, paper and other office supplies. Below is a current list of dues owed. Please contact Bud Gross with any questions at (Email – budgross@nc.rr.com) and mail your past dues to: NCVVI, 601 Compton Rd, Raleigh, NC 27609.

Dues List

Dryer, James E.
Lynch, Mike
Dean, Robert
Corbett, Leroy V.
Dixon, Bill
Dutcher, Dale
Harsch, Joe
Kuhr, Bobbie
Murphy, William W.
Dawson, Robert L.

Patrikios, Bob
Cox, Robert
Loving, John C.
Wilson, Lee
Acai, Steve
Rogers, Dennis S.
Page, Linwood
Beddingfield, Robert E.
Johnson, Steve
Murray, Lou J.

Page, Russell T.
Roberts, Surry P.
Sodan, Robert J.
Kelly, Edward J.
Osman, Alfred T.
Cook, George G.
Dyer, George D.
Kesgen, Edward
Peters, Ralph W.
Waters, Ron