



# The Veteran's Voice

Minutes  
February 25, 2020



**Attending:** Ron Fitzsimmons, Bob Krzynowek, Paul White, Jeff Kanner, Dave Samuels, Benny Hoots, Larry Kall, John Odom, Mike Lynch, Ron Harris, Angie Edwards, Bill Dixon, Bonnie Kuhr

The pledge of allegiance was said. David Samuels presided. The meeting was held at the Sawmill Tap Room.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the secretary's minutes as published. The treasurer's report on motion made, seconded and passed was accepted as read. Bob K. collected 2020 dues from 16 members. In 2019 there were 18 paid members.

## **POW/MIA Ceremonies:**

**The February ceremony went well with the VV Helicopter Association and Dave Samuels. There was a very small showing.**

**March 7 – Vass Post 296 (Rora Kellis 910-603-1318)  
NCVVI – Ron Fitzsimmons**

**Ron has been in touch with Rora. Vass has done it before.**

**Bill Dixon mentioned the flag holders need to be replaced. It was suggested this be brought up with the other reader groups for help along with someone from NCVVI. This was tabled until April meeting.**

**Update on happening at the event: The Capitol Police were not aware of our ceremony. I reported the event to the proper office and this was their response:** I am sorry you had some issues at your event. As you stated, the date is on the permit. I am unaware of an “alert situation” but that doesn't mean there wasn't a situation. It is required that someone at the event have a copy of the permit on them for just such instances (I'll be bringing to April event.) Please keep in mind, that even if you have a date permitted and a special situation arises that might make it unsafe for you to be there, the officer would direct you to leave the premises as the safety of the public is of the utmost importance. I apologize for any inconvenience.

**Education:** Bill Dixon will be speaking at Wakefield and Athens High Schools in March.

**Etchings:** Albemarle Museum never got in touch with Ron Harris for a showing of Etchings at the Museum.

*POW/MIA Ceremony  
Education  
Etchings  
Scholarships  
Live Streaming  
VFW Response  
Writing for Home*

### **President:**

*Dave Samuels*

### **Vice President:**

*Benny Hoots*

### **Treasurer:**

*Bob Krzynowek*

### **Secretary:**

*Bonnie Kuhr*

### **Director:**

*Ron Harris*

**Scholarships: We have one application. It is imperative we get in touch with the teachers about the scholarship. The V.A. should also be contacted. As of March 16, we still only have one applicant.**

**Live Streaming:**

February 12 – George Williams, Transportation Specialist  
February 26 – Aviation – how many shot down  
March 11 - "Aviation of the Vietnam War"

**New Business:**

Bill Dixon gave the following upcoming events schedule:

2020 *The Wall That Heals* Tour Schedule • Charlotte, N.C., March 19 – March 22 • New Bern, N.C., March 26 – March 29 • Garner, N.C. April 16 – April 19 at Lake Benson Park

March 7: NC Veterans Coffee from 8:30-10:30 at Trailblazers Studios located at 1610 Midtown Place, Raleigh (these are the coffees that Jeff Smith from UNC started but were taken over by the Joel Fund).

March 7: Veterans Appreciation Event. All Veterans are invited on March 7th from 1400 – 1600. The Veterans Appreciation Event will be held at the Granville County Expo and Convention Center which is located at 4185 US Hwy 15 South in Oxford. This event is free to veterans.

March 26: NC Governor's Working Group, National Guard Headquarters at 1:30. Co-chairs give updates from their agencies and then dive into a new topic with knowledgeable presenters. This month the discussion will be Housing Assistance and Shelter Programs.

March 27: (This is an outstanding opportunity) Writing For Hope, Every Veteran has a story worth telling. 6 weeks program. Participants will get the opportunity to explore their hopes, dreams and experiences through a fun, expressive writing exercise. It's therapy with writing. Sponsored by the Joel Fund in Wake Forest. Fridays 10:30-12:30 located 822 S. White Street, Suite 106, Wake Forest

March 28: GI Joes in Kinston will be holding a Vietnam Veterans Day Activity with displays and Etchings in Stone. Contact Eric Cantu or Bill Dixon for times and location of the new GI Joes.

The NC DMVA Presents 50th Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony, March 30, 2020, 11:00AM - 12:30PM NC Museum of History Auditorium 5 East Edenton St., Raleigh, NC 27601. Mike Cooke and Bill Dixon will be there with displays

R.s.v.p. by 25 March 2020

POC: Ken Castille or link below  
(984) 204-2984

April 4: Vietnam War Commemorative Pinning Ceremony at The Lusk Center, 2501 Summit Avenue, Greensboro, NC from 10 - 10:45 a.m.....Welcome Reception with Light Refreshments. Ceremony 11 - 12:00 p.m.

April 6: A special Flag raising ceremony at the Wake Forest Town Hall, time 11:00. Each month a veteran is honored with the ceremony. Very moving event with numerous familiar faces.

April 16: Quarterly Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting from 10:00 to 14:00, at State VFW Headquarters, 917 New Bern Ave. Raleigh, NC 27611

April 22, 8:30 to 10:30, NC Veterans Networking Coffee at Fairway Mortgage, 7721 Six Forks Rd., Suite 120, Raleigh, NC 27615

April 30: to commemorate the 45<sup>th</sup> year of the Fall of Saigon, the Wake County Vietnamese American Association is holding a special dinner by invitation. If you would care to attend, please contact Bill Dixon; he does not know how many of the 45 spaces have been filled currently but will submit your request.

Ride to the Wall for Memorial Day, The AMVETS have taken the ride sponsorship over from Rolling Thunder and will be holding a rest and event time just off Interstate 95. Will send out flyer. Discussions about Etchings in Stone.

Don't forget the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday's Lessons of Vietnam Show, lots of great guest and viewership now exceeds 10,000 per show. Try it; you might like it.

#### **Old Business:**

Presentation of Quilt of Valor to General Gaddis was held on February 29 at the VFW in Chapel Hill. It was also a Music Marathon to raise money for the Fisher House Foundation. Ron and Shey Harris, Steve Hensley, and Monica and Cash Curtis attended.

Bo got a call from Andrew Jackson (National Guard) asking if we want to be involved in an event on March 30 (March 29 is Vietnam Recognition Day) at the History Museum. He has asked about our portable Wall, and I mentioned to him about our " Etching in Stone' play when we last spoke. Dave talked to him. It's on a Monday and a very short Museum show. It's a lot of work to get everything set up for this short of an event. **NC DMVA will have a ceremony on March 30 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the NC Museum of History.**

Women Veterans Support Services - Bo Williams received a request from Moses at the V.A.. Dave Samuels will discuss with Bo. Item tabled.

Audit: Val Price was contacted about doing the audit.

Further discussion was had on presenting a plaque to Tam Van Cao and Bich Nga Loung. It was decided to give a scholarship to a Vietnamese student in their honor in addition to the plaque making them honorary members for all their work for NCVVI. Am working on information about a scholarship.

VFW and NCVVI Relationship: A letter was sent to the State Commander of the VFW with a copy to the Cary VFW. A copy of the response is attached. Discussion was had about going to National VFW. It was decided not to go any further with this matter.

Please give Dave Samuels suggestions for places to meet. Next month's venue is to be determined.

Meeting was adjourned.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

North Carolina

31 January 2020

David Samuels, President  
NCVVI  
7316 Ray Road  
Raleigh, NC 27613

Subject: Letter dated 27 December 2019

President David Samuels,

Thank you for reaching out to me about the issues that transpired with Cary VFW Post 7383; however, this matter is solely between the NCVII and Post 7383. Post 7383 is made up of members from every war and even pay for the Life Memberships of Korean War and later veterans when they join so this does not appear to be a slight at Vietnam Veterans at all which your letter suggests.

Due to this being an issue between your organization and Post 7383, the Department of North Carolina VFW will not be getting involved with this matter. After speaking to Post Commander David Wagoner, he confirmed to me that many members of your organization are also members of VFW Post 7383, like your letter states, and that your members may appeal this ruling on the Post floor at a regular meeting. They meet on the third Tuesday of every month. I would suggest that if you would like to take this grievance any further, that is the route you take. Thank you again for letting me know and I wish you the best in working something out with Post 7383.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Craig Armstrong". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Craig Armstrong  
Commander  
NC VFW

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917 New Bern Avenue,  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
Telephone: 919-828-5058, Fax: 919-261-6771

# Writing for Hope: Express Yourself! Writing Workshop for Veterans

Every veteran has a story worth telling! Over the course of six weeks, participants will get the opportunity to explore their hopes, dreams, and experiences through fun, expressive writing exercises. The focus of the workshop – inspiring empowerment through writing – encourages veterans to share their unique stories, providing a safe, supportive environment to ‘express yourself’! Veterans, current active duty and reserve members of the armed forces are all welcome; no previous writing experience needed.

**LOCATION:** The Joel Fund/Operation A.R.T. Center, 822 S. White Street, Suite 106, Wake Forest, NC 27587 **INSTRUCTOR:** June Guralnick **CLASS TIME:** Fridays 10:30am–12:30pm

**DATES:** Mar 27–May 8 (\*No class Apr 10. Make-up class May 15) **COST:** \$25 **PREREQUISITE:** None **SPECIAL NOTES:** ages 18+

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** Mar 25

Please email [brooke@thejoelfund.org](mailto:brooke@thejoelfund.org) if you are interested in taking this class and it is past the registration deadline or if you would like information on our Operation A.R.T. scholarship program.



# Membership Application

NCVVI is proud to have you as a member.

**A DD214 is required for full membership**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (First Name) (MI)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Spouse's name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip code)

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home Phone) (Work Phone) (Occupation)

\_\_\_\_\_ Full Membership (\$25 per Year) \_\_\_\_\_ (check amount) DD214 supplied \_\_\_Y \_\_\_N

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate Membership (\$15 per year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(E-MAIL ADDRESS :) **{Need this to send the unit's monthly newsletter}**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Signature)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Date)**

**Reminder:** NCVVI holds a remembrance service on the Capital grounds, Raleigh, NC, the first Saturday of each month (12:00 noon) and the monthly business meeting on the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Tuesday of each month at a location to be announced.

Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc.  
7316 Ray Road  
Raleigh, NC 27613

Member of: N.C. Vietnam Veterans Council, Wake County Veterans Council, National Vietnam Veterans Coalition