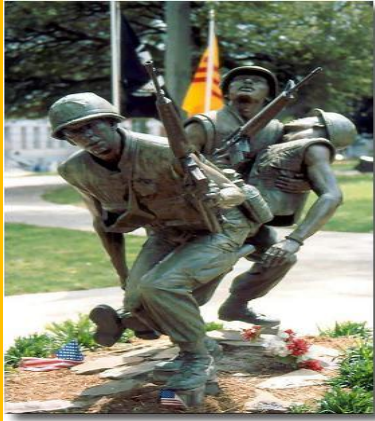


North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc. The Veteran's Voice

July, 2013 with June meeting notes



NCVVI Website:
www.ncvvi.com

Bridge Back Foundation

Website:

www.bridgebackfoundation.org

President:

Bill Dixon

919-434-7345

Vice President:

Joe Harsch

Treasurer:

Bud Gross

Directors:

The June 25, 2013 meeting was started off with the pledge led by Bob Williams.

Dinner was prepared by Dennis Abels, the pizza was enjoyed by all present.

The financial report was given by the president in the absence of the treasurer. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report subject to audit as given. Motion was carried by vote.

There was discussion about NCVVI participating in any 4th of July celebrations as a group. And the general consensus was not at the Capitol. The Capitol seems to only be interested in their Citizenship service. There were wreaths laid at each war memorial during their ceremonies. During this discussion NCVVI member Pete Ashworth mentioned that Garner was having a 4th of July celebration on the 5th and that they had a new War Memorial and were selling bricks to help finance the project. A motion was made and carried to donate \$200.00 for a NCVVI brick. The brick is to have **Honoring all Veterans, North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc.** Pete also mentioned that NCVVI might wish to have a display and to call the City Clerk Judy Bass. The president called to get information and Mrs. Bass checked and was told they did not allow nonprofits to have displays. Mrs. Bass called back later and took it upon herself to invite NCVVI anyway to have a display at the memorial. The original date was canceled due to weather and rescheduled. NCVVI's 41 POW/MIA bio panels were on display by the memorial at the delayed festival until the rain came.

Joe Harsch gave a report of the Steak House fund raiser. The final donation had not been settled at the time of the meeting so no figures were given. Due to really bad weather and location this was not the most profitable fund raiser NCVVI has done. Appreciation to Joe and all who did participate. Further restaurant fund raisers were discussed and put on hold for now.

Bob Matthews reported on the upcoming school year and the many successes of the past year in new and existing school programs. He also talked about the return trip to Vietnam and the fact the preferred Vietnamese guide Song would be with the trip in May 2014. Members and other interested in going were asked to make a \$500 deposit by 1 August. Pre-liminary itineraries will be available at the July meeting. Fund raising for the playground to be built by NCVVI in Dong Ha has begun. The playground will benefit the handicapped home for Quang Tri Province in Dong Ha (it houses 130 Autistic and deaf children) as well as for the Dong Ha Street

Children's Home next door. The fantastic people at WoodPlay of the Carolinas have already said they would give us a special price and were going to send someone to assist in installing the pieces. Not only are these wonderful people discounting the price and shipping tremendously but they are also sending someone at their expense. With all the attention and support that NCVVI is getting to build this playground for the children, the membership should be very proud of the work they are doing and assist in the successful completion anyway they can.

The components of the playground are going to be priced individually so that anyone or group may donate the funds needed for a particular piece and have a plaque with their name or in honor of applied to that piece. Special letters are available to help explain to the public what NCVVI has done and is doing. All that is necessary is to send or hand out this letter to potential supporters. If an organization or group needs a presentation please notify Bill Dixon, Joe Harsch or Bob Matthews.

Dave Samuels reported that Lowes was selling American Flag door mats and that it should be called to the attention of the store management that it was disrespectful and should not be done.

There was discussion about the NCVVI patches, pins and bracelets, who had them and did we, need to order more. Monica Cash was asked to look into ordering additional bracelets. Later it was reported that the Treasurer had 500 bracelets in stock. He was asked to bring them to the July meeting for the membership.

Monica Cash talked about a Bowe rally to be held at the Wake County Court House Friday 28 June in conjunction with other rallies nationwide. The hours were to be between 5-7 PM. A new report had come out that the terrorist holding him wanted to trade for the release of some of their members. At this time the status of talks are unknown.

NCVVI has reached out and started a new and exciting project. Thanks to Amnon Nissan and his Nissan Communications NCVVI has a live show on the web called, what else but, "The Lessons of Vietnam." It can be seen live on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 on Nissancommunications.com. The public can call in or Skype in for comment or questions during the show. It is recorded so it can be watched anytime that is convenient. If you would like to participate please contact Bill Dixon. Please spread the word about the show, it is a great educational opportunity. Tune in and even you may learn something from one of the guests, be a guest or just call in and discuss your experiences.

NCVVI is growing in membership and in respect in the community. More and more people are noticing all the great things NCVVI has done and is doing. We need more of both, please share your story along with that of NCVVI to everyone you can get to listen. Invite potential new members to meetings or the monthly POW/MIA ceremonies. NCVVI may be small in numbers in comparison to some other organizations but big in opportunities and activities.

I would like to personally thank Ron Wagner for all his hard work and dedication to NCVVI over the last three years. With an organization as diverse and active as NCVVI being the leader is not an easy job. Getting the meetings done and finished at a reasonable time is quite an accomplishment. Seeing that the Flags and materials are on hand for the Monthly POW/MIA ceremony is time consuming. As well as the day to day requirements. Ron has shown a great deal of dedication to his supporting of NCVVI and its members. Please relay to him at every opportunity how much you appreciate him and the job he did.





Membership Renewal and Application

NCVVI is proud to have **you** as a member.

DD214 Required with Full Membership

(Print)

(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)

_____ Associate Membership (\$10 per year)

(Dates in Country)

(Branch of Service)

(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 (4th) Tuesday of each month in Cary, NC.at VFW 7383 Reedy Creek Road (6:30 PM)

Mail to: North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc.
601 Compton Road
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

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