

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



MINUTES MAY 22, 2012



NCVVI Website:

www.ncvvi.org

Bridge Back Foundation

Website:

www.bridgebackfoundation.org

President:

Ron Wagoner

Vice President:

Joe Harsch

Treasurer:

Bud Gross

Secretary/ Newsletter:

Volunteer wanted

Directors:

Bill Dixon

Dennis Abels

Bo Williams

Lee Booher

Bob Allen

The meeting was called to order. Those present were Dennis Abels, Bob Allen, Lee Booher, Monica Cash, R.J. Del Vecchio, Bill Dixon, Ron Fitzsimmons, Bud Gross, Ron Harris, Joe Harsch, Bob Krzynowek, Mike Lynch, Bob Matthews, Dave Samuels, Robert Smith, Ron Wagoner, Ron Walters, Paul White and Bo Williams. Our guest was Linda Steen, a Blue Star Mother (and daughter of a Vietnam vet). Bill Dixon provided a great dinner for us; thanks Bill.

After the Pledge and National Anthem, the treasurer gave his financial report which was approved. The minutes of the March meeting were posted online with hard copies made available. They, too, were approved.

Bob Matthews gave the Bridge Back report. We have been invited to do an orientation for the "Lessons of Vietnam" course in Tennessee. Our sponsors are a VVA chapter. They are covering our expenses plus an honorarium. Also, there is the potential to travel to Seattle for the National Social Studies Teachers Conference and to the symposium at Texas Tech. More information will follow.

Bob asked us all to stand and read the ten new names to be dedicated on the Wall this Memorial Day.

Instead of replacing the flag poles, Bill Dixon was authorized to purchase supplies for and to make new in-ground pole holders.

There was some discussion about our sound system, as it malfunctioned at our last POW/MIA ceremony. The problem was remedied with a new battery. We will replace the battery once a year.

Linda Steen shared pictures her father had taken while working ordnance in Vietnam. Some were pretty graphic ones of booby trapped dead Vietnamese.

Bill Dixon did a profile on one of the 41 POW/MIA's from North Carolina. He plans to do this each month.

We heard from sculptor Abby Godwin concerning cleaning and care of our statue. A GI party needs to be organized for its cleaning.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Post-meeting news

Memorial Day turned out to be a huge event with three to four hundred people there. The N&O ran a public service announcement five or six times about the ceremonies and three television stations were there. Our color guard was provided by the Young Marines. Names readers for the POW/MIA ceremony were all Vietnam veterans. SFC Bob White started the Memorial Day service with a military medley played on the bagpipes. Former WRAL anchor Pam Saulsby read about the symbolism of each item on the soldier's cross. Bill Dixon reported the battlefield statistics at Khe Sanh. In honor of the 703 killed during those 77 days, Wayne Swan poured some soil from Khe Sanh onto the base of our statue. Richard Johnson then placed a barbed wire wreath. Bob Matthews read the ten new names added to the wall that day and was followed by Bob White's playing of "Taps." The service was concluded by members and guests calling out the names of friends or loved ones who died in the service of our country.

Several members traveled to the Rockingham Drag Strip to perform the POW/MIA ceremony for a rock concert benefit. Several military and paramilitary groups were there. The next day we did another POW/MIA ceremony back in Raleigh, where we honored the three recipients of this year's scholarships (named for Mike Hooks, Nick Rowe and Dan Pitzer).



Membership Renewal and Application

NCVVI is proud to have you as a member.

Note: DD214 showing Vietnam service required for 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)

(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 at VFW 7383, 522 Reedy Creek Road, Cary, NC. (Dinner at 6:00 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