



The Veteran's Voice

Minutes
June 27, 2017



Attending: Dennis Abels, Bo Williams, Ron Fitzsimmons, Benny Hoots, Monica Cash, Dave Samuels, Larry Kall, Joe Harsch, Ron Harris, Angelo Carmen, Bonnie Kuhr

The pledge of allegiance was said. The meeting was conducted by the Board. The minutes were approved as sent and the treasurer's report as read. The question was asked if we can move money from scholarship fund to operating expenses. The scholarship fund was designed to be perpetual and self-generating. When we raised money for the scholarship fund, it was specified for that purpose.

Walking Wounded: Ron Fitzsimmons had surgery at Duke but was able to be at the meeting. Ange is continuing treatment.

Education:

- East Cary Middle School scheduled for June 5 had 3 sessions that Bob Matthews and Joe Harsch conducted.
- Jeffrey Hutchison, the high school teacher from Green Hope, thanked all participants in the students' interviews. The podcasts can be found at www.thevietnamvetproject.weebly.com.
- Bo Williams noted that if anyone needs a venue for an interview the Elks has rooms available.
- Bob Matthews was inducted into the Apex Hall of Fame.

Casino The check from SearStone Retirement Community for casino night has been received. **Saturday, September 9, 6:00 p.m., there will be a casino night at the Heather Hills Swim Club. There is a need for two Texas Holdem dealers.** Bo Williams will ask Michelle and Angie to help out. Bo presented both of them with a plaque at an Elks meeting, thanking them for stepping up whenever NCVVI needs them.

POW/MIA Ceremony:

There was a mixup on my part. Some volunteers would have been at tonight's meeting to discuss logistics but I dropped the ball. The microphone has to be charged. Bo will check into a wireless as well as check if we can still use the speakers we have. Dave Samuels was approached by Leo Roy, American Legion Post 187 and Rolling Thunder NC7 about doing the ceremony. It is important to remember that NCVVI will still own the ceremony and will be there to mentor. A signup sheet for each group was recommended. If an NCVVI member signed up for a month he/she needs to be there. This holds true for the outside group. We need 12 slots to be filled. NCVVI will do the candlelight ceremony. It was decided to have a meeting in August with the groups volunteering and NCVVI. Storage is a problem. Ron Harris is to ask Museum of History if they have storage space.

Etchings in Stone:

Ron now has the patent.

Education

Casino

POW/MIA Ceremony

Scholarships

Vietnam Experience

History of Bench at the

Vietnam Memorial

Flyer for Kinston Program

President:

Vice President:

Treasurer:

Bob Krzynowek

Secretary:

Bonnie Kuhr

Directors:

Dennis Abels

Paul White

Dave Samuels

Bill Dixon

Angelo Carmen

Carolina Woodstock at Lenoir County Fairgrounds, August 18-20.

The flyer from Eric Cantu was distributed to all at the meeting. It is attached to this Newsletter.

Live Streaming:

June 28 – Purple Heart Foundation

July 12 – Bobby Garwood or Vietnam, Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan Symposium

July 26 – The program not done on July 12

Vietnam Experience: March 23-25, 2018

Etchings will run the same as last year. Al Ely will be there with The Wall. We will need to spend at least \$400 for a computer.

Patch on NCVVI.org: A member asked for 2. Monica will price as we have run out.

Request for Food for VA Food Bank: Angelo Carmen brought a huge bag to the VA and credited NCVVI with the donation.

Membership List: Bonnie updated the membership list before this was sent out and emailed a copy for corrections.

Scholarships:

Last meeting we voted on a scholarship for Dalton Baum. There was a lot of discussion after the meeting about the scholarship process so it was decided to address the method of choosing essays at the June meeting.

Ron Harris noted that two members who had contributed greatly to NCVVI had grandchildren in the group of applicants. He also stated that we need to come up with a different solution with more points for NCVVI members who have family members applying. They should be rewarded based on the effort and hard work they put into this organization.

MOTION: Ron Harris moves that NCVVI give \$500 to Michaela Tran and Christopher Samuels based on the efforts and hard work of the NCVVI members of these applicants. In addition, the remaining two applicants (Molly Carol Moseley and Zachary Everson) should be awarded \$250. The motion was seconded and passed.

A committee will be set up at the next meeting to review the scholarship process in time for the 2018 process.

Report on Golf Tournament for Wheels4Heroes: NCVVI sponsored a hole in one. Bo Williams attended. Photos of the service woman who received a chair were circulated. We received a thank you note from the organization.

New Business:

Conference in San Francisco: Joe Harsch requested \$500 from NCVVI to sponsor Joe Harsch and Bob Matthews attendance at the National Social Studies Convention in San Francisco.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that NCVVI pay \$500 for Joe Harsch and Bob Matthews to attend the National Social Studies Convention in San Francisco

Dave Samuels talked about two brothers from Wilmington who completed work on recording everyone KIA from N.C. with pictures, bios, and places of burial on a website.

From News and Observer: Jim and Tom Reece, brothers from Wilmington, have spent more than a decade seeking out photos of people from North Carolina who were killed during the war in Vietnam.

What began as a project to find Jim's high school classmates who died in the war grew over time to an effort to obtain photographs of all 1,931 soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington, D.C., who were either born, based or buried in North Carolina.

The photos appear on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund website, www.vvmf.org, along with thousands of others from around the country, and will be displayed in a planned education center near the wall along with some of the hundreds of thousands of objects left at the memorial over the years.

Read more here: <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/article114135193.html#storylink=cpy>

Ron Harris and Bob Krznowek went to Asia last year and in March 2018 they are planning a 16-day trip to New Zealand. If anyone is interested in the trip, contact Ron or Bob.

Black Bracelets: Bonnie has bracelets for sale--\$3 for one, 2 for \$5.

Bo, the cook, was thanked. Bob Krzynowek volunteered for July.

I've been organizing our records and came upon this. I'm still missing records

History of the Vietnam Memorial Bench

On Saturday, March 24, 1990, NCVVI members and volunteers met at the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the State Capitol grounds to have a hands on part in the completion of the NC Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The work started at 7:30 a.m. when veterans Joe Stallings and Chris Moore and volunteer Dan Register carefully removed vegetation (monkey grass) from the sight of the granite bench so it could be used later to relandscape the finished project. By 7:45 veterans and volunteers were showing up from all directions with shovels, rakes, picks, drop cords, water hose and almost any tool imaginable. By 9:00 we were about 20 men and women strong. We had hand dug the footing and hauled off three pickup trucks of soil leaving enough to back fill and landscape on the site. I think almost all of the volunteers had their hands on a shovel, pick or wheel barrel by now. I even saw Sam Townsend, Capitol Administrator, with a shovel in his hand.

By 10:00 the guys from F&R Engineering, Jimmy Gilchrist and Joe Morawski, had taken soil samples to test for compaction and inspected the footings. By 10:30 we had the rebar (steel) in place and tied. By 11:30 we had the job site cleaned up and all the tools loaded. We could not get the concrete delivered after 10:00 on Saturday, but Robert Eagle, Project Manager for Davidson and Jones Construction Company came to our rescue. He had a crew ready to pour the concrete for us first thing Monday morning, March 26.

On Saturday, March 31, we were rained out but we still had a dozen members and volunteers there to work. We decided to do our carpentry work on Wednesday evening, April 4. We started to work at 5:00 p.m. and worked until after 8:00. We had to quit because of darkness. Steve March furnished his hand tools and saws. Chris Moore, William Dixon and Dan Register were the carpenters and John Odom was our helper.

On April 7, Chris Moore, Dave Samuels and Jimmy Gilchrist poured the concrete for the bench pedestal. The bench top is expected to be installed by the middle of May with a formal dedication on the Fourth of July.

The concrete, rebar (steel), digging of footings, plywood, 2 x 4.5, nails, labor, etc. would have cost \$2760 but thanks to our veterans and supporters we spent a grand total of \$321.35. That's a savings of \$2438.65. We still need volunteers to backfill behind the bench and replant the monkey grass.

NCVVI Memorial Committee Project Workers

Chris Moore, NCVVI Project Committee Chair

Joe Stallings, NCVVI Public Relations and Project Committee

Steve Acai, NCVVI Project Committee Member and Photographer

Dan Register, Head Carpenter

Sam Townsend, Capitol Administrator
Allen Eakes, Landscape Manager
Jimmy Gilchrist, NCVVI F&R Engineering
James Capps and Ryan Austin, Wake Supply
Robert Dean, Steve March, Mike Cook, Ron Harris, Robert Ryals, Dave Samuels, Project Committee
all NCVVI Members
Joe Morawski, F&R Engineering
Bryan Sears, Mike "Grubby" and Linda McMahan, Holly
Larry Matthews, Durham Vietnam Veterans

Handwritten by Chris Moore



This gentleman fought with US troops in Vietnam. His beautiful wife often brings incense, flowers, and gifts of fruit to the memorial. We salute you!

CAROLINA WOODSTOCK

“A Patriotic Music and Art Festival”

Veteran’s Revenge

August 18-20, 2017

Being held at LENOIR County Fairgrounds. Prefer phone contact at present for ease on my part to answer questions and help facilitate your participation. Thank you from all of us. God bless. Phone contact is (252) 560-8031. Eric Cantu. See carolinawoods.com.

BACKGROUND

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state, and local communities, veterans' organizations, and other nongovernmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families. Commemorative Partners are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events or activities that will recognize Vietnam Veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

Salute!-GI Joe’s Museum is pleased to announce the partnership of the NC State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America, local Chapters, and the Lenoir County Fair Board for this event to thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

OVERVIEW

The summer of 2017 will forever be remembered as the time when the brave Americans from the Vietnam War were officially welcomed home by their fellow Americans with music and art. It is believed that this event will recreate the fondest memories of the era and recognize the heroes who lived during the Vietnam Era.

EVENT

On Friday, August 18 at 5 pm, gates will open to the public with free admission for persons with military identification or membership cards from auxiliaries of military organizations. The event is scheduled to end on Sunday, August 20 at 3 pm. It is our desire for attendees to have an amazing time listening to the music of the era, watching military demonstrations, viewing art with a patriotic theme and visiting with each other.

WELCOME CEREMONY & CONCERT BY USO & ROLLING THUNDER’S ROCKIE LYNNE BAND

LIVE BANDS DISPLAYS & DEMONSTATIONS

THE SMALL WALL

AERIAL MANUVERS

KEYS TO OUR SUCCESS

Critical to success of this most important event is the corporate support that funds the event entertainment and production. The promotional support of this event will be a joint effort that ensures our partners receive maximum benefit for their investment to recognize these special individuals.



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 (\$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. (6:15 PM dinner 7:00 PM meeting)

North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc.
303 Homestead Dr.
Cary, North Carolina 27513

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