

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



**NCVVI Website:**

[www.ncvvi.org](http://www.ncvvi.org)

**Bridge Back Foundation**

**Website:**

[www.bridgebackfoundation.org](http://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*

## MINUTES

NORTH CAROLINA VIETNAM VETERANS, INC.  
FEBRUARY 28, 2012

The meeting was **called to order** at 1900 hours followed by the playing of our national anthem and the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer Bud Gross gave the **treasurer's report**, which was moved, seconded and approved. The **minutes** of the last meeting had been posted on line. There being no discussion, the minutes were moved, seconded and approved as well.

**Education** chair Bob Matthews updated the group on the upcoming trip to Vietnam. The playground equipment was in place at the orphanage, the concrete pad has been poured and all permits secured. Bob Matthews, Bill Dixon, Ron Fitzsimmons and Bob Krzynowek were scheduled to leave in two weeks.

**Guest speakers** Gene Davis and Pat Lloyd, for Vietnam veterans, gave a presentation on a homeless veterans program they are developing in Asheboro. It would provide housing, meals, clothing, job counseling and mental health support for veterans. While requesting no funding from us, they would like for us to network with them and our resources in an effort get the project operational.

A bus has been chartered for the trip to the **"Welcome Home" celebration** in Charlotte on March 31. Members and their guests will be charged ten dollars each to help defray the cost of the trip. Tickets have been secured for all going.

Bob Matthews, Bill Dixon and Joe Harsch will be going to the **regional VVA meeting** in Asheville in late march. They will set up the "Small Wall" and an information table at the conference.

The Heather Hills Swim Club has booked us for a **casino night September 29**. Pit boss David Samuels has begun working with the Elks to set up another joint casino night with them.

Joe Harsch is in charge of assimilating information on transportation and lodging for a trip to **Washington, DC for the thirtieth** anniversary of the Vietnam Memorial.

**Officers for the upcoming year were elected:**

President - Ron Wagoner  
Vice President - Joe Harsch  
Treasurer - Bud Gross  
Secretary - Remains to be filled, need a volunteer  
Board of Directors – Same cast of characters

The next **POW/MIA** ceremony is **March 3** at the Vietnam Memorial in Raleigh

Dennis Abels will be the cook for the **March 27 meeting**.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**National Personnel Records Center tips for DD214 requests and safeguarding information.**

The new address for the National Personnel Records Center is:  
National Personnel Records Center

1 Archives Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63138-1002 USA

The Majority of personnel have been moved to the new location and the military personnel records are in the process of moving. The entire moved should be completed by the end of the summer of 2012.

As a reminder, all retirees and Honorably Discharges veterans should ensure that their family knows the location of their military Separation Document (DD 214 from 1950 to present and WD (War Department) form 53-55 and other variations prior to 1955). Note that registering a copy at the county courthouse may make the document a public record. Separation documents issued after 1969 may contain a Social Security Number which could be used for identity theft. Storing the document in a safe deposit box may make it difficult to retrieve immediately upon the death of the retiree or the honorably discharged veteran. The better storage locations are: 1 – Fire safe in a secure location of the house (not in the bedroom, as it is where most thieves search first). Be sure Spouse/Next of Kin knows the location and has key/combination. 2 – In a watertight food container (Glad, Tupperware, etc.) in the refrigerator. Most refrigerators are fire resistant. Additionally, a refrigerator is heavy enough to fall through the floor of a building into the cooler part of the fire in the basement and better survive. Finally, a refrigerator is large enough to be easily located in the ash and rubble of a fire or other serious incident. (As a bonus, everyone has a refrigerator, not everyone has a fire resistant storage box). Be sure to inform you spouse and relatives where to locate your Separation Document – and any other important papers.

As a reminder, the preferred method of submitting a request to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) is via the Internet. Please note that in some cases using a browser other than Internet Explorer may create problems with data entry. As you know, the NPRC provides copies of documents from the

military personnel records to authorized requesters. Our web-based application will provide better service on these requests by eliminating our mailroom processing time. Also, since the requester will be prompted to supply all the information essential for us to process the request, delays that occur when we must go back for more information will be minimized. You may access the application at:<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

This improved on-line request should be used INSTEAD OF Standard form 180 for requests from the veteran or the veteran's next of kin, if possible. Your assistance with this initiative will allow us, and you, to better serve the needs of our veterans. If you do not wish to use the Internet, you should use Standard Form 180. You should print Standard Form 180 as you need it, not in advance because the form is periodically revised and updated. It should not be available on your website. You can have a link to the NPRC web page. The link is: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>

Since the Standard Form 180 is updated periodically, it is NOT recommended that large quantities be printed/photocopied and stocked. The form will be updated with the new address within six months. The US Postal service will forward mail if requests are mailed to the old location until February 2012.

**Membership:** NCVVI is a unique group of men and women, with very unique credentials. They all served in Vietnam. Who do you know that fits this exclusive requirements? Share a good thing with them. Tell them dinner is on you and bring them to a meeting. The Marines are looking for a few good men, NCVVI is looking for a few good Vietnam Veterans like you. NCVVI is also honored to have a great hard working auxiliary membership, if you know a man or woman who like to be a member but don't have that one item DD214 with Vietnam service. Invite them to visit and join. NCVVI has a lot of opportunities for members to participate to what ever degree they wish. Every member is important in their own way. **If you are a new member and have not received your membership card, patch and pin please see President Wagoner.**



# 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 (4<sup>th</sup>) 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