

The Veteran's Voice

Minutes of May 26, 2015



Special topic

Education

Upcoming Events

Old / New Business

Information

Membership renewal form

President:

Ang Carmen

Vice President:

Ron Harris

Treasurer:

Bud Gross

Secretary:

Bonnie Kuhr

Directors:

Bill Dixon

Dennis Abels

Paul White

Dave Samuels

Attending: Angelo Carmen, Bud , Bill Dixon, Bo Williams, Ron Harris, Bob Matthews, Joe Harsch, Dave, Lee Wilson, Ron Fitzsimmons, Paul White, Al Ely, Lonnie, Dennis, Steve and Bonnie.

Meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance. The treasurer reported a checkbook balance of \$1,992.02, savings balance \$2,015.31, scholarship fund \$17,046.02, Small Wall Project \$1,319.49 and Bridgeback \$68.70. No minutes were available for April.

Education: Bob Matthews reported that this school year was the best teaching year in Wake County. There is a new teacher at Green Hope (John Rees) who is a vet and took his job just so he could teach about Vietnam. NCVVI had a teaching day speaking to over 300 students at McGee Crossroads. Also, spoke to students at North Duplin High School, the home of Joseph Hargrove.

There is a national conference in New Orleans November 13-15 and everyone is welcome. Contact Bob if you are interested. He asked for a 2 hour block and a larger room. He asked NCVVI members to check for memorabilia. He'd like to have two trunks with the material and will call it Vietnam Experience.

In late summer or early fall, Bob would like to invite the teachers to the Cary VFW to bridge the gap with the teachers. Rees could talk about how he has structured his class.

Information will be coming if Wyn (NCVVI's Vietnam student awarded a scholarship last year) is getting good grades for renewal of scholarship. Global Spectrum will also let Bob know about another trip to Vietnam .

Bob Matthews recommended the purchase of 40 more shirts (the **North Carolina Vietnam Veteran** version) of various colors. A motion was made and seconded that Bob be authorized to purchase 40 more shirts. Motion passed.

The Ceremony at the Capitol: Bill Dixon reported the following will be guest readers at the NCVVI ceremony: **August** is Purple Heart, **December** Ray Price & Toys for Tots, **February** Helicopter Assn. and **May** is New Bern(?).

Missing Man table: The knife is missing , a battery-type candle should be used in place of a regular candle as the flame continues to go out.

Bill Dixon said that he should be in charge of dismantling the displays, the flags etc. as things are getting lost, such as the balls for the top of the flag poles. The flag holes need to be dug up and filled with sand. The stone around the statue needs to be redone. Bill will let members know when he is going to be working at the statue so others can assist. Bill suggested that 40 names of those missing be etched in the stone. People could make donations. Bill will bring a sample to the next meeting. Bill has asked the Capitol for a sign saying "**Do not play on the sculpture**". The flag poles are back in the Ladies Room of the Capitol.

Bill also reminded members to tune in to the online TV show. There have been 1000-2000 viewers but not many members are among them.

A discussion ensued about recruiting members to NCVVI. Applications should have been available at the symposiums along with more donation bottles. Several members remarked that they have NCVVI cards and they pass them out at every opportunity as well as recommending our website. Membership applications could be carried in the suitcase for the missing man table for the MIA/POW ceremony. A new member **must have a DD214**. Bill Dixon has the memory stick for the NCVVI business card.

Wayne Swann was not able to come up with a DD214. Upon further investigation, it was discovered Wayne never left the US during his service. It was proposed that his name be placed on the **Stolen Valor** list. Bob Matthews volunteered to see Wayne. Joe could use our letterhead and send him a copy of the letter from St. Louis.

Other events:

Joe was contacted by the Commander of the VVA in Smithfield about doing something on Veterans Day. They would like the Wall.

Charge for the use of the wall: A motion was made and seconded that, if there is a request for the wall, Bill Dixon and Al Ely have to be notified. There will be a charge of \$500 to **cover wear and tear plus travel expenses**. Motion passed. Amnon should put the contract for the use of the wall on the website.

June 5 is the **cast party** at 6 but set up is 4:30.

June 6 is POW ceremony but Bud will not be here. Joe volunteered to take the speaker system.

Joe noted that July 4 is a Saturday and that will be our monthly POW ceremony. The Wall will be up. The timing will have to be coordinated with the Capitol's events for the day.

Casino Night on August 29 at Heather Hills, Garner. Setup is 6, play 7-9:30. Bo mentioned the Elks wanted another casino night. Bo will check if it can be in February. We will charge a fixed price. The Elks rep should contact Dave Samuels.

Symposium on American Women in Vietnam. Bill thought two separate events—one for those who served in Vietnam and one with women who stayed at home and whose loved ones were in Vietnam. Other topics suggested were "those who walked out of the paddies", one for Air Force, one for Navy.

Ang stressed the need for a P.R. person. Bill Dixon volunteered.

Bud Gross is Chef for June.



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. (6:00 PM dinner 7:00 PM meeting)

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