



The Veteran's Voice



Minutes
November 28, 2017

Attending: Dennis Abels, Bo Williams, Ron Fitzsimmons, Angelo Carmen, Ron Harris, Paul White, Bob Krzynowek, Larry Kall, Dave Samuels, Mike Lynch, Benny Hoots, Jeff Kanner, Steve Hensley, Bonnie Kuhr

The pledge of allegiance was said. The meeting was conducted by the Board. On motion made, seconded and passed the minutes were approved as sent and the treasurer's report as read. It was good to see Ange back at the meeting.

Education
*Vietnamese Scholarship
Participant Update
POW/MIA Ceremony
Candlelight Ceremony
Scholarship Essays*

Education: Bonnie had a conversation with Bob Matthews. He was not able to call in as he was at a meeting. Wake County is set and they will call individuals with information of schools requesting speakers. He will be starting an educational outreach program in Pittsburgh. He has done some speaking. Bob K. saw Bob in Pittsburgh. Bob was still expressing his gratitude for the vets who showed up for his Apex induction.

Vietnamese Scholarship Winner: Bob K. received photos of Hien's wedding which were distributed to the members. She would like to teach but because of her father's political background she hasn't been able to get a position. She is working in a shop.

President:

POW/MIA Monthly Ceremony:

Vice President:

December 2: American Legion Riders 7, Durham
Joe Harsch, NCVVI

Treasurer:

Bob Krzynowek

Dave Samuels has a wireless mike to try. If it works, NCVVI could get another one.

Secretary:

Bonnie Kuhr

January 6: Curtis and Monica Cash

Directors:

Dennis Abels

**POW/MIA Candlelight Ceremony:
Sunday, December 17, 5:15 p.m. set up**

Paul White

Responsibilities:

Dave Samuels

Ron Harris – sand

Bill Dixon

Bonnie Kuhr – labels and bags (done), program

Angelo Carmen

Dave Samuels – candles

Paul White - taps

Dave Samuels – Robert White bagpiper (confirmed)

Del Vecchio – choir (confirmed)

Flags – voted against using all of them. It was suggested having the American flag and the POW flag

Color Guard

Light

Procedure: People will get a candle, put the candle in the bag, and read the name on the bag.

Reviewed next year's application for the ceremony at the Memorial. Will request dates for all Saturdays as well as special events: Memorial Day, 4th of July, POW/MIA Recognition Day, Veterans Day, Candlelight Ceremony.

Monica proposed that she buy a new table set. Ron Harris made the following motion:
NCVVI reimburse Monica Cash for a table set for the Vietnam Memorial Table. Motion was seconded and passed.

Veterans Day Parade: Amnon had a jeep in the parade and Bo Williams marched with the Elks. Bo said the parade started at 9 and was finished at 9:45. By the time the officials had their ceremony, most people had left. Bo suggested to the organizers that the parade start later.

Veterans Day Lunch at the Elks: There were 110 people in attendance, a few from NCVVI. It was very successful and very tasty (I can attest to that). Dave Samuels was the honorary speaker.

Etchings in Stone:

Dave met with several ROTC leaders to whom he mentioned Etchings in Stone. They expressed interest but have not gotten back to Dave.

Carver Retirement Center would also like to show Etchings. Ron Harris contacted them for a date but has not heard back.

There was small turnout at the showing of Etchings at the V.A.

Vietnam Experience: Setup is Friday, March 23. Event is March 24-25, 2018. This will be the last year for the Vietnam Experience at the Museum. Bob Matthews' friend will print our flyer. Bo and Ron will work on a flyer.

Scholarship: Three Members sent in suggestions. They are: From Jeff Kanner: In passing the Tonkin Gulf Resolution did Congress violate the US Constitution? (I.E.: Passing their Constitutionally-mandated war-making power[s] into the hands of the president)?

From Bob Matthews: 1. Why do you think there is a renewed interest in the Vietnam War in high school and colleges? 2. What effect did the Watergate scandal have on the outcome of the Vietnam War? 3..Do you think a draft would work today and do you think we need one ? 4. Which movie on Vietnam would you say is the best and why? 5. If we could do a do over do you think we would do Vietnam again? 6. Has the Vietnam Wall achieved its goal?

From Del: The common statement is that the USA lost a war in Viet Nam. Was US military action in Viet Nam undertaken as a war or something else? Explain.

The National Liberation Front in South Viet Nam promised that once the war was concluded, liberation and justice would come to the South. How much of a role did the NLF play in the new government of the South, and how well were the promises of liberation and justice kept?

Suggestions from the members at the meeting:

Ron Harris: How were Vietnam Vets treated when they got home as opposed to veterans in past and present wars; i.e., WW II, Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan?

Should we reinstate the draft to establish a pool of necessary troops in case of the need?

Why is it important to teach the Lessons of Vietnam in schools today?

Based on your independent study of the Vietnam War and your observation of today's news reports on the Iraq War, is history repeating itself both at home and in the countries involved?

Ron's topic: "What kind of reception did Vietnam Vets incur upon their homecoming in comparison to Veterans from U.S. military conflicts past and present." received the most votes for the essay subject for 2018.

It was unanimous that an applicant interview in person one or two veterans as part of the application. This will be inserted in the application form at NCVVI.org. Anyone speaking at schools should pass the scholarship info on to students. Bo will talk to Link Page to get his assistance. Hopefully, interviews will make the student involved in the process.

Vietnam Voices Advisory Committee: Mike Lynch was approached by Dr. Kevin Cherry. In this same regard, NCVVI received an email from Kimberly Kandros, Manager of Develop and Special Projects, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The purpose is to record interviews with Vietnam Veterans to be retained in the State archives. Toward the conclusion of the project, two traveling exhibits would be developed to tell the story of the Vietnam War in museums across the state. **Update: Mike Lynch will ask Dr. Cherry to appear before the group for a 15-minute explanation of what it is they need.**

Live Streaming at NCVVI.org:
November 22: PTSD and the Veteran

Old Business: Bo mentioned that the casino equipment hadn't been moved to the Elks yet.

New Business: Mike Lynch attended a USO meeting where Joe Galloway had a powerful presentation.

Monica has been working with Military Missions in Action in Fuquay. There is a desperate need for duffel bags, coats and back packs for the homeless. The person in charge is trying to do a Christmas for 200 military families. If NCVVI donates, would it be recognized? Monica will check. A motion was made to donate \$300 to the Military Missions in Action. Several members then stepped up and personally are making sizable donations, sending their checks and/or cash to NCVVI and NCVVI will write a donation check to Military Missions. As a result of personal contributions, no donation is being made by NCVVI.

Jeff Kanner had an entry in the international model contest and won. Photos were sent to members separately. NCVVI did make a donation.

Bracelets:

Bonnie will have the bracelets at the meeting. The cost is \$3 or 2 for \$5.

Dennis Abels, the chef, was thanked. Jeff Kanner has volunteered to cook in January.



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.
7316 Ray Road
Raleigh, NC 27613

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