

# The Veteran's Voice

Minutes

Tuesday, October 27, 2015



Attending: Bo Williams, Ron Harris, Bob Matthews, Joe Harsch, Ron Fitzsimmons, Paul White, Dave Samuels, Al Ely, RJ Del Vecchio, Lonnie Conner

Bob Matthews opened the meeting. Bud Gross and Bill Dixon were not able to attend.

The pledge of allegiance was said. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to accept the secretary's minutes as sent by email and the treasurer's report as presented. Bob Matthews turned over a check for \$140 for the sale of shirts. Three shirts were presented to the panel members from the Black Experience. There are 47 shirts left.

Election of Officers: Postponed.

Education: Bob Matthews reported that nine high schools are teaching *Lessons of Vietnam* first or second semesters. Bob passed out a list of available schools with instructions. He recommended those interested in going to a class to call the teacher involved to identify him/herself and to set up a date and time. If emailing, use the first initial and last name; i.e., rmatthews@wakescountypublicschoolsss.net. The schools are: Apex, Athens, Cary, Green Hope, Holly Springs, Leesville, Millbrook, Sanderson and Wakefield. Southeast is pending and Fuquay coming on board. If anyone is reluctant to go to a class alone, call Bob Matthews and he will accompany if he is available.

Logistics for the **Veterans Day parade** on November 7 were discussed. The POW/MIA ceremony will be held after the ceremony. A question was raised about the location of the banner. It was decided small flags would be handed out. Bo Williams volunteered to obtain. ARVN should be invited to march in the parade with NCVVI.

December 13, 6:00 p.m. – **Candlelight Ceremony**. Bud Gross will prepare the program and prepare the name labels. He will also conduct the program. Bob Matthews will prepare the bags with sand. Al Ely will supply the candles. The bagpiper has been contacted. ??? will play taps. One person will read the names, as a name is read one will light the candle in the bag nearest not necessarily matching the candle with the name called. Time to arrive is between 5 and 5:30 to set up.

Bob Matthews, Paul White, Joe Harsch and Bill Dixon will represent NCVVI at the **teaching seminar in New Orleans** on November 11, 12 and 13.

**Special topic**

**Education**

**Upcoming Events**

**Old / New Business**

**Information**

**Membership renewal form**

**President:**

  \_Vacant\_  

**Meeting Coordinators-**  
B. Matthews & B. Gross

**Vice President:**

  \_Vacant\_  

**Treasurer:**

Bud Gross

**Secretary:**

Bonnie Kuhr

**Directors:**

Dennis Abels

Paul White

Dave Samuels

**Playground 3:** Some members have expressed an interest in Playground 3 trip to Vietnam. Bob Matthews talked with Marsha in D.C. It most likely will not happen as it's not going the way we want. NAVA started to bankroll this. They would go themselves and construct the playground. They would send 3 workers to do the building, 3 vets and 3 Vietnamese students. Marsha has solicited a grant to pay for the playground and all expenses. But the people who were going to furnish the money are changing their minds. A question was raised if the North Vietnamese are going to kick in. The answer was "no". Joe Harsch remarked that this can't be taken over by us. There are other organizations who want us to run with this project.

**Etchings in Stone:** At Ron Harris' Wake Forest class reunion, he had a tour of the high school which included their auditorium. He told the Vice Principal about the play. He was directed to Ms. Jones who is in charge of the drama class. Ron will follow up when he returns from his trip about presenting the play. Wake Forest will use their high school kids.

Discussion ensued about whether or not Ron Harris wants to proceed with allowing groups to present the play and along those lines create revenue for the account set up. Does Ron want to sell play for one time use? Ron needs to talk with someone in the business how much to charge. First, Ron needs to apply for a copyright and then a contract needs to be developed. Once a group is given license to produce, Ron has no control over how it is changed. If someone wants to see about the play, there are snippets on the website. Bob Matthews has a friend in Richmond who might put it on. Joe Harsch emailed snippets to the VVA people who were really impressed and would like it presented in Johnston County but logistically impossible for NCVVI. Ron is not opposed to others using his play but he never intended to do it as a money making thing. There are snippets from the play on the website. (FYI: [google.etchingsinstone.org](http://google.etchingsinstone.org).)

**Vietnam, current situation:** Del was asked about the situation in Vietnam. The government is cracking down and it is getting worse than the last ten years. Asked if this affects our scholarship student whose father was former ARVN, the group was assured that she is getting the scholarship. Del thought if it's a onetime thing it would be OK, but if the scholarships continue to go to ARVN kids, it might show up on the radar screen.

**New Vet Center:** Dave Samuels asked about the ribbon cutting ceremony on October 28 of the new Vet Center near Briar Creek. This might replace the downtown center. He also noted that he had requested a copy of his records from DOD and after three months received every piece of paper in his records at no charge. One can request for someone else but will get limited version under FOI.

**Upcoming dates:**

November 24 – NCVVI Meeting  
December 5 – POW/MIA Ceremony  
December 13 – Candlelight Ceremony  
April – Etchings in Stone, Museum

**New Jersey Vet Center:** Dave Samuels made another visit to the Vietnam Vets Education Center in New Jersey. He was in touch with the director and producer of Vietnam Vets (?). He stressed the many things NCVVI is doing and gave them the Etchings in Stone link ([etchingsinstone.org](http://etchingsinstone.org)).

Bob thanked **Ron Fitzsimmons** for an outstanding dinner and wished a safe trip to Ron Harris.  
**Bo Williams** volunteered to be **chef for the November** meeting.

Bonnie Kuhr, courtesy of Paul White's CD



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