

Minutes for August 19, 2019



August 19, 2019
1900 Hours
Ramada Inn
Fargo, ND 58103

Call to Order: Larry Nicholson, Chapter President, called the meeting to order at 1900 hours.

Pledge of Allegiance: Larry Nicholson led the Chapter in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prayer/Moment of Silence: Wayne Wermager led the Chapter in prayer and Larry Nicholson held a Moment of Silence.

VVA 941 "Vision": Larry Nicholson reminded the group of our vision, "That we are leading the challenge to what is right for America and its Veterans".

VVA Founding Principal: "Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another."

Introduction of Members and Guests: We went around the room introducing ourselves and our branch of service. Reminder to be respectful to others while they are speaking – please raise your hand to speak.

Members Present: Larry Nicholson (President), Ann Hagerman (VP), Dave Gill (Treasurer), Les Forman, Wayne Wermager, Russ Stabler, Mark Helfter, Ron DuRand, Larry Kessel, Ed Ahonen, James Gebhardt, Joe Wallevand, Art Williams, Paul Hyndman, Gary Arth, Leo Almeida, Ron Krueger, Thomas Volden, Jim Aasness, Myron Hoag, Tom Carlson. AVVA: Kim Seiler (Secretary), Wayne Possehl, Hella Helfter, David Pederson, Ben Kessel, Josh Gill, David Whirlwind Soldier. Guest: Jason Hicks

Agenda: Larry N presented the Agenda for approval. Motion to approve by Jim Gebhardt, 2nd by Tom Carlson, motion passed.

Minutes: July 16th, 2019 Meeting Minutes reviewed. Motion to approve by Jim Aasness, 2nd by Ron Durand, motion passed.

Treasures Report: Dave Gill presented and went over the Chapter's 8/14/19 Treasury Report: 7/14/19 – 8/14/19.

| | DATE | DESCRIPTION | CK # | AMOUNT | BALANCE |
|------------------|----------------|--|------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | 7/14/19 | BEGINNING BALANCE | | | \$16,314.24 |
| Deposits: | 7/28/19 | Ck 1851 returned from Kenny Cramer-Nam Week | | \$75.00 | \$16,389.24 |
| | 8/8/19 | Sales Deposit | | \$135.00 | \$16,524.24 |
| | 8/14/19 | Interest Income | | \$0.14 | \$16,524.38 |
| | | TOTAL DEPOSITS | | \$210.14 | |
| Expenses: | 7/22/19 | Sue Bertsch Thank You | 1871 | (\$75.00) | \$16,449.38 |
| | 7/23/19 | Missy Warren Thank You | 1870 | (\$75.00) | \$16,374.38 |
| | 7/24/19 | Harland Check Order Deposit Slips withdrawal | | (\$13.68) | \$16,360.70 |
| | 7/25/19 | Crown Trophy for Car Shows | 1872 | (\$53.21) | \$16,307.49 |
| | 7/25/19 | USPS stamps | 1873 | (\$33.00) | \$16,274.49 |
| | 8/1/19 | Hornbachers Promotion | 1874 | (\$116.34) | \$16,158.15 |
| | 8/5/19 | Dave Gill Native Flags & supplies | 1875 | (\$157.50) | \$16,000.65 |
| | 8/5/19 | Merchant Bank Card Reader | | (\$25.95) | \$15,974.70 |
| | 8/11/19 | Dave Gill Go Far Run expenses | 1876 | (\$197.70) | \$15,777.00 |
| | 8/11/19 | Honor Flight Donation | 1877 | (\$100.00) | \$15,677.00 |
| | 8/11/19 | Void | 1878 | \$0.00 | \$15,677.00 |
| | 8/11/19 | Sportland t-shirts (July 4th Run & for sale) | 1879 | (\$1,757.25) | \$13,919.75 |
| | 8/11/19 | Larry Nicholson supplies | 1880 | (\$189.58) | \$13,730.17 |
| | | TOTAL EXPENSES | | (\$2,794.21) | |
| | 8/14/19 | ENDING BALANCE | | | \$13,730.17 |

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Art Williams, 2nd by Russ Stabler, motion approved.

Public Affairs Report: Les Forman reported that volunteers at VA Hospital can no longer wear shorts or open-toe shoes or sandals. Included in the meeting is a handout covering upcoming events and Color Guard opportunities. Added MSUM football on Aug 14th and removed the Brat Sales at Hornbachers on Aug 30 & 31 (Labor Day weekend) – not enough volunteers. Added POW-MIA Day on Sept 20th.

Membership Report: Russ Stabler went over the VVA July 2019 Membership Report handout. 368 current members and 6 inactive. If anyone knows the inactive, reach out to them. No report on Associate Members – maybe 90?

Color Guard Reports: Dave Gill went over upcoming events for Color Guard as listed on the handout.

Legislative Report: Russ Stabler nothing new to report

United Patriotic Bodies (UPB): Jason Hicks, UPB Commander, met with the Moorhead American Legion about the plans for the national uniform protocol for Color Guard for the new VA Cemetery

FMWF (Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs committee): Wayne Wermager reported they met July 11th.

Election Report – Chapter Suspension: Larry Nicholson went over why the chapter was suspended. This was due to not holding our elections in May as we are supposed to do it. Swear in officers should be in June and paperwork turned in for July. Everything is ok now – we did have our paperwork turned it, but we have been doing elections at the wrong time as have some other chapters.

National Cemetery/Fargo Memorial Honor Guard: Jason Hicks, UPB Commander is here to go over the new North Dakota National VA Cemetery and the Honor Guard for it. New cemetery opening Sept 7th with a ceremony at 11 am. Limited parking – will be shuttle service. UPB doing a new Color Guard. New uniforms for all that want to do the Color Guard. This is the only place these uniforms can be worn at. There will be three funerals per day. Included at each funeral will one to give commands, one bugler, and seven rifle shooters. Full honors will be flags, saluting, three round volley and taps. There will be 3,000 in-ground sites and 2,000 cremation spots. Spouses can also be buried at the cemetery. There will be year-round burials. Everything is up at the cemetery and ready to go. Vaults are provided. Will need 21 National Color Guard members. Complete uniforms, coats, etc will be provided to all Color Guard members. If you are interested, take and complete the form that is available here at the meeting.

Howard Maninga – Ponsford, MN: Sat Aug 24th Annual program and lunch after flag raising ceremony. All veterans welcome. Howard is a Vietnam veteran. He has many memorabilia - Howard's personal collection/museum. Tour the pioneer cabin.

State VVA Meeting: Held July 26-28 in Mayville. Sat July 27th was the meeting. Discussed the future of the VVA. Will need to designate a group to take over the mission of the VVA. Give it a new name and will have that group take over the assets otherwise the assets will go to national. Resolution #2 was elected at nationals to do the transfer. ND voted to turn over to AVVA. It will be 8-10 years before there is a name change.

Belcourt Labor Day Powwow: To be held Fri Aug 30th – Sun Sep 1. The Belcourt American Legion would like some VVA members to come up to the Powwow. Special ceremony Friday morning for four families of deceased Vietnam Veterans, one who was killed in Vietnam. The Chapter has purchased four Vietnam flags with an eagle feather to give to the families. Ron DuRand and Joe Wallevand are two who have indicated they would like to go. The families will be supplying special plaques that will be hung permanently on poles outside the arbor with American flags. The American Legion post 262 will present four commemorative coins to the families. The Vietnam Veterans being honored are Andy LaVallie, Eric Nadeau (KIA), Mike Vann, and Vincent DeCoteau. Cheap rooms at the casino will be made available for about \$35/night. Most of the meals are provided for free to the military. Dave Gill has purchased the flags which cost about \$15 each plus tax and shipping. Kim Seiler made a motion to provide \$150 to each person for travel and hotel expenses, 2nd by Leo Almeida, motion passed.

VVA Classic Car & Bike Nights: Dilworth VFW Parking Lot. Last one on Monday August 26, 2019. 5–8:30 pm.

Sickness & Distress: Dave Caswell Casselton passed away. Myron Hoag unexpectedly lost his son in SD. Wayne Wermager being a longtime friend has been there to offer the Chapter's support and to give his own comfort as a friend.

Lisbon Veterans Home: the vets Home Foundation Board met Fri 8/12. They are planning a Memorial Garden with a shelter with an overhang and doors. Preliminary cost of shelter is \$6,000. The Memorial Garden and the rest will be \$26,000b provided by the VHFB. The Board has bought items needed for the Veterans Home in the past.

Riverview Assistant Living and Retirement Homes: Would like Color Guard on Veterans Day.

Greater Moorhead Days Parade: Friday Sept 6th. Color Guard with trailer to ride. Line up at 5 pm at the Moorhead Tech. Parade starts at 6 pm.

Marksmen Club – West Fargo: 9/6 & 9/7 from 4-8 pm will have a booth/table to sell t-shirts and sign up members.

Ramada Flagpole: Ron Durand paid for a flagpole to be installed in front of the Ramada to raise the U.S. Flag. We held the first flag raising before tonight's meeting. Thank you, Ron!

Final Salute: Larry Nicholson led the Chapter in the Final Salute to the flag prior to adjourning.

VVA's Goal: To promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam Veterans, to create a new identity for this generation of veterans, and to change public perception of Vietnam Veterans.