

Minutes for March 18, 2019



March 18, 2019
1900 Hours
Ramada Inn
Fargo, ND 58103

Call to Order: Larry Nicholson, Chapter President, called the meeting to order at 1905 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 (Vice-President), Wayne Wermager (Chaplain), Dave Gill (Treasurer), Russ Stabler (Color Guard), Les Forman, Mark Helfter, Ed Ahonen (Doc), James Gebhardt, Larry Kessel, Paul Hyndman, Gary Arth, Glen Meek, Thomas E Volden, Larry Reed, Joe Wallevand, Steve Perreault, Wayne Ellefson, Myron Hoag, David Broten, Jerry Halmrast, Jim Aasness. AVVA: Kim Seiler (Secretary), Wayne Possehl, Hella Helfter, Carol Carlton, Sharlene Fischer, David Pederson, Ben Kessel. Guests: Shaun Schipper.

Agenda: Larry Nicholson presented the Meeting Agenda for approval. Motion to approve by Russ Stabler, 2nd by Larry Reed, motion passed.

Minutes: Minutes for the February 18, 2019 meeting were presented to the Chapter. Motion to approve by Russ Stabler, 2nd by Jim Gebhardt, motion passed.

Treasures Report: Dave Gill presented and went over the Chapter's 03/14/19 Treasury Report for 02/14/19 - 03/14/19.

Beginning Balance:		Check#		\$3,690.39
Deposits:	02/19/19 – Block Island pins sold		\$40.00	
	03/01/19 – Paul Bohalme dues		100.00	
Total Deposits:				+ \$140.00
Expenditures:	02/16/19 – VVA dues – Kory Cheshier, Web host	1818	50.00	
	02/20/19 – Les Forman – blackjack	1819	100.00	
Total Expenditures:				- \$150.00
Interest Earned:	03/14/19 – Interest Income			<u>+ \$0.03</u>
Ending Balance:				\$3,680.42

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Joe Wallevand, 2nd by Larry Reed, motion approved.

Public Affairs: Les Forman reported that the VVA had 626 volunteer hours at the VA from Oct 2018 - Feb 2019. BlackJack has been going well. Usually have 8-9 players – welcome anyone wanting to volunteer. Motion to approve the Public Affairs Report by Jim Gebhardt, 2nd by Wayne Ellefson, motion passed.

Membership Report: Russ Stabler provided an updated VVA membership report – does not have current AVVA #'s:

VVA total:	351	+ 6 inactive
AVVA total:	87?	Not updated
Total Membership:	438	

Motion to approve by Larry Reed, 2nd by Myron Hoag, motion passed.

Color Guard Reports: Russ Stabler presented a report of upcoming Color Guard events – Apr 13 Hilton Garden Inn – Retired Officers Association event. Discussed the request for Color Guard at the NCAA Tourney at Scheels Arena on Apr 30th – get more info. Motion to approve Color Guard Report by Dave Gill, 2nd by Ann Hagerman, motion passed.

Legislative Report: Russ Stabler reported that not much going on right now. He is going out this week to ND Legislature – ND working on not having VA pensions taxed.

United Patriotic Bodies (UPB): Wayne Wermager reported that the meeting was moved to the last Monday in March.

FMWF (Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs committee): Wayne Wermager – nothing to report since last month.

Crusaders Bike Show: just had it this past Sat/Sun, Mar 16-17 at the Delta Hotel (was Ramada Plaza). Thanks to all who showed up to help and those that did Color Guard at the start and at the closing of the event. Saturday was busy. Had \$288 in sales and \$125 in donations. Larry N and Wayne P were there each day.

USS Block Island reunion – May 20-24, Mon – Fri. This will be held at the Homeward Suites by Hilton/Double Tree Inn. \$85/nite for rooms - includes breakfast and a light supper. A hospitality room and banquet facility will be at no charge to us. This is the 75th & final reunion. Hat pins are ready and available for \$5. Agenda currently is: Mon - 9am registration starts; Tues – Hjemkomst Center with WWI exhibit; Wed – Air Museum w/lunch; Thurs – Roger Maris Museum tour and shopping at West Acres Mall then evening Bonanzaville tour, supper and program; Fri - banquet at Homeward/Double Tree Inn.

VVA Week 2019 – May 4-9, 2019 Doc gave us an update on the various events, memorabilia, and aircraft that will be taking place at the Air Museum that week. This year will be excellent. Will be held Saturday – Thursday at Fargo Air Museum. Having school tours. Captain Dave Morgan from South Dakota will be up with some of his Vietnam memorabilia. Toby McPherson will be bringing down some aircraft. Canadian Vets will be bringing their Wall down. Howard Maninga from Ponsford is bringing some of his memorabilia. The Vet Center will be there with info on PTSD, suicide prevention, and various support provided by different agencies. The masks from the VA will be on display. Maynard Kaderlik will be coming to talk on Agent Orange. There will be a Deuce and 1/2 ton Jeep, Huey helicopter. Free Admission for Veterans. Hot dogs & pop/water will be available. Flyers on the Air Museum events were handed out to hang up and pass out. The Air Show Board might give us some money to cover Capt. Morgan's room while here. Try to get the word out and publicize as much as possible well before the event.

Veterans' Honor Flight: Have the chapter donate \$100. Motion to approve by Russ Stabler, 2nd by Ed Ahonen (Doc), motion passed.

Color Guard-NCAA Hockey Tournament: Sat, March 30 at Scheels Arena. Getting more info.

Brat Sales: Fri/Sat, Aug 30-31, 10am – 6pm. Labor Day Weekend. A huge money maker for us. Half-day shifts if possible.

Toppers Car Show: Sat/Sun, March 30 & 31 at West Fargo Arena. 9 or 10 am.

Valley Vintage Car Show: Sat/Sun, April 27 & 28. Metro Rec Center on Main Ave in Fargo.

VVA Classic Car & Bike Nights: Dilworth VFW Parking Lot. June 24, July 29, & August 26, 2019. Moved to the last Monday night of each summer month.

Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration: West Fargo VFW, March 30. Noon to 4 pm. Free chili and a beer/beverage for Veterans. No Vietnam Vets will have to work. There will also be door prizes.

State VVA Meeting: Sat March 30 at O’Clevey’s (old Doublewood – now Ramada) 10:30 am.

Fargo Marathon: Sat May 18th. VVA does an aid station. Gives us \$500 for our run.

Go Far Women’s Run: Sat, Aug 10th run by Sue Birch. She used to do our website. Helps us out with our run. We provide direction and other assistance for the run. Maybe takes a couple hours max from when you need to arrive until finished.

Minnesota Crossroads: Sat, Aug 3rd. Ottertail Lake – we do Color Guard for this motorcycle rally.

VVA National: Being held in Spokane, WA July 16-20th Tues-Sat.

VVA Chapter Website: Kory Chesier will be hosting/updating it. We have a new Facebook page. VVA 941 – join it.

Sickness & Distress – Mike Gruchella had a stroke-is at home now. Sign the card for him. Visit or call. Veteran Tom Manley from Finley, ND is at Sanford Hospital, Rm 628 - he has no close family to visit/be with him.

Street Fair Water/Pop Booth: 3 days in July. Thurs-Sat. They want to know if we want to do 2 booths selling pop/water each of the 3 days.

Jay Thomas - Will do a program with the VVA covering the VVA Week.

- **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.