

Minutes for May 20, 2019



May 20, 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, Russ Stabler, Mark Helfter, Ron DuRand, Larry Kessel, Paul Hyndman, Joe Wallevand, Myron Hoag, Norm Maynard, Bob Miller, Robert Remmick, Thomas Volden, Gary Arth, Dave Dahlstrom, Mitch Campbell, Wayne Ellefson. AVVA: Kim Seiler (Secretary), Wayne Possehl, Hella Helfter, Carol Carlton, Ben Kessel, David Pederson. Guests: Alley Beitelspucher VVA 1054, Richard & Deb Grant (joining?).

Agenda: Larry Nicholson presented the Meeting Agenda for approval. Motion to approve by Ron Durand, 2nd by Mark Helfter, motion passed.

Minutes: April 15, 2019 meeting mins were reviewed. Motion to approve by Russ Stabler, 2nd by Mark Helfter, motion passed.

Treasures Report: Dave Gill presented and went over the Chapter's 05/20/19 Treasury Report. 4/14/19 – 5/13/19.

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CREDIT	DEBIT	BALANCE
	Starting Balance			\$6,591.86
4/14/2019	Interest income	\$0.04		\$6,591.90
4/15/2019	Check 1028 Les Forman blackjack va		\$100.00	\$6,491.90
4/17/2019	Deposit \$1000 anonymous don \$60 sales	\$1,060.00		\$7,551.90
4/22/2019	Check 1829 Office Max supplies		\$31.99	\$7,519.91
4/23/2019	Check 1830 USPS po box rental fee		\$118.00	\$7,401.91
5/2/2019	Deposit Rebate, sales, and donations	\$3,696.00		\$11,097.91
5/6/2019	Check 1831 Sportland shirts		\$609.50	\$10,488.41
5/6/2019	Check 1832 Larry Nicholson supplies		\$76.48	\$10,411.93
5/8/2019	Check 1833 Hornbachers postage		\$22.00	\$10,389.93
5/13/2019	Deposit Credit interest	\$0.07		\$10,390.00

Totals and Ending Balance	\$4,756.11	\$957.97	\$10,390.00
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Balance Change

\$3,798.14

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report by ??, 2nd by ??, motion approved.

Public Affairs: Les Forman reported that the VA Hospital will be smoke free for the entire buildings and grounds as of May 29, including smokeless, chew, snuff, e-cigarettes, etc. The VA will no longer allow any kind of snacks at the monthly Blackjack night hosted by the VVA. Looking for someone to be a part of the call-tree for when Veterans pass at the VA. Must be able to be there within 1 hour of the call. Always looking for more volunteers. Welcome anyone wanting to volunteer – things like taking Vets to in-house appointments or visiting one-on-one. VVA Chapter 941 is at 1,000 volunteer hours from Oct 2018 thru April 2019. June 21-23 at Moorhead American Legion having 100 year anniversary. Looking for help/volunteers. There will be food trucks, beer, bouncy toys for kids. Joel Heitkamp will cover this on his radio show at 9 am on 6/21. Motion to approve the Public Affairs Report by Russ Stabler, 2nd by Ron DuRand, motion passed.

Membership Report: By Russ Stabler: 321 Lifetime, 25 Individual or 3 year, 13 hospitalized, 2 Lifetime in process for a total of 361 members. There have been 2 transfers in and 3 gone inactive in last 90 days. No info on associate members. Motion to approve Membership Report by Les Forman, 2nd by Mark Helfter, motion approved.

Color Guard Reports: Russ Stabler turned in a letter of resignation as the Color Guard Commander due to not enough time to give it the time required because of his other volunteer commitments. The Chapter thanked him for his service. We need to elect a new CG Commander. Think of those who might be willing to do it. Immediate Color Guard events will be Memorial Day events on Monday, May 27th, and Roosevelt’s Graduation at 7 pm on Friday, May 31st. The official Memorial Day event will be held at the Air Museum this year at 9:30 am. Other Memorial Day Color Guard will be 8:30 at Holy Cross Cemetery, 11:30 am at Riverside Cemetery, and 12 pm at Sunset Memorial Cemetery. Motion to approve Color Guard Report by Myron Hoag, 2nd by Ann Hagerman, motion approved.

Legislative Report: Russ Stabler reported that ND Hwy 22 will be designated the Veterans Memorial Highway in recognition of all ND Armed Services. Will be a ND Commemorative Coin that anyone can purchase. \$175,000 was provided for the interment of spouses at the military cemeteries. Military retirement pay will be tax free in ND. 90% of legislation submitted on Vets issues was passed. Motion to approve Legislative Report by Ron DuRand, 2nd by Gary Arth, motion approved.

United Patriotic Bodies (UPB): Wayne Wermager out for surgery – no report.

FMWF (Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs committee): Wayne Wermager out for surgery – no report.

USS Block Island reunion – May 20-24, Mon – Fri. Taking place this week – most are already here. Other than the events, they will just want to hang out at the hospitality room and visit. You are welcome to come and hang out at any time to visit with the Vets. Rooms and the banquet are at the Homeward Suites by Hilton/Double Tree Inn. 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; Thurs – Roger Maris Museum tour and shopping at West Acres Mall in the afternoon, then the evening is the scheduled Bonanzaville tour, supper and program; Fri - banquet at Homeward/Double Tree Inn.

VVA Week 2019 at Air Museum – discussed the success of this year’s events that took place May 4-10, 2019 at the Air Museum. Thanks to all that helped with any volunteer efforts, especially setting up and taking down exhibits.

Detroit Lakes Memorial Day Parade: Monday May 27th are there enough people that want to go over and ride on the RDO trailer to do Color Guard. Lots of events and places already that we are committed to doing Color Guard, so we need to have a headcount on this. Wayne Wermager will not be able to carry a flag for a while until recovered from his surgery.

F-M Redhawks Military Appreciation Game: Tuesday, June 18th 7:02 game time. \$5 reserved seat with military ID.

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

VVA Classic Car & Bike Nights: Taking place at Dilworth VFW Parking Lot. Last Monday of each summer month. June 24, July 29, & August 26, 2019. 5 – 8:30 pm.

Fargo Marathon: took place this last Sat, May 18th. A cold rainy mess this year. Thanks to those that came and helped at the aid station. Mark Knutson gives us \$500 to man the station – hand out water, etc. It was in front of WDAZ.

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 for anyone interested in going.

VVA July 4th 5k Walk/Run & 10k Run: Looking for leads on businesses or persons that would like to sponsor or donate to the race. We are preparing the packets to give to interested businesses. If you have anyone that you can ask or think would consider it. We have some that donate every year like Bell State Bank, OK Tire, etc.

Baskets for Vets: Ann Hagerman proposed us compiling a “Move in Basket” for the VA program of moving homeless Vets into their own place and the basket would have essentials that each would need. It was suggested to have Corrine speak at the UPB meeting since this is something more than just for the VVA.

Sickness & Distress – Wayne Wermager, our Chaplain, had surgery. Passing around card for all to sign.

VVA State Meeting: Held in July in Mayville. Also, a Golf Tourney. More info as it gets closer.

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.