



Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

DECEMBER 2016



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING December 5, 2016

A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors took place at the start. Directors present included President Andy Megrath and Jack Crowther, secretary.

Only two members, Andy and Jack, attended the regular meeting, not a quorum. Therefore no official business could be conducted.

Andy reported that the concrete walk at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial has been cleaned and sealed by Carpenter and Costin at a cost of \$600.

Membership stands at 141 regular members and five associate members.

The Treasurer's Report showed a balance of \$60,645, through Oct. 31.

We received a thank-you note from the veteran the chapter assisted in getting his car fixed. The chapter donated \$500, to be paid to the repair garage.

The VVA State Council will meet Dec. 17 at 11 a.m. at the Chapter 1 office in Rutland. Any member is welcome to attend and see how the statewide organization operates.

We received a thank-you note from the Dodge House for homeless veterans for our contribution toward the refurbishing of the home. Chapter 1 donated \$2,250. In addition, chapter members have donated an additional \$600. Anyone who would like to assist in the project may write a check to VVA Chapter 1 and indicate it is for the Dodge House Fund. Send it to VVA Chapter 1, 15 Wales St., Rutland, VT 05701. Let us know if you want to remain anonymous or be identified. If no preference is stated, we will give your name.

At the October meeting, Cliff Adams of Bristol solicited help for a Vietnam veterans project he is working on with the Vermont Folklife Center in Middlebury. This would be some sort of exhibit and include oral history. In particular, he wants to focus on the history of Chapter 1, although personal recollections and other elements can be part of it as well.

Since October, Cliff has written to Andy Megrath to see if someone from Chapter 1 could come to the Folklife Center for a meeting. Being the only ones present at this meeting, Jack and Andy agreed they could go up together. However, any other chapter members interested in taking part in this project can contact Cliff directly at cliffadm@sover.net or 802-453-7112, or Andy at vt hogman@comcast.net.

A Chris Perrin is trying to raise money for a friend making a documentary on homeless vets and has asked for assistance. Andy will call to learn more about the project.

On Dec. 2, Andy visited Milton High School as a followup to student Meghan Edwards' notable project on the Vietnam War. While it started out to be a "paper," it wound up as a video, including an interview with Andy. Her impressive effort earned Meghan an A+ grade. She has since received a four-year Presidential Scholarship to Norwich University.

In appreciation of her efforts, Andy presented her with two "challenge coins," a POW-MIA lapel pin and a certificate of appreciation from Chapter 1.

Jack Crowther reported that Rutland Aldermen George Gides has shown interest in having a local scouting troop assist with a maintenance project at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. George is planning to follow up at a future time.

The Chapter 1 secretary's wife, Sue, pointed out an interesting article in Consumer Reports on a scam aimed at veterans receiving pensions. Here's the article from the January 2017 issue.

Veterans' Pension Scam

What it is. Veterans over 65 are offered free seminars by financial advisers or financial-services companies to help them qualify for an enhanced pension with Aid and Attendance, a benefit for low-income vets with disabilities. Seminar sponsors convince vets whose income or assets are above the threshold to restructure their finances so they'll qualify, typically by buying a costly annuity or creating an expensive trust that pays the sponsors a hefty fee.

How to protect yourself. For details about your eligibility for this benefit, go to the **VA's online benefits portal**. For assistance completing and filing pension claims, use someone from the **VA's list of accredited professionals**.

Thanks, Sue, for pointing out the article.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, secretary

**THE CHAPTER WILL HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8, AT 6 P.M.
AT THE CHAPTER OFFICES AT THE VFW, 15 WALES ST., RUTLAND.
A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL PRECEDE THE REGULAR MEETING.**