



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org

APRIL 2021



MINUTES OF CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 14, 2021

At our third Zoom meeting, attendees included Andy Megrath, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; Dick Doyle, director; and member Cliff Adams.

A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors was held; no business was transacted.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Richard Reed reported that the chapter had a total of \$44,639.19 in all our accounts, as of April 14. "Compared to last month, we're actually in really good shape," Richard said. "We haven't spent a lot of money. On the other hand, we haven't had a whole lot coming in. None."

Due to the pandemic and the temporary closing of Tomasi's bar in Fair Haven, he noted, we have no income from break-open tickets, our main income source. In contact with the owners, however, Richard said the bar is hoping to open in June. "They're optimistic," Richard said, nothing that Gov. Scott's guidelines were a "moving target."

"I have my fingers crossed for them, if not for us," Richard said. They're (the owners of Tomasi's, Shaun and Danielle Tomasi) are good people and they deserve to have a good business." Based on a year ago, the chapter has "58 percent less money in the till." The decline is due to both the drop-off in ticket sales and expenditures during the year, especially grants to the Stafford Technical School Scholarship program and the Rutland City Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

This being our annual meeting, Andy Megrath turned the meeting to Jack Crowther, nomination committee chair, for election of officers and directors.

As officers, Jack nominated the current slate, consisting of Andy Megrath, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; and Jack Crowther, secretary. No one else had expressed interest in these offices. The slate was seconded by Dick Doyle. Elected unanimously.

Jack then went over the list of current directors, noting their attendance records since January 2020. In discussion about recruiting newly active members to the Board of Directors, Tim Lonergan asked about continuing meetings via Zoom, which has drawn in a few new participants. Andy Megrath said he has inquired and found that the VFW building, where Chapter 1 offices are located, does have wifi service, which would permit use of Zoom. Andy said he would test out the service to determine whether we could use it for a hybrid in-person / Zoom meeting. Tim pointed out that that the hybrid option would allow interested members to serve as directors without having to attend in person.

“I don’t have a problem continuing with them,” Andy said of the Zoom meetings, “because it seems like we get more people here on Zoom than we were actually getting in the office over at the VFW.”

“I think the main thing is to get people, really encourage and help people, to get on Zoom,” Richard Reed said, noting that there continue to be a lot of meetings on Zoom.

Approaching the 40-minute deadline for our free Zoom meeting, Jack nominated the existing slate of directors — Bill Ellwood, Richard Doyle, Bill Whitney, Frank Wetherby, Jim Ficken and George Henry. Seconded by Cliff Adams. Passed unanimously. The understanding is that Andy will check with the less active directors to see if they are still interested in serving or wish to step down. If resignations produce vacancies, we can then fill them with those who have shown recent interest.

Richard Doyle congratulated the newly elected officers, noting, “Some of them served, not in years but in decades, a reference to Andy and Jack. Dick himself fits in that category in his service as director.

Jack then turned the meeting over to the re-elected president Andy Megrath.

Jack then reported on plans to remove the plantings around the marble sculpture at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial and replace them with crushed red slate. As he has reported previously, the plantings — initially wooly thyme and more recently dragon’s blood sedum — have proven difficult to maintain, with Jack doing most of that work. Jack has talked with Bob Peterson, Rutland City Parks director, who will be able to help with the work, probably during the period of April 27-29. When Jack gets a firm date, he’ll notify people by email to have a Chapter 1 group to help with the work.

Richard Reed reported that the Vermont VVA’s service officer program was currently “hanging on by their teeth.” Consequently he recommended that the chapter donate “\$1,000 to help

support the program while other sources of revenue are being generated.” He made a motion to that effect, seconded by Tim Lonergan. Passed unanimously.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, AT 5 P.M.

Here is the information you need to join using the Zoom app:

Topic: Chapter 1, Vietnam Veterans of America

Time: May 12, 2021 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84553825616?pwd=ajFXU2kyc0pub1BISjUwaVpBVTZJZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 5382 5616

Passcode: M236jJ