



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org

SEPTEMBER 2020



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING SEPT. 9, 2020

A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors took place. Directors present included Vice President Tim Longergan, Secretary Jack Crowther, Treasurer Richard Reed, and directors Dick Doyle, William Whitney, Jim Ficken and Bill Ellwood. No Board of Directors business was conducted.

Jim Freese of Rutland Town also attended.

Vice President Tim Lonergan presided in the absence of President Andy Megrath.

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

Treasurer Richard Reed reported that the chapter had a total of \$47,549.83 on hand, as of the end of August. He noted that Tomasi's bar in Fair Haven, the source of most of the chapter's revenue through the sale of ripoff tickets, has been closed due to the pandemic. Income from ticket sales for the fiscal year beginning in March is \$3,420. Following the meeting, Richard made contact with Danielle Tomasi, who reported that the bar hopes to reopen sometime in the fall. Richard's report was approved.

The VVA State Council will meet Saturday, Sept. 19, at 11 a.m. at the Chapter 1 offices. Any members are welcome to attend to see what the state VVA organization is up to.

In response to a question from Tim Lonergan, Jack Crowther reported that the chapter's \$1,500 contribution helped pay for a Rutland fireworks display on July 4 sponsored by the Paramount Theatre. The chapter had previously committed that amount to the Paramount for sponsorship of a U.S. military band concert. That never occurred. When the regular sponsor of the city fireworks dropped out, Eric Mallette, director of the Paramount, asked if the chapter might donate the \$1,500 to fireworks instead of a concert. After getting phone approval from the Board of Directors, the chapter okayed the fireworks expenditure.

Bill Ellwood reported on the archiving of Chapter 1 records, a project he has undertaken with Jack Crowther in cooperation with the Rutland Historical Society. Bill noted that so far the project has placed all the chapter's newsletters from 1992 to the present on the Rutland Historical Society website (rutlandhistory.com) and/or archive.com. The latter website allows for storage of much greater volumes of material than the historical society's site can accommodate. All the material is reachable through links on rutlandhistory.com.

Bill said Doreen McCullough, vice president of the Historical Society and Bill's main contact, had inquired to be sure the chapter was comfortable with its material being available for public scrutiny. Bill and Jack

explained that in posting chapter newsletters and membership lists, we are deleting the email addresses that we sometimes circulate to members. In posting membership lists through past years, we will simply list names and not addresses or phone numbers. Jack made a motion that the meeting endorse these measures to protect the privacy of chapter members. Seconded by Dick Doyle. Passed unanimously.

Bill noted that Jack had gone through the chapter's photo collection, scanning them into the computer and putting captions on them. Pictures with unidentified people and events have been sent to members for help with identification.

Bill has also set up a spreadsheet to keep track of Chapter 1 records and material, so that as they may be dispersed and stored in the future their location will be recorded.

Noting that the archiving project may require some supplies, such as thumb drives or office materials, Jack made a motion that the chapter approve up to \$200 for supplies as the project goes forward. Seconded by Richard Reed. Approved unanimously. Bill and Jack will submit receipts as any money is spent.

To access the archived material, click on the Chapter 1 logo on the Historical Society website (rutlandhistory.com). It leads to a menu of search options. (Some are not yet active.)

Jim Ficken gave a review of the Stafford Technical School scholarship program sponsored by Chapter 1. Chapter 1 has endowed the trust fund that supplies the money with \$50,000, which we feel will keep it going in perpetuity. As Jim explained, the scholarship is set up to distribute up to \$2,000 a year in increments of \$500, so that outstanding graduates of Stafford will have help extending their technical training. The Stafford Technical Center selects the winners, who must be the child or grandchild of a veteran. "A lot of talk and effort went into how it's being set up and how it's being divvied out," Jim said.

Jack Crowther has been tending to some of the maintenance of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, along with the Rutland Garden Club and the Rutland Recreation and Parks Department. He made the suggestion that the plantings around the memorial's central sculpture, the marble prone soldier, be replaced with inanimate material due to the difficulty of maintaining healthy plants. Over the years, he has cultivated woolly thyme and, most recently, dragon's blood sedum, but it has been a struggle to keep the area looking good. He offered the suggestion of using crushed red slate over landscape fabric to allow easier maintenance.

Richard Reed made a motion to give Jack authority to look into "some sort of inorganic ground covering around the memorial," and spend up to \$500 for materials needed. Seconded by Dick Doyle. Passed unanimously. Tim Lonergan, Bill Ellwood and Jim Ficken offered to help.

Tim Lonergan won the \$50 drawing among those who attended the meeting.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4, AT 4 P.M.
(NOT OUR NORMAL SECOND WEDNESDAY, WHICH IS VETERANS DAY)
AT THE VFW, 15 WALES ST., RUTLAND. A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WILL PRECEDE THE REGULAR MEETING.**