



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org

JANUARY 2022



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING JAN. 12, 2022

At Chapter 1's seventh Zoom meeting, attendees included Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; Directors Bill Ellwood, logging in from Florida, and Dick Doyle; and Carl Baldwin taking part from New Mexico. President Andy Megrath attempted to log in, but we were unable to make an audio connection. For that reason, Tim presided.

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

Dick Doyle reported that in the last two days he had lost two men he had served with in Vietnam.

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

Treasurer Richard Reed provided a partial treasurer's report, as the Heritage Family Credit Union had changed its website, making it a challenge to retrieve all the usual data. Nonetheless, the chapter has a total of \$74,526 in cash on hand. Our credit card bill is paid up.

Richard is trying to get the purchase of break-open tickets "normalized" with the vendor, as the price has varied "pretty wildly" because of supply problems. "On the whole, we're still doing very well on our investment [in] the tickets," he said.

Tim Lonergan, a volunteer with Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports, reported that the chapter's \$2,000 donation, given to support the services of the group to veterans was "greatly appreciated." Through a fortunate coincidence, the check from the chapter came into Vermont Adaptive on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 30, which resulted in our gift being matched by other donors, for a total of \$4,000. However, the organization's programs have been disrupted by COVID, including limits on close contact and loss of staffing at ski areas like Killington, and lack of snow. So far, he said, the skiing program of Vermont Adaptive has functioned at a reduced level. "One way or another we're going to make this thing work, and the donation is certainly appreciated," Tim said.

Tim reported that he had heard that a pending sale of the VFW building at 15 Wales St., where Chapter 1 has its office, had been canceled. Later in the day, on a phone call, Andy Megrath confirmed that was the case. Andy said the membership had voted down the sale. Thus the chapter's home at the VFW appears to be secure for now.

Richard Reed reported that "nothing substantive" came out of the Dec. 18 State Council meeting, other than the news from the VVA national group that a new president was elected and a vote passed to make VVA a "last person standing" organization.



Jack McManus is the newly elected President of the VVA national organization, replacing John Rowan. (Photo by Ken Williamson, courtesy of The VVA Veteran)

As reported in the November-December issue of *The VVA Veteran*, Jack McManus, the national VVA treasurer, running “from the floor,” defeated eight-term national President John Rowan for VVA president.

“Finally,” *The VVA Veteran* reported, “the Convention’s 702 delegates, after years of often-heated debate, at 11:25 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 4, voted overwhelmingly and with virtually no debate to adopt a roadmap for VVA’s future. The delegates, that is, voted to keep VVA operating the way it has since 1978 — as a veterans service organization with full membership open only to those who served on active duty in the U.S. military during the Vietnam War.

“In doing so, the delegates shunted aside alternative proposals that would have opened membership to younger veterans or formed a successor organization to carry on VVA’s legacy after the organization went out of business on a to-be-determined future date.

“The resolution the delegates approved, officially called Proposed Resolution 11, reads, in toto: ‘Vietnam Veterans of America, its Officers and Board members [are] prohibited from changing the organization’s name and/or creating any new veterans organization to replace our current one; thus making us a *last person standing organization*.’”

Bill Ellwood reported that information on chapter meetings is now available on our website under the Events section. Readers are directed to the Newsletters section to obtain the date, time and link to the next meeting. “Newsletters are up to date” on the website, Bill reported, as well as on the Rutland Historical Society website, rutlandhistory.com.

Bill said that when he returns from Florida in the spring, he’ll be able to get more of our photos on the historical society’s website. Bill noted recent work updating the chapter’s website, vietnamvetschapter1.org. Jack and Bill invited members to check out the site and feel free to suggest changes or corrections. You can forward them to Bill at [wellwood1950 AT gmail.com](mailto:wellwood1950@gmail.com), Jack at [jack_cr2 AT yahoo.com](mailto:jack_cr2@yahoo.com) or Andy Megrath at [vthogman AT comcast.net](mailto:vthogman@comcast.net).

Jack made a few remarks about his report in the November newsletter, which included the national VVA election of McManus and the vote on Resolution 11, described above. While the news was dramatic, Jack said, it may not have been quite the upheaval it appeared to be. Jack thinks that coming issues of *The VVA Veteran* will spell out future direction of the national group. While the “last person standing” choice was the clear sentiment, Jack thought the likelihood was that VVA would collaborate down the road with other groups on veterans advocacy issues.

Richard Reed, picking up on the “last person standing” idea, suggested that, when the chapter ultimately disbands, something talked about but in no way scheduled, we might want to suggest to Tomasi’s bar in Fair Haven a charity that would benefit from the sale of break-open tickets. Chapter 1 has enjoyed the revenue from sale of the tickets at Tomasi’s for years and owes its healthy bank balance to that source. “They are dedicated to doing something for veterans, so that helps narrow the field a little bit,” Richard noted. Richard said he would have “more detailed suggestions” in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, AT 5 P.M.

Topic: VVA Chapter 1 Meeting

Time: Mar 9, 2022 05:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88922301700?pwd=OGNQMjVqRy8yc0ljendrdrnBQUWN2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 889 2230 1700

Passcode: 394850