



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org

APRIL 2022



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING APRIL 13, 2022

At Chapter 1's eighth Zoom meeting, attendees included Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; and Directors Bill Ellwood and Carl Baldwin, who was taking part from New Mexico. Kerry O'Hara attempted to join the meeting, but was unable to do so for technical reasons. Sorry, Kerry, we'll hope to avoid that next time.

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

No one had a flag handy for the pledge, but Bill Ellwood called up one on his phone and held it up for the others to see. So we all remotely pledged allegiance to a remote flag. That is presumably legal.

Jack Crowther relayed the sad news of the passing of Mary ("Sissy") Megrath, the wife of Chapter 1 President, Andy Megrath. Sissy died April 10 at the age of 70 after a battle with Parkinson's disease. We observed a period of silence in acknowledgment of her passing and Andy's loss.

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

Treasurer Richard Reed reported a balance of \$76,699.73 in all of the chapter's accounts. Net income from the sale of break-open tickets for the current fiscal year, which began in March, is \$3,683.

The report was approved unanimously.

This being our Annual Meeting, Jack Crowther made a motion to elect the following officers and board members: president, Andy Megrath; vice president, Tim Lonergan; treasurer, Richard Reed; secretary, Jack Crowther; and directors, Bill Ellwood, Dick Doyle, Carl Baldwin, Mike Murphy, and Cliff Adams. Seconded by Richard Reed.

There were no other nominations. Tim Lonergan called for a vote on the slate. The slate was elected unanimously.

In other business, Jack Crowther proposed a monthly donation to Ukrainian relief, in light of the ongoing situation there. The chapter had donated \$2,000 at our April meeting to the Save the Children Ukrainian relief effort. Jack proposed a \$200 a month donation to the same charity.

Richard Reed suggested that the donation be reviewed in six months, which would be October. After some discussion, Jack proposed an ongoing donation to Save the Children, with a revisiting in October, of \$200 per month. Seconded by Richard Reed. Jack noted that in reviewing the Save the Children web page, the

Ukraine fund allows for the use of donations in other locations. The web site states, “Help Children at Risk in Ukraine and Around the World with Immediate Aid,” allowing use of funds elsewhere.

As noted in the March meeting, Save the Children is rated four stars with the Charity Navigator charity-rating organization. It declares that 85 percent of its funds go to “programs,” 9 percent to fundraising, and 6 percent to “management and general.”

The motion was approved unanimously.

Bill Ellwood indicated that he will propose a new donation to the Rutland Historical Society, which has been very helpful in seeing that the Chapter 1 digital archive material, compiled by himself and Jack Crowther, be available on the society’s web page. The effort to transfer that material is ongoing, led by Bill and Jack.

Jack again reported on his efforts to track down a large photograph of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial to use as a thank-you gesture. Jack has located the photo and the photographer, Jerry LeBlond, who owns the rights to it. After some discussion, however, it was the consensus that an updated photo showing the replacement sculpture, installed in 2017 and portraying a soldier in Vietnam-era garb, would be more fitting at this stage. Jack will pursue that. With the Rutland Garden Club and the Rutland Recreation and Parks Department normally planting flowers and mulching the shrubs around the memorial in the spring, there should be an opportunity to take a current picture in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, Secretary

THE CHAPTER 1 ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, AT 5 P.M.

Here’s the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89491841432?pwd=eC9uWk9PNepDN0xFkzR3ZXVBbzk4QT09>

Meeting ID: 894 9184 1432

Passcode: 709318

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