



# Vietnam Veterans Of America

## Chapter One

[www.vietnamvetschapter1.org](http://www.vietnamvetschapter1.org)

OCTOBER 2022



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### MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING OCT. 12, 2022

At Chapter 1's 11th Zoom meeting, attendees included Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; and Directors Bill Ellwood, Carl Baldwin and Michael Murphy.

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

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

Treasurer Richard reported a balance of \$105,056.85 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 \$12,987. The report was approved unanimously.

Jack Crowther said plans are under way to update the Honor Roll at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, a Friday, at 10 a.m. In connection with that, we will have a work party to spruce up the memorial on Monday, Nov. 7, at 10:30 a.m., weather permitting. If necessary we can postpone the work to a better day.

A preliminary check with President Andy Megrath indicated that there are several names to be added to the Honor Roll based on military records submitted. Jack and Tim posted flyers at several locations, including American Legion posts, the Rutland VFW, and elsewhere to invite Vietnam vets and family members to submit DD 214 records and have names added. The deadline for submitting paperwork is Oct. 15. The Rev. Pete Hults, Chapter 1 chaplain, has agreed to be on hand at the Nov. 11 ceremony to offer a prayer.

Bill Ellwood has been working on getting a plaque made for the bust from the original Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rutland. The bust was salvaged from the original sculpture at the memorial when a new sculpture replaced it. The bust sits in the community hall of West Rutland American Legion Post 87. The plaque will give the history of the sculpture, which was completed by West Rutland artist Donald Ramey. It was begun by Vietnam vet John Reno of Fair Haven, who died before completing it.

Richard Reed moved to have Bill go ahead and get the plaque made. Seconded by Jack Crowther. Passed unanimously.

Jack Crowther reported that the chapter's \$200 per month donation to Ukraine relief through the Save the Children fund was scheduled to end this month. Jack wondered if the chapter wanted to continue the donation. Richard Reed made a motion to continue the donation for another six months at the same level. Seconded by Bill Ellwood. Passed unanimously.

Jack also wondered if the chapter wished to offer assistance to Puerto Rico, which suffered terrific damage in Hurricane Fiona in September. Richard Reed commented: "I like the notion of seeing if we can do something for other vets and people in Puerto Rico, because, you know, they get short-changed on everything, and it's going to take the fed awhile to get anything to them. Any little bit we can throw in there can only help."

Andy Megrath had received a request for help from a VVA chapter in Puerto Rico, but the consensus seemed to be that we needed to do some investigation as to how the money would be spent. Tim Lonergan said he would pursue that with Andy so the chapter could be sure any donation was well used. Alternatively, Jack Crowther has looked into a charity called Direct Relief, which has a top rating by Charity Navigator. Direct Relief is able to channel contributions in specific directions, such as Hurricane Fiona assistance. By the November meeting we should have some clarity on how we might best help Puerto Rico.

Bill Ellwood renewed his request for chapter members and others from the area to supply pictures and stories of their service in Vietnam. Ronald Bean of Wells has supplied pictures of Chu Lai and Steve Lancour, a classmate of Bill's, has given us a bio and pictures. John Brower of Rutland, a former medic, also supplied photos and a story that ran in a Rutland Regional Medical Center newsletter. Anyone willing to share stories and pictures for inclusion in chapter records should send them to Bill at [rutlandvvaarchivesATgmail.com](mailto:rutlandvvaarchivesATgmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Crowther, Secretary

**THE NEXT CHAPTER 1 MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9, AT 5 P.M.**

Here's the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85966615593?pwd=Sk5EbjNibzB6MGVUUIhENVVGa1ZLUT09>

Meeting ID: 859 6661 5593

Passcode: 595142