



# Vietnam Veterans Of America

## Chapter One

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

DECEMBER 2024



### MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING DECEMBER 11, 2024

The photo to the right shows about half the turnout for our Dec. 11 meeting and social event downstairs at the VFW function room. Chapter 1 recently donated a big-screen television, visible in the right rear, to the VFW, enabling Zoom participation. We have a similar setup upstairs at the Chapter 1 offices, but chose the ground floor for its easier access and convenience in offering refreshments.



The meeting was open to Chapter 1 members and guests, with refreshments arranged by Chapter 1 President Bill Ellwood and wife Joan.

The meeting began with Bill reviewing Chapter 1's "fairly active year" just ended and looking ahead to 2025, when the chapter will mark its 45th anniversary. Another possible feature of the year ahead may be a hosting of a regional Vietnam Veterans of America conference, likely in June or July.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved. Richard Reed offered a correction of the August meeting minutes, clarifying that he and Tom Jackson are service officers under the VVA State Council and not the state of Vermont.

Richard's had mailed out his treasurer's report ahead of the meeting. It was approved.

Membership chair Dick Doyle said membership stands at 134. If your secretary's memory serves, that is about as high as it has ever been. New signups, the fruit of outreach efforts by Dick, Bill Ellwood and others have offset declines due to the passing of members. Among the new members is Don Amorosi of Glens Falls, a longtime friend of Chapter 1, who has transferred in to the chapter; Louis Rousseau of Rutland; and Louis Wierzbicki of Rutland. Don and Louis Rousseau were on submarines; Louis Wierzbicki was at Bien Hoa in Vietnam.

At Bill Ellwood's request, we voted unanimously to approve a donation of \$2,500 to Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports. Approved by directors between meetings, the donation was above our charter limit of \$2,000 for such between-meetings donations, even though it was the same amount donated last year. The

donation had to be made on a timely basis in order to qualify for a matching donation to VASS from another source.

VVA State Council Chair Perry Melvin said the next State Council meeting will be Jan. 4, beginning at 11 a.m. at the Chapter 1 offices in Rutland. It will be a Zoom-only meeting, due to winter travel uncertainties.

Bill Ellwood reported that the Farmacy program, which is directed by Emma Hileman, will be a guest at our February meeting. Emma is seeking financial support for the program, which provides fresh produce during the growing season to persons, based on doctors' recommendations.

Bill Ellwood made a pitch for a \$2,500 donation to the local Civil Air Patrol chapter, whose members played a ceremonial role in our Veterans Day event at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The organization provides a military style of training for young people, similar to the Boy Scouts and is sometimes a precursor to enlistment in the Air Force, as it was for Bill. It receives no federal funds. Tom Rousseau, Al Wilkinson, and Bill have reached out to the CAP chapter to foster a relationship with Chapter 1. However Tom has moved to Glens Falls, and Al is moving to St. Albans. After some discussion, it was decided to donate \$500 to the local CAP chapter and to invite them to a future meeting to outline their need for further support. Joann Larson is the local squadron commander.

The next chapter meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 4 p.m., downstairs at the VFW, 15 Wales St., in Rutland. A dance performance, arranged by Andy Megrath, will take place at 5 p.m., last about a half-hour, and is open to any VFW members or other veterans and family members..

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Crowther, Secretary

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