



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org

MAY 2022



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING MAY 11, 2022

At Chapter 1's ninth Zoom meeting, attendees included Andy Megrath, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; Directors Bill Ellwood and Michael Murphy; and Tom Whittaker from Brandon.

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

Jack Crowther introduced Amber Goss, a vocational rehabilitation counselor from Rutland working out of the Department of Veterans Affairs in White River Junction. Her job is to determine services a vet may be entitled to when they have difficulty obtaining or keeping a job as a result of service-connected disabilities. She can then connect the vets with training and other services to get them into the job market.

Anyone who knows a vet who might need these services can contact Amber at 802-295-9363, ext. 4291, or email her at amber.gos@va.gov. Amber said she will be attending the Veterans Summit at Northern Vermont University on June 3 at the Lyndon campus in Lyndonville. The summit runs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

Treasurer Richard Reed reported a balance of \$83,417.56 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 \$11,158. The report was approved unanimously.



Ronald Bean (left), raised in Rutland and now of Wells, is shown at the Marine Air Base in Chu Lai during his 1966-67 Vietnam tour. With him was Robert Bizon of Rutland. Robert died in April of 2015.

Ronald Bean of Wells has submitted his DD 214 for inclusion on the Honor Roll at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rutland. He entered the service from Rutland and spent 18 months at Chu Lai in 1966 and 1967. Adjacent is a picture he submitted in response to an invitation to local Vietnam vets to submit photos and accounts of their time in Vietnam. Photos and stories may be submitted to Bill Ellwood by emailing him at rutlandvvaarchivesATgmail.com.

As there are one or more other approved requests for inclusion on the Honor Roll, we agreed to update the plaque at the memorial, since it hasn't been updated since 2017. Jack Crowther will put out a press release inviting Honor

Roll submissions. Those who wish to be included will need to submit a DD 214 military service record

showing service in the war and showing that they entered the service from Rutland County.

A question was raised about the policy of Chapter 1 to pay for life memberships for any member with a one- or three-year membership. The policy is still in effect for those who have a membership and would like it to be a life membership.

Bill Ellwood moved to make a \$1,000 contribution to the Rutland Historical Society in recognition of their help in archiving Chapter 1's digital material. Many of the Chapter 1 records, including newsletters, photos, and news articles, are already accessible at the Historical Society's web site, rutlandhistory.com. Some of our material is stored at the much larger free site, archive.org, reachable via the Historical Society web site. Mike Murphy seconded Bill's motion, which passed unanimously.

In final notes, Andy Megrath reported that the state Department of Motor Vehicles is not keeping track of the deaths of vehicle owners with Vietnam veteran license plates. As a result, spouses or others are continuing to drive with the license plates, contrary to the intent of the legislation establishing the plates. Andy said he would bring the matter up at the next VVA State Council meeting in June.

Richard Reed said that the State Council meeting will be June 25 at the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington. It will be an in-person meeting beginning at 1 p.m. VVA members from around the state will gather earlier to cook hotdogs and hamburgers for the residents, then meet to carry out State Council business. Chapter 1 is entitled to three State Council members and we need two more to serve with Richard. Anyone interested can notify Andy Megrath (email: vhogmanATcomcast.net) and ask to be designated as a State Council rep for the chapter. Normally those meetings are held via Zoom, the June 25 meeting being an exception.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, Secretary

**AS IN THE PAST, CHAPTER 1 WILL NOT MEET DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.
THE NEXT CHAPTER 1 MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 14, AT 5 P.M.**

Here's the link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84093329541?pwd=2_S1sUsj3sGQIA-GfZytw5RHbftTw.1

Meeting ID: 840 9332 9541

Passcode: 360109

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Address Service Requested