

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 966
West End, NC

- a) The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on February 6, 2024, by President, Joe Easley. There were 20 members present.
 - b) Recognition of New Members/Prospective New Members/Guests: Guest present was Andy Bocskr. He may or may not become a new member.
 - c) The Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and Moment of Silence were conducted.
 - d) Roll Call of the Board was completed: All Board members present except Jack Bergquist.
 - e) Financial Report (Mike Shapiro): Started Fiscal year with \$16,785.44 since then we have had net income of \$8,381.62 and expenses of \$8,896.54 for a current balance of \$16,270.52.
 - f) Secretary Report (Jerry Sink): Minutes for the January 8, 2024, meeting was reviewed, and are available on the Chapter website.
 - g) Vice President Report (Bob Hall): Reminder that Chapter elections are producing nominations at the March meeting and elections will be held at the April meeting. If you are interested in running for office, contact Jack Bergquist.
 - h) Membership Update (Mike Pusillo): We have 114 Life members, 6 AVVA members for a total of 120.
 - i) Events Update (Mike Pusillo):
 - a. Sunday, January 28, 2024, Bob Simmonds presented an Eagle Scout plaque and medal to Benjamio Donadio, Matthew Fisher, and Timothy White with Troop 223 in Southern Pines.
 - b. Sunday, January 28, 2024, Joe Easley, and Brian Brech presented an Eagle Scout plaque and medal to William Hill with Troop 98 at the West End Scout Lodge.
 - c. Mike was notified by National VVA that John Clancy died March 31, 2009. John was never an active member, nor ever on our chapter roster. No reason why we got this notice now.
 - j) Chaplain Update (Larry Rushing):
 - a. On Saturday, February 3, 11:00 am, Mike Pusillo attended the Four Chaplains event at the Moore County Veterans Memorial. He said it was a genuinely nice somber ceremony honoring those four Chaplains that gave up their life jackets when a German U-Boat torpedoed the Dorchester.
- POW/MIA Update (Jim Ambler): No Report.
- k) History Update (Bob Simmonds): No report.
 - l) Outreach Update: (Bill & Sandi Carl)
 - a. Quilts of Valor Presentation: Held at the SLW Community Center on Saturday, February 3rd. 3 Vietnam Veterans and one Gulf War Veteran received a Quilt of Valor. Joe Kristek and Bob Simmonds from our chapter received a Quilt.
 - b. Candidate for Assistance: VSO from the Carthage Veterans Office contacted us for assistance for a 70% disabled Veteran with 15 years of service. Honorable discharge. Truck driver but his truck is down needing expensive repairs. Behind on car payments and mortgage payments. Has been referred to NC Works due to high debt. A motion was made by Mike Pusillo, seconded by Brian Brech, and passed for \$250 food card, and \$250 gas card to be delivered for this Veteran.
 - m) Fundraising Update: (Jack Bergquist)
 - a. 2024 – 2025 Officer Elections
 - i. To follow-up on what Bob Hall said earlier, Jack is asking members to consider running for Chapter Officers. Elections will be held in April, and we need to fill the President, Vice President, and Secretary positions. Please keep our Chapter running smoothly by running for an Officer position.
 - n) Old Business: None

- o) NEW Business:
 - a. VVA Region 3 Leadership Conference in Asheville:
 - i. Mike Pusillo made a motion to send two delegates from our Chapter and pay for their registration only, hotel and meals will be at their expense. Mike Shapiro seconded motion. **There is a possibility that this may be canceled. Stay tuned!**
 - b. NCVVA State Council meeting:
 - i. Date: February 17, 2024
 - ii. Time: 09:00 – 12:30 pm
 - iii. Location: Homewood Suites, Conference Room, 3rd Floor (In front of elevators), 4603 Central Park Drive, Durham, NC 27703
 - iv. The guest speaker is Bill Alexander....attorney who specializes in Elder Law. His topic of discussion is of great importance to the Aging Veteran, family members and Caregivers.
 - v. **Note: Meeting cancelled due to renovations to Homewood Suites.**
 - c. NCVVA State Council Announcement:
 - i. The NC Rate Bureau is planning an average of a 42.4% increase in NC insurance rates/premiums; some counties are facing 99.4% increase. (This is in addition to property tax increases planned in some locations.) **Moore County may be looking at a 28% increase in NC insurance rates/premiums.** An email was sent out by President Joe Easley with more details.
- p) President's Report (Joe Easley):
 - a. Joe Easley presented "Thank You Notes" from veterans and organizations thanking the Chapter for our donations.
 - b. Joe received a mailing from Tunnel to Towers asking for another donation for this year. After a brief discussion, the Chapter tabled the donation request until June.
- q) Next meeting date: March 4 , 2024, 19:00.
- r) Motion was made by Mike Pusillo and seconded by Bill McNeil to adjourn the meeting at 19:29.