

Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 966  
West End, NC

- a) The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on March 4, 2024, by President, Joe Easley. There were 22 members present.
- b) Recognition of New Members/Prospective New Members/Guests: New member Gary Bobbitt was recognized. Our guests were Mark Waldren and his wife Wilma. Mark may become a VVA member, and his wife Wilma may become an AVVA 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 Mike Shapiro.
- e) Financial Report (Joe Easley): Started Fiscal year with \$16,785.44 since then we have had net income of \$8,381.62 and expenses of \$9,502.41 for a current balance of \$15,664.65.
  - a. Mike stated via email that if you look at the expense statement, less than half of our expenditures went to Veterans in need. Our primary purpose is to help vets, so we need to make sure we are spending our money wisely.
  - b. Mike further stated "What do you think about publishing this on our website? Just the chart, not the spreadsheet?" Jack Bergquist thought it would be a good idea and Bill McNeill agreed. Jack also suggested we might put an article in the newspaper. Joe Easley suggested a summary with the numbers would be fine. Further discussion was tabled until a meeting could be called to discuss the finer details and get the information published.
- f) Secretary Report (Jerry Sink): Minutes for the February 6, 2024, meeting was reviewed, and are available on the Chapter website.
- g) Vice President Report (Bob Hall): No Report Available.
- h) Membership Update (Mike Pusillo): We have 114 Life members, 6 AVVA members for a total of 120.
- i) Events Update (Mike Pusillo):
  - a. Mike ordered more plaques and medals for Eagle Scout awards.
  - b. May 20, 09:00, 7 Lks Cemetery, new flags will be placed. Everyone is welcome to help place the flags.
  - c. Mike verified that Duane would notify ROTC to help with the ceremony May 25, 11:00.
  - d. ROTC Scholarships maximum to remain at \$1,500 and Master Guns would still have \$500 of the \$1,500 to use for scholarships. Mike P made a motion to keep the scholarships total at \$1,500 and George seconded, all members present voted in the affirmative.
  - e. Tentative dates for Field of Honor:
    - i. Grid – Friday 11/8
    - ii. Setup – Saturday 11/9 (09:00)
    - iii. Ceremony – Sunday 11/10 (14:00)
    - iv. Take Down – Saturday 11/23 (09:00) **Stay up two weeks!**
  - f. May 16, 09:00, UPHS NJROTC change of command. Ellie Chapin to get Honor Cadet medal & certificate. This is the VVA Medal for Honor Cadet.
- j) Chaplain Update (Larry Rushing): No Report Available.
- k) POW/MIA Update (Jim Ambler): No Report Available.
- l) History Update (Bob Simmonds):
  - a. Congratulations to the NJROTC for their first place in the Classic and PT Meet in Cary.
  - b. Vet Smiles project expands statewide, key events at each of the nine ECU Dental Clinics. Read more on the website: [ncvva966.org](http://ncvva966.org).
  - c. VA health coverage expanded to Toxins from Vietnam War.
  - d. April 10<sup>th</sup> is a Veterans Coffee Event with a "Full Breakfast", details and map are on the website.

- m) Outreach Update: (Bill & Sandi Carl)
  - a. Remember the MMIA Black Tie Gala on April 13 at the Fair Barn in Pinehurst. Click on the link for further details: <https://givebutter.com/FDG24>
  - b. Fill the Footlockers program of MMIA is sending snacks and personal hygiene items to the deployed troops. Footlocker was placed at First Bank to collect donations. A motion was made by Brian and seconded by George to donate \$300 for the purchase of items to support this program. All members present voted in the affirmative.
  - c. Marine Veteran's wife had surgery and is looking at a \$10,000 balance hospital bill. They do not qualify for Medicaid and Affordable Care Plan would cost \$500 a month which they could not afford. Bill McNeill made a motion for \$250 in gas card, and \$250 in Food gift cards to free up some of their money to apply towards the hospital bill. Mike Pusillo seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.
- n) Fundraising Update: (Jack Bergquist)
  - a. Fundraising Update (Jack Bergquist): No Report Available
  - b. 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.
- o) Old Business: None
- p) NEW Business:
  - a. April 1<sup>st</sup> will be VVA Chapter 966 officer/director elections. Bob Glitz, retired colonel, will do the swearing in. Members up for election are:
    - i. President: Bob Hall
    - ii. Vice President: Don Boito
    - iii. Secretary: Brian Breck
    - iv. Treasurer: Mike Shapiro
    - v. Director & State Delegate: Bill McNeill
    - vi. Director (Membership): Mike Pusillo
    - vii. Director & State Delegate: Jack Bergquist
    - viii. State Delegate: Jim Ambler
    - ix. AVA Coordinator: Sandi Carl
- q) President's Report (Joe Easley):
  - a. Joe Easley presented "Thank You Notes" from veterans and organizations thanking the Chapter for our donations.
- r) Next meeting date: April 1 , 2024, 19:00.
- s) Meeting adjourned at 19:52.