

The Vietnam Veterans of America

Williamsburg Chapter 957

PO Box 5072

Williamsburg, VA 23185

www.VVAChapter957.weebly.com

General Membership Meeting

VFW Hall

Jesters Lane

March 3, 2022

Minutes

Call to Order: 1900 Hrs

Opening Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

Closing Prayer:

Roll Call of Officers:

Tom Monahan, President (P)

Al Neal, V.P. (E)

Floyd Loveland, Treasurer/Secretary (P)

Jim Icenhour, Director (P)

Buck Matthews, Director (E)

Bob Ocock, Director (P)

Tony Forziati, Sgt at Arms (E)

Jack Guentz, Director(E)

Dennis Lane, Membership Chair (P)

Those in attendance comprised: 12 VVA Members and 2 AVVA Members. In addition to the officers noted, those who attended were: Larry Brewer, George Corbett, Frances DeMarco, Ken Meriam, Kenn Sadler, John Sargent and Rick Zick. The AVVA Members were: Maribeth Ocock & Joan Sadler. Thank you all for your attending and for your attention to the agenda. It was a lively meeting. Note: There was not an official February Meeting. Hence, no minutes.

Treasurers Report:

The beginning balance as of February 2, 2022 was \$7,052.82. No transactions this month. Donations are to go out next month (April). The ending balance as of March 2022 is still \$7,952.82. NOTE: Floyd had also prepared the Chapter's Annual Financial Reports which are due in the spring. Tom signed the documents as Presidents to complete them. Good work Floyd.

Agenda Items:

1. Mike Patterson is no longer a member of Chapter 957, having transferred to the Virginia Beach Chapter. (We wish Mike, a founder of Chapter 957, all of the good things in life). George Corbett has stepped up to assume the duties of our Chaplain. This will include giving the invocation at the 29th Commemoration.
2. The upcoming National Vietnam War Veterans Day was discussed in depth: We have sent 32 names to Cong Wittman's Office, and I have approx. 15 additional names ready to send. Remember the deadline is March 15th, so please forward any names to me as soon as you can. As well as sending out the updated flyer to our members, we are working on advertising the event in newspapers and radio. Many members are working their own methods of advertising at their communities. Art is covering the newspapers and Jim Icenhour will be interviewed on WMBG on March 9th between 5 & 5:30 PM. We are working on a written Program for the event. We intend to set up a POW/MIA Table. Dennis has ordered the needed flag sleeve from the American Legion. We will also set up a table for the Honor Garden (more below). We are endeavoring to contact W&M ROTC to ask them to supply an Honor Guard at the event.
3. The Chapter will hold Elections for new officers in April. The new slate was discussed at the meeting. Tom will stay on as President; At Garrison will be the new VP and George is the new Chaplain. Tony Forziati is the Master at Arms; Bob Ocock is the Quartermaster, Tom & Eileen are the delegates to VSC functions and Eileen is the non-voting delegate representing the AVVA members. The official swearing in will be at the April Meeting and will be

handled by George Corbett, as an officer of the Virginia State Council (a requirement).

4. As referenced above and as noted in my email after the February non-formal meeting, we have been contacted by **The Society of the Honor Guard Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**. We have been supplied with a Memorial Marker (Plaque) which they require be set in a **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Never Forget Garden**. It is our intention to install this Never Forget Plaque (generously donated to the Chapter by Project Director, Richard A. Azzaro) in an Honor Garden at the Veterans Park. Permission has been obtained from John Carnifax of JCC Parks. In addition, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have very generously offered to assist in this project. A preliminary meeting was held at the proposed site, which is opposite our Vietnam Never Forget Monument and across the walkway in a vacant grass area. The DAR (for one thing) has indicated that they have Master Gardeners who will assist in this garden. There are many other aspects and ideas to be considered. In essence, this is an ongoing project that will take months to complete. It is hoped that it will be completed by the 2023 Event. Meanwhile, we will set up a separate table at this year's event explaining the project, showing the Plaque and a drawing/rendition of the garden and asking for donations from the general public to assist in this endeavor. More to follow.
5. From the floor: Bob Ocock asked if the Chapter could donate \$500 to the Quilts of Honor Foundation. The foundation has told Bob that they would present all members of the Chapter with a Quilt in return. While it is a worthy charity, and some members might want a quilt, we asked Bob to table the suggestion until a later date. At least until we know the full monetary impact that the 29th Celebration and the Honor Garden will have on our treasury. Also, our annual June Picnic and the outing at Jamestown for the Maguire Hospital patients need to be considered. We don't know, for instance, if we will be allowed to have our fund-raiser at the Post Office yet. Plus, the fact that we no longer receive the Household Goods funds in the quantities as in the past. The foundation may set up a table at the 29th Event for their own purposes but has nothing to do with the Chapter's presentation.
6. The next VSC Conference is on March 19th in Richmond. Tom & Eileen will attend.

7. **IMPORTANT!!! We will now meet at the VFW Hall permanently on the first Tuesday of each month. As you know, the trailer is situated in the VFW parking lot. I spoke with the VFW Commander today and it is all set.**
8. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 5th @ 1900 at the VFW Hall
9. This month's Chapter Breakfast will be on Tuesday (Changed from Wednesday) March 15th at the Capitol Pancake House beginning at 0900. We hope to have a BOD meeting (which includes officers) at this breakfast to continue discussions on the 29th Ceremony.

File Name: Vietnam Veterans Meeting March 3rd, 2022

Attch: VFW Blood Drive Notice



*Be a part of the
lifesaving cause.*



**American
Red Cross**

Community of Giving

VFW Post 4639 Williamsburg Blood Drives

106 Jester Lane
Williamsburg, VA 23185

**Wednesday,
March 16th
10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

To register for an appointment or
visit redcrossblood.org Sponsor Code: **VFW4639**

Give in March for \$10 Fanatics e-gift card and chance at trip to MLB All-Star Game! rcblood.org/team