

The Vietnam Veterans of America

Williamsburg Chapter 957

PO Box 5072

Williamsburg, VA 23185

www.VVAChapter957.weebly.com

General Membership Meeting

VFW Chapter 4639 Hall

106 Jesters Lane, Williamsburg, VA 23188

October 4, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 1900 Hrs

Invocation and closing prayer by Chaplain: George Corbett

Pledge of Allegiance: VP Art Garrison

Roll Call of Officers:

Tom Monahan, President (P)

George Corbett, Chaplain (P)

Art Garrison, VP (P)

Tom Witkowski, Sgt at Arms (P)

Floyd Loveland: Treasurer/Secretary (P)

Jim Icenhour, BOD (P)

Dennis Lane, Membership Chair (P)

Bob Ocock, BOD (E)

Those in attendance comprised 9 VVA (G. Corbett; A. Garrison; J Icenhour; D Lane; F Loveland; T Monahan; J Reber; K Saddler & T Witkowski) & 2 AVVA (E. Monahan & J Saddler).

Treasurer's Report:

The beginning balance as of September 1st was \$7,682.14. No deposits were made. The 4th Quarter Donations were sent out: i.e. VetsHouse of Va Bch \$300; Mutts with a Mission \$300; Virginia State Veterans Services \$100 and Angel Wings for Veterans \$200. None have cleared as of this date. One check was written to Tom Monahan in the amount of \$569.18 to cover cost of block for Honor Garden (overpayment for USPO Box was deducted). Ending balance for September 30th is \$7,112.96.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Honor Guard Project:** Substantial Progress has been made since last meeting. Tom met with Don Reeves, Elvin Silsby and Ethan Silsby at the site. Ethan is the Eagle Scout from

Troop 103, Don is the Scoutmaster and Elvin is Ethan's father. Elvin is also a retired BUCS Seabee Senior Chief, so we are in good hands (just a fellow Seabees opinion). All pertinent paperwork was submitted to John Carnifax at JCC Parks.

- a. Since the meeting, Ethan has completed all requirements for an Eagle Scout Project and is putting together a list of required materials.
- b. The Scouts have suggested a sidewalk around the structure and connecting to the existing sidewalk as an addition. The Chapter voted in the affirmative and the Scouts were notified and agreed on Wednesday (Oct 5th).
- c. This past Sunday, Oct 2nd, they went to Home Depot. The manager of the Home Depot apparently went along with all the requests they made. Kudos to Home Depot.
- d. They will approach Luck Stone and request topsoil on Monday (No word as yet but I'm certain they will succeed).
- e. Having been unable to start the project on October 1st due to weather, they plan to start this coming Saturday (October 8th).
- f. Total dimension of the Garden may be changed to 10X10 depending on how it lays out and the amount of blocks available.
- g. **Multiple kudos to Scout Troop 103 and its Eagle Scout Program.**

2. **Plastics for Honor Garden Project:**

- a. The first Bench has been procured thanks to the efforts of the Williamsburg DAR, the VFW and our members. The bench is in Tom's garage and can be assembled easily and transported to the site.
- b. Meanwhile we have gotten together with VFW Post 4639 and entered another contract with TREX for a second bench. The contract runs from 1 August 2022 to 1 February 2023. After collections this past week from both the Post and our own members, we now have registered 241 lbs

3. **Fundraisers:**

No progress has been made on suggestions for fundraisers. It was suggested by Tom that we wait until after the upcoming VSC Meeting on October 21st. It will depend on how large a check we receive from the HGPD.

From the Floor:

- a. Flags for Veterans Day at the Cemetery: Dennis will contact Angela for guidance. Veterans Day is on a Friday so we will most likely place flags on Wednesday or Thursday (Nov 9 & 10) and pick them up on Monday (11/14). Times to be announced.
- b. The DAR sent us a request to contribute and/or volunteer to place Wreaths in the Cedar Grove Cemetery on Dec 17th. We agreed to donate \$150 which will purchase 15 Wreaths. George Corbett sent me the address today and I passed it on to Floyd to send the check. Volunteering is up to each member.
- c. Kenn Saddler informed the Chapter of a planned Vietnam Commemoration in Harrisonburg this coming February 17 in case anyone wants to attend.

- d. The Bell Tower celebration on Veterans Day will be held at 10 or 11 am. There is also the annual Colonial Williamsburg Parade at 3 PM. Attendance is voluntary, but Tom will attend both to represent the Chapter and show our flag. There is also a celebration in the AM at Colonial Williamsburg.
- e. Christmas Dinner for members and the folks from VetsHouse was discussed. Golden Corral is getting very expensive so we may ask Mission BBQ to come to the Post again as they did for our June Picnic. Another idea may be to have Members pay their own way at Golden Corral and just buy meals for the homeless vets.
- f. Honor Garden Details:
 - 1. Give a Certificate of Appreciation to Ethan Silsby for his efforts as the Eagle Scout in charge of the project. We may also give one to Scout Troop 103 as a whole because many members will be helping Ethan.
 - 2. Make up a temporary sign or plaque outlining the project as far as sponsors, builders, contributors, etc., and have a dedication ceremony on or about Veterans Day?
 - 3. Try for advertising in the Va Gazette. (Art Garrison will make the connections). Completion date is up in the air as of now, so timing is critical.

Chapter Breakfast will be held Tuesday October 20th at 0900 at the Capitol PH.

NEXT MEETING: November 1st, 2022, at 1900 at the VFW Hall

File Name: Vietnam Veterans Meeting Minutes for October 4, 2022