



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Chapter 1061

Harrisonburg, Virginia 22803



Volume 10 Number 4

Chartered April 2012

April 2023

Within the chapter, we have some who need our prayers. The following members and wives are either ill or recovering. Ern Grover, Robert Knight, Steve McMullen, Danny Sanders, Doug VanLear, Bill Strang, Sharon Morris (our waitress), John Smith and Bill Corbin. Prayers for Linda Balsler's family in the loss of their mother. Prayers, cards and visits are always appreciated.

Minutes 3/18/2023 meeting

Attendance: 59 members and guests attended.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by President Jerry O'Hara.

Opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance by Roger Alger
Roll call of Officers – two were absent.

Minutes presented by Tom Snook. Members approved.

Finance report presented by Sonny Clutteur. Approved by membership. Current balance is \$33,256.16.

Guest Speaker: Charles Howdysshell of Living Waters. Living Waters is an organization helping veterans with PTSD, depression and suicide. Peer groups meet in Broadway and Harrisonburg every Monday evening at 7 p.m. at Beards and Broads. Any veteran is welcome to attend the groups.

Committee reports:

Membership: 154 members

Fund Raising: Destry has tickets available for the gun raffle. The drawing will be at the May meeting. Destry has sent letters to businesses asking for their help to provide funds for scholarships.

Public Relations: a hospice speaker will be in May; and Healing Waters will speak in June.

Newsletter: If you have an article for the newsletter get it to Paul. Also looking for short articles about our members' tours in Vietnam. Pictures are always welcome.

Scholarship: Deadline for applications is May 15, 2023. Application is on the website.

Web Site: The password is still VVA1061. Be sure to check the web site often for it is updated regularly. Looking for pictures.

Old Business: The Chapter is unable to get the Harrisonburg Rescue Squad meeting room. Asking State to see if someone else would like to host the June meeting.

West Rockingham Ruritans Chicken BBQ was well attended by our members. Don Hopson was thanked for leading this project. The Ruritans were sold out of chicken by 8:45. The Chapter made \$1100.00 from the BBQ. Jerry thanked all those that helped.

Holley Watt's Memorial Remembrance will be May 20, 2023 from 9 am until 3 pm.

State Council Meeting will be March 24-26 in Virginia Beach.

Any address, email and phone number changes should be given to Jerry so he can correct our Chapter list.

The Chapter trip to Pigeon Forge is April 24-28. Call Maple's Motor Inn for reservations.

New Business: Jerry reminded the Secretary and the Treasurer that reports are due to State and National by May 1.

The Working Budget for 2023 thru 2024 was handed out to the membership and reviewed. The Chapter voted to accept the working budget.

May 11-13 will be the Honor Legacy of Vietnam Veterans in Washington D.C.

Congress is considering a bill, HR1413 to expand the National Cemetery. Please ask your Congress men to endorse this bill.

The Chapter will hold a picnic at the West Rockingham Ruritan Park May 13. Sign-up sheets will be available at the next meeting.

The Chapter is asking for copies of pictures from Vietnam to be used in our booth display. If you have any pictures, please get them to Jerry.

The monthly raffle was held at the end of the business meeting.

Roger Alger ended the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15.

The next meeting will be held April 15th with breakfast at 9 am, and the meeting starting at 10 am at the Wood Grill.

Respectfully submitted: Tom Snook, Secretary

Chapter Picnic - Saturday, May 13, 2023 – More details on page 4



Happy Birthday
To Everyone with an
April Birthday!

*Live for the
moments
you can't
put into
Words*



Happy Anniversary
To Those
Celebrating in
April!

Pictures of Chapter members helping with the Ruritans Chicken Bar-B-Q on March 11. They started at 4:45 AM and they were sold out by 8:45 AM. Thanks to everyone who helped. Great way to earn \$1100 for the Chapter.



veteran is welcome to attend the groups.



Charles Howdyshell, of Living Waters, spoke at the March meeting. He told the Chapter about how Living Waters helps veterans who are dealing with PTSD, depression and suicide. Peer groups meet in Broadway and Harrisonburg every Monday evening at 7 p.m. at Beards and Broads. Any veteran is welcome to attend the peer - to peer - support groups.

Article shared by Don Hopson

REALITY CHECK By K.H. Elliott, 541rst MID, 11th ACR

The passing of time has a way of causing us occasionally to reflect on the state of our lives. We are not young men anymore. We are not the butt-kicking, bad a** well-tuned war machines we once thought we were. We are old men now. We are closer to the end of our lives than the beginning. When we get up in the morning, we look at ourselves in the mirror and not a small number of us sometimes wonder, why did I survive? How did I survive when so many other men who were just as good a man as me (maybe better?), deserved to survive and get back to the real world, men who had families and wives and children.... did not? Why (how?) was I lucky enough to escape life altering wounds? I try not to focus too much on these questions because I realize there is no logic to much of what happened on the battlefield. We cannot go back and change anything; we cannot go back to save those that were lost or were horribly wounded. The cosmic guilt we may now carry does nothing to resolve our memories. What matters more is to perhaps consider what we have done with our lives since the war. More than once I have looked in the mirror and asked myself, has the life I have lived honored the men who died? Have I deserved the life I have been allowed to continue? I believe we owe a debt to those whose lives were cut short. We have a responsibility to have lived the lives they could not. We owe their families to let them know their loved ones were (and continue to be) loved by us even as they loved them, and to never let our memories of them die. We owe a debt to those we left behind to make the world a better place than for what we thought we were fighting. We have a responsibility to tell the truths of our war that all may understand what we (the living and the dead) sacrificed in service to our country. Many believe that our sacrifices ended the day we left Vietnam and returned to our lives in the "real world." The war (especially on television) ended for them in 1975. They do not understand that for many of us the impacts (on us) and our sacrifices continued to weigh on us every day; that still we carry the war with us every day, every night, every veteran's day, every Memorial Day, ALL THE TIME. Our service and experiences shaped and have had a profound influence on everything we have done since; not just on us personally, but on our families, friends, and perhaps even our communities too. The brothers who were our best friends then are as fresh in our minds today as they were then. No matter how well we have (or have not) done with our lives since returning from Southeast Asia, we all have triggers that can make the past as fresh as a new day. So, have we turned our survival into a positive impact on our world? We did not always like each other. We did not always share each other's politics. We came from different states, different cities, different ethnic and religious backgrounds; we came from a time where racial differences mattered mostly everywhere except in a firefight. We did things for each other, we cared for each other in ways that would not have been possible back in the "real world." But for a short time, we shared a set of common values that bound us together in a brotherhood that reaches across more than two centuries of our Nation's history. We cared more for each other than (and still now) we ever would have in our pre-military lives. That cannot be lost just because it has been more than 50-years since our war. When we left country, most of us went back to the way things were in a society that was torn by the war, torn by economic, political, and racial disparities. It is not enough that we band together as Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia and we remember those we left behind did not just leave us a legacy of the past. They left us a responsibility to pick up where they left off. So, when you look in the mirror what do you see? Do you ever ask yourself, has the life I have lived honored the men who died? Have I deserved the life I have been allowed to continue? *Service to our country, our communities, and our families did not end with our tours in Vietnam.*



"Chaplain's Corner" by Roger Alger

1 Peter 2:2

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

We come into this world as infants, helpless and dependent on milk for nourishment. The same is true of our spiritual rebirth. We do not come to faith as mature believers full of knowledge and wisdom. Rather, we need to grow, and it's good to start small, with the milk of scripture, the basic truths and assurances that will form the foundation of our faith as we grow to full maturity.

Prayer - Heavenly Father, thank you for saving me and giving me new life as Your child. Lord, I am overwhelmed by the depth of Your word. Please direct me to the nourishing milk of scripture, help me to abide in the simple truths of Your love and salvation as You prepare me to go beyond infancy and into maturity in You. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

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STATE DELEGATES

**Jerry O'Hara, Tom Snook, Sonny Clutteur, and
Kenny Emerson**



Chapter Picnic - Saturday, May 13, 1 - 4 PM
West Rockingham Ruritan Park
Fellowship, Food and Fun & Games

The Chapter will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns and plates, cups, silverware, napkins and ice. Members are asked to bring a covered dish to share, drinks and lawn chairs.

Sign-up sheet will be at the April meeting.
Plan to join us for a great afternoon!

Dates to Remember

April 15, 2023 - Next VVA Meeting
Wood Grill 9:00 - Breakfast 10:00 - Meeting
May 13, 2023 - Chapter Picnic
West Rockingham Ruritan Park 1 - 4
June 2, 2023 - VVA Board Meeting
Wood Grill - 11:45 AM



*"Sharing tales of those we've lost is
how we keep from really losing them."*

Mitch Albom

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