



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Chapter 1061



Volume 8 Number 4

Chartered April 2012

April, 2021

Within the chapter, we have some that need our prayers: They are as follows: Ember O'Hara, (It was good to see her at the meeting), Bill Henry, Roger Nelson, Roger & Sharon Shifflett, Sharon & Norm Fifer, Mary Daniels, Ern Grover, Joe & Michael Acker (It was good to see Joe at the meeting), Rusty Davis, Holley Watts, Danny Sanders, Welford Davis, and Carolyn and Bernie Wilfong and Bennie Swidall. Cards and calls are always welcome for all of ours.

50 members attended

Meeting called to order and led by President Jerry O'Hara.

The minutes and the financial report were presented and approved by the membership.

Membership is steady at 156.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Fundraising: Last month our Chapter auctions and monthly challenge brought in \$1051.00.

Public Relations: All speakers are cancelled for the present.

Benefit/Health: Be sure to get your COVID-19 vaccination to help end the pandemic. Only by having "herd" immunity will this virus be controlled. There have been a few problems but the risk is greater with the disease than with the glitches. The difficulty with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a RARE blood clotting disorder and it is back on line. Moderna and Pfizer are 92 and 93 % effective. It is probable that a booster vaccination will be needed each year. Virginia is now at >50% of people with one shot and 32% fully vaccinated. The VA is looking at declaring presumptive qualification for troops exposed to AO in countries other than Vietnam.

Honor Guard: Anyone interested in serving as a part of this group—see Tom Snook.

The website password is still VVA1061. Check the website often as it updates regularly. The Helping Hands application had been added, as well as a section for letters.

Call List: Bruce has asked for an updated list of those who do not have internet or computer access. He and Fred Rogers are trying to keep in touch with members without internet.

OLD BUSINESS

Tom Counts has challenged the membership, if they are able, to pledge \$20.00 a month to help offset the lack of fundraisers. It has been well accepted and is adding to the treasury.

The projected Chapter budget for the year 2021-2022 was made available to the Chapter. The two largest expenses will be our scholarships (up to \$3000) and the National Convention. The cost of lodging for five nights and registration of our four delegates should cost the Chapter about \$2800.

Deadline for scholarship applications is May 15th. The form is on the website.

POLITICS

National VVA meeting will be held November 2-6, 2021 in North Carolina, and WILL BE an in-person meeting.

A vote on changing our name will come up again. The Chapter should be receiving a letter soon about getting a fourth delegate to State and National meetings.

Officers are reminded to get all necessary reports filed as soon as possible to keep the Chapter in good standing.

NEW BUSINESS

Top Bead Welding in Broadway donated \$500 to our scholarship fund. A letter of thanks will be sent.

Virginia Hearing Group in Verona offers free hearing services for veterans. An appointment is needed and you can call 540-248-1670 for more information.

The VA is partnering with CD Auto Group to provide auto insurance at a reasonable rate. You can call 470-567-638 for information.

A fourth delegate to the National Convention was elected. Kenny Emerson will be the Chapter's 4th delegate and Asa Talbot will be the alternate.

CHAPTER BULLETIN BOARD

Bruce has been contacted by Melissa Shumaker about a Girl Scout event for veterans. The event is May 22 at the Bridgewater Lawn Party grounds, and the request is for an information table to be set up. More information will be supplied at the next meeting. The Chapter will respond favorably.

Some members meet on Tuesdays, at noon, at the Wood Grill for food and fellowship and on Thursdays at 4p.m. at the Italian Touch in Broadway. All are welcome.

Auction items: Pencil drawing by Bruce Dellinger —to Daneen Coakley for \$65. Veteran's license plate cover—to Destry Thomas for \$25. Silver dollar to Sam Batten for \$65. Rifle pen to Tom Snook for \$55.

The next meeting will be at the Wood Grill on May 15th, 2021 with breakfast at 9 AM and meeting at 10 a.m.

Remember to tip our servers.

April Birthdays: Gary Breeden, Bobbi Counts, Kay Gentry, Ern Grover, Roger Nelson, Maria Sampson, Linda Balser and Mary Daniels.

April Anniversaries: Jerry & Ember O'Hara, Gary & Vicki Breeden and Asa & Jean Talbot

Never sing in the shower! Singing leads to dancing, dancing leads to slipping, and slipping leads to paramedics seeing you naked. So remember.... Don't sing!

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STATE DELEGATES:

Jerry O'Hara, Tom Snook, Bill Ludholtz and
Kenny Emerson.

A FIREARMS REFRESHER COURSE

1. Those who plow their guns into plows will plow for those who don't.
—Thomas Jefferson
2. Those who trade liberty for security have neither.— John Adams
3. Free men do not ask permission to bear arms
4. An armed man is a citizen. An unarmed man is a subject.
5. Only a government that is afraid of its citizens tries to control them.
6. Gun control is not about guns; it is about control.
7. You only have the rights you are willing to fight for.
8. Know guns, know peace, know safety. No guns, no peace, no safety.
9. You don't shoot to kill; you shoot to stay alive.
10. Assault is a behavior, not a device.
11. The United States Constitution © 1791 All Rights Reserved.
12. The Second Amendment is in place in case the politicians ignore the others.
13. Which part of "shall not be infringed upon" do you not understand?
14. Guns have only two enemies: rust and politicians.
15. When you remove the people's right to bear arms, you create slaves.
16. The American Revolution would never have happened with gun control.
17. Every nation who has allowed gun control, voluntarily or by edict, has endured slavery

I love this country. It's the government I am afraid of.



Every few days it would be
smart to put your jeans on
to make sure they still fit

Pajamas and sweats will
have you believe all is well

THE VETERAN'S VOICE

WHY YOU SHOULD BE KIND INSTEAD OF NICE

It has felt, particularly over the past year, like people aren't being especially nice to each other. These times have been trying, and it's hard to muster up enough social grace to wave hello to that neighbor who peppered their lawn with political signs of a figure you disdain. But it might be time to reevaluate the values of niceness anyway – because kindness is more important and they are not the same thing.

I came across this tweet last week, and as someone who has lived on both sides of the country, it amused me.
Jordan Green @xxxxxx

“When I describe East Coast vs West Coast culture to my friends I often say – The East Coast is kind but not nice, the West Coast is nice but not kind, and the East Coasters immediately get it. The West Coasters get mad.” But once I was done being amused (having mentally pictured a stereotypical gruff guy from Philly who would curse you for shivering when you're out in the cold without a coat like a dumbass, even as he's giving you the coat off his own back), the point stuck with me. You can be kind without being nice, and you can be nice without being kind. Kindness, as they point out, addresses the need, regardless of the tone.

Someone replying to Jordan Green tweeted:

Niceness is saying “I'm sorry you're cold,” While kindness may be “Ugh, you've said that five times, here's a sweater.” Kindness is addressing the need regardless of tone.

Another person tweeted:

As a both-coaster, I think you nailed it. Once when I was crossing a street in NYC, a bike messenger clipped me. A woman next to me grabbed my arm, yelled “F—K You” at the guy and then turned to me and said, in almost the same tone, “You OK?” Perfect example of NY kindness. Obviously, using both kindness and niceness in tandem is ideal. One could hand over one's coat without being rude about it, after all. But if the current state of things has worn us down so that we need to rebuild one skill at a time, start with kindness.

And yet, another person tweets:

Do you want nice or do you want honest?
Do you want nice or do you want kind?
Do you want nice or do you want ethical?
Do you want nice or do you want to be effective?

Think of kindness as the act that accompanies (or replaces) your words. It's silently helping a struggling mom of three kids load her groceries into her trunk, rather than smiling and saying “You're doing a great job, mama,” as you breeze past. It's bringing a pot of soup to your sick friend, rather than sighing sympathetically and saying you hope they feel better soon. You're kind if you shovel your neighbor's car out from under a pile of snow, stop to help a stranger change a tire, or pause to give an obviously lost person some directions – even if you're not the type of person to bother saying “Bless you” when someone sneezes.

You may not want to exchange pleasantries with that neighbor who finally took the ridiculous political banner down; but if the wind blows their garbage cans down the street, it would be kind to drag them back over.

