



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

MARCH 2009



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

March 11, 2009

Five members attended.

Bill Whitney spoke on a personal note to those assembled. His remarks were appreciated.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported a total of \$15,702.66 in the chapter's accounts. The report was approved unanimously.

President Andy Megrath relayed thanks for chapter contributions, including from the local Fleet Reserve Association, for Chapter 1's donation of \$200 to the Wounded Heroes Project, which provides clothing and personal items to recovering servicemen and women at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda National Naval Medical Center. A framed certificate accompanied the letter. We also received thanks directly from the Bethesda facility.

Also thanking us were Trevor J. Squirrel, executive director of the Brain Injury Association of Vermont. The chapter provided \$350 to allow 10 veterans to attend a recent conference on traumatic brain injury. The Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation thanked us for a \$50 contribution. That group in 1993 erected a memorial to women veterans of the Vietnam War.

Dave Mathis read an appreciative letter from T.C., a resident of Rutland's Dodge House for homeless veterans. The chapter recently paid a fine of \$548 that T.C. owed as a result of a drunk driving judgment in Vermont. Our assistance allowed him to get off probation, which required visits to northern Vermont, and to focus on getting his life back together. T.C. is required to pay back the amount to the Dodge House, which can then use it for its programs. T.C.'s letter said in part:

"By doing this for me you have showed me that there is hope for me as long as I do the right thing. It makes me want to try even harder to be a better person because I can see that there are people who appreciate it even as much as I do. I am greatly indebted to you people for your help. You have greatly influenced my life in a positive way. It also makes me very proud to be part of a **BAND OF BROTHERS** as I am and always will be a **UNITED STATES SOLDIER.**"

The chapter deferred action on a request by Vermont Vet to Vet, a peer support group for all veterans, including those from current conflicts in the Mideast. Entering its third year, the group has five trained facilitators and operates independently of the Veterans Administration. However, it claims support from

the mental health department of the VA Hospital in White River Junction and its clinics around the state. It's main focuses are mental health and drug problems. After some discussion among members, the consensus was to check further into the group.

Jack Crowther moved to contribute \$50 toward replacement of flags at the Vermont Veterans Cemetery in Randolph. Seconded by Dick Doyle and passed unanimously. Chittenden Chapter 829 of VVA has been replacing two to three flags a year at a cost of \$150 each and would like help. Andy Megrath, who has found a source of durable flags locally, will check on the kind of flags used at the Randolph cemetery, with the thought that sturdier flags might last longer. There are multiple flags at the cemetery.

Chapter 1 will hold its annual meeting with election of officers at our next meeting, in April. Jack Crowther moved that the four current officers — Andy Megrath, president; Larry Young, vice president; Dave Mathis, treasurer; and Jack Crowther, secretary — current board members — Dick Doyle, Bill Whitney, Bub Crosby, and Maurice Burden — be nominated and that in addition Ed Wiehe be nominated for the board. Five board seats are open. Seconded by Bill Whitney. Passed unanimously.

Anyone else interested in running for a position should make their wishes known to Andy Megrath or another officer or board member.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary

**THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009 AT 6 P.M.
AT THE CHAPTER OFFICES AT THE VFW, 15 WALES ST., RUTLAND, VT.**