

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 1140

February 13, 2023 Minutes

Call to Order at 5:30pm

Opening Prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of officers and Board. (all present except John Mills)

President – Rich Krejsa

Vice President – Max Hixon

Secretary – Michael Moody

Treasurer – Gregg Conroy

Board Members – Spencer Davis, John Mills (excused), Bob Baze, Bill Robinson, Rich Schonfeld

Welcome of newcomers – Dave Dawson USAF

Officers Reports

Secretary Report – membership at 130

Treasurer Report - \$7,594.23 in VVA, \$65,734.57 in Mid-TN 501c3 (includes \$50,004.40 in MM)

Review and approval of prior meeting minutes – motion made, seconded and minutes were approved

Unfinished Business

- **Survivor Benefits Seminar –** Waiting for more information concerning date. Possibly in April.
- **VVA Tennessee State Council meeting –** Report attached from Gregg Conroy
- **Tennessee Veterans Day on the Hill –** canceled due to weather
- **Disabled Veteran in Need –** Status provided by Morley Levine (attached)
- **Wreaths Across America Donation -** \$1,500 donation made to DAR for additional wreaths

New Business

- **Quilts of Valor** – Pat McMahon presented quilt to Jim McIntyre USMC, and we made \$500 donation to Quilts of Valor
- **Matthew 25 Visit** – Bob Baze reported on visit by him & Gregg, board will consider next steps if any
- **Tonight's Speakers** – Land Deloit, Patriot Foundation was a NO-SHOW
- **Chapter Committees - Reports**

We need people to step up and help on these committees. If interested, contact the members listed below.

Membership (Spencer Davis)

Communications (Gregg Conroy)

Events / Fundraising (Bill Robinson)

- **National Vietnam War Veterans Day** – March 29, 2023. Update. **(Save the Date) Daphne Caveness (DAR) and pinning sign-up**
- **Suggested that volunteers at fundraisers bring photos of themselves back then to display at the event.**

Programs / Speakers (Mike Moody)

Awards (Rich Krejsa) – Projects under evaluation.

We are also looking for someone (some accounting exposure helpful) to run for Treasurer in April.

Events / Fundraisers:

- **Visit patients at Tennessee State Veterans Home – Murfreesboro. On hold until Tuesday, April 11**
- **National Vietnam War Veterans Day** – March 29, 2023. Will have table with pamphlets at both events
 - **Chapter Celebration** - 09:00 – 10:30 at Franklin Archives
 - **DAR Celebration and pinning ceremony** – 12:00 at Enrichment Center.
- **Columbia Mule Days** – March 30- April 2
- **Franklin Rodeo** – May 18-20
- **Annual Veterans Car Show** – July 29 **(Save the Date)**
- **Williamson County Fair** – August 4-12. They are seeking Hometown Heroes nominations. Nomination forms available.

- **Vietnam Veterans of America National Convention** – August 8-12, Orlando, FL.

Future Speakers:

- **March 13** – Eden Murrie, Operation Standdown
- **April 10** – **Chapter Elections – Officers and Board members** – speaker Rick Warwick, Williamson County Historian
- **May 8** – TBD
- **June 12** – April Kiser – Habitat for Humanity

Inside the Chapter:

- **Quilts of Valor:** Remember – if you would like a quilt, you have to come to our monthly meetings. **Sign-up sheet available**
- **“Reflection” poster – Sign-up sheet available**
- Once again, we have 15 oz. mugs (logo on both sides) which you can have for a donation of \$10 or more.
- We can order embroidered shirts with our Chapter info and the VVA logo. The shirts can be ordered with or without your name for a donation of \$35 or more.

Meetings:

- Our next scheduled membership meeting is set for **Monday, March 13, 2023, at 5:30** at the Williamson County Enrichment Center.
- The next scheduled Board meeting is on **Wednesday, February 15, 2023**, at 1:30 upstairs at the Williamson County Enrichment Center. Members are always welcomed to attend and silently observe the board meetings.

Anything else for the good for the order?

- Rich reflected on a veteran friend who recently committed suicide: anyone needing help with this issue should call 988 Suicide Hotline

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm

Respectfully submitted, Michael Moody, Secretary

Notes on TSC VVA meeting 1/28/2023

The meeting was held in the Veterans Memorial Building in the Fairgrounds at Lebanon. Barry Rice called the meeting to order at a little after 11:00 am. After going through the prayer, pledge, minutes approval, greeting new chapters and new attendees, etc. Barry got into a report on the Council of State Council Presidents and VVA Board of Directors meeting he had recently attended. He briefly touched on the fact that there were some things he couldn't share as they had been discussed by the BOD but have not yet been approved. One example of this is the 2023 Budget which was discussed and revised but will not be approved until the April 17-18 BOD meeting. He did say that national VVA is financially very healthy.

He then covered, at a very high level, what was in process regarding discussions around dissolution of VVA, that a strategic plan is in development and that in those plans they are taking into account that they are incorporated in NY state and MUST do things according to those rules in order to not forfeit all VVA funds to NY state as national is dissolved. The Board has determined that:

- there will be AT LEAST three national conventions before VVA is shut down and there WILL BE conventions in 2023, 2025 and 2027;
- once the strategic plan for dissolution is approved by the BOD a "resolutions committee" will begin their work of drafting the several resolutions to be presented to the 2023 convention to effect the plan
- current timetable calls for the resolutions committee to mail out the resolutions to all chapters by May 17, 2023
- although the national VVA will be dissolved, each chapter has its own federal EIN and will continue on a "stand alone" basis. Presumably state councils will also be able to continue if they are established in their own EIN existence.
- A number of associated issues, such as VVA trademarks, the logo, etc. still need to be resolved.
- AVVA is written into the plan to continue to exist and is tagged to be the national successor to VVA. Continuing a number of VVA's current programs. ALL VVA members are encouraged to become "dual members" with AVVA so they can continue to support these programs. Dual membership with AVVA costs \$50 lifetime and all dual members have the right to vote like any other AVVA member. Dual members ONLY restriction is that they cannot be officers of AVVA chapters, etc.
- Along with encouraging all VVA members to become dual members with AVVA, each VVA chapter is encouraged to form its separate AVVA chapter and recruit non-VVA members to it.

At the 2023 national convention all AVVA dual members will be awarded a pin by AVVA recognizing their special status.

The 2023 will be August 8-12 at the Rosen Centre in Orlando. Further details can be found on the website at <https://vva.org>.

The TSC VVA website (<https://tscvva.com>) is a great place to post information about chapter events, accomplishments, etc. The website is going to go through a cleaning that will remove material over 6 month old so it will continue to have space for new information. Email information to Bill Norton at bill@metroservicesinc.com.

February 10,2023

In mid-January 2023, the Post Commander of V F W Post 4969 ,which I am also a member of, contacted me about a Viet Nam veteran who was disabled and needed some repairs done to his home. Because he is in a wheelchair, most of the damage was done to doors and entry ways. John Maier called me because he knew I was a member of VVA chapter 1140 (Franklin/Maury County) and the VFW did not have the funds or the manpower to do the complete job. I got all the information, and over the course of the next three weeks, I met with the vet and his family. I did an extensive interview and researched the cost for this project. I then made a presentation to my VVA chapter 1140 to report on what I had learned, as well as cost (i.e., materials) and made a request for funds to offset what the VFW would donate and help from our membership. In doing so, I let our chapter know that the VFW would also donate funds to help offset cost. There was some discussion about the project, but the chapter took a vote to present this project to our board to vote on. At the following board meeting it was announced to approve it. Then the hard part came, we asked for volunteers to help do the work. I thought there would only be one or two, but to my surprise, we had twelve members sign up. I am happy to say that on February 6,2023 we started the work on this project, and it was completed on February 8,2023.

I am proud to say that because of the joint effort of two great veterans' organizations working together, we were able to help a veteran who was in need of help. It makes me proud to belong to an organization such as ours knowing that we DO stand for something, " Veterans helping Veterans". After speaking to the veteran's family, they said they would like to extend a special thank you to the members who helped make this project possible and, especially, to the membership of VVA chapter 1140.

Project leader	Morley Levine
Volunteer's	Bob Cieslak
	Robert Miller
	Steve Clark
	Ted Copeland
	Greg Conroy