

# **Vietnam Veterans of America**

## **Chapter 1140**

### **July 8, 2024 Chapter Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order at 5:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Officers and Board

President – Rich Krejsa	Present
Vice President – Max Hixon	Present
Secretary – Don Caldwell	Present
Treasurer – Gregg Conroy	Present
Board Members – Morley Levine, John Mills, Bob Baze, Bob Nichols, Rich Schonfeld	

Welcome of First Time Veteran Attendees. None

Secretary Report - Review and approval of prior meeting minutes. Approved by voice vote

Treasurer Report

Checking Account: \$17,980.72      MidTn 501c3: \$1,161.65      Deposit Account: \$82,585  
Planned outflow of grants in 2024: \$68,630

#### **Unfinished Business**

- Determine date(s) work for Survivor Benefit Seminars:
  - Maury County – Friday, August 2, 2-5 p.m., at Memorial Building
  - Williamson County – Saturday, August 24, 10-2. Location still to be determined
- Determine tentative date(s) for Toxic Exposure Town Hall
  - Williamson County – Saturday, August 31, 10-2, Franklin Community of Faith Church, 506 Jordan Road, Franklin
  - Maury County – TBD, possibly September, site TBD
- Tennessee State Veterans Home Visit – Report (Doug Schnabel) 5 visitors and 1 wife last month
- Franklin on the Fourth – Report: Very hot day. 10 volunteers participated, at least 5 people were educated, primarily on Agent Orange. Donations: \$321.00

## **New Business**

- Tonight's Speaker – LTC Arlin Wilsher, Professor of Military Science, MTSU

## **Events / Community Engagement**

### **July**

- Visit Tennessee State Veterans Home - Tuesday, July 16 @ 10AM – Sign-up Sheet Available
- Bluegrass Along the Harpeth – Friday, July 26 7PM-10PM (Setup @ 5:30PM)– Saturday, July 27 10Am-10PM (can close down earlier) – Sign-up Sheet Available

### **August**

- Maury County – Survivor Benefits Seminar – Friday, August 2
- Toxic Exposure Town Hall Meeting – Saturday, August 3 – Sign-up Sheet Available
- Williamson County Fair – Saturday, August 10 – Application submitted. Veterans' admission free
- Visit Tennessee State Veterans Home - Tuesday, August 20 @ 10AM
- Williamson County – Spouse and Survivor Benefits Seminar – Saturday August 24 (Tentative pending location)

### **September**

- Fourth Annual Veterans Car Show – Saturday, September 7, Elks Lodge, Franklin.
  - Distribute Flyers
  - Donation items for silent auction
    - List donor and approximate value of the gift
    - Bring to August meeting
- Visit Tennessee State Veterans Home - Tuesday, September 17 at 10 a.m.

## **SAVE THE DATE (More details as we get closer)**

Saturday, October 5 – VetFest, Granny White Park, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday, October 26 – PumpkinFest

Saturday, November 2 – Franklin Family Day, Harlingdale Farm, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Monday, November 11 – Veterans Day Parade, Franklin & Columbia, both at 11 a.m.

Monday, December 9 – Chapter Membership Luncheon, Willis Johnson's Car Barn, 10 a.m.

## **Chapter Committees - Reports**

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

- Membership (Bob Baze & John Mills) Current membership is 151
- Communications (Gregg Conroy) - Need volunteers to call and remind members of meetings and events
- Events / Fundraising (Max Hixon)
- Programs / Speakers (Don Caldwell)
- Awards (Rich Krejsa)
  - Scholarship Committee – Report
- Scholarship Committee: A contest of area JROTC students from 8 high schools in Williamson and Maury County: Students interview a Vietnam veteran and write an essay on the veteran's experiences. Best written essays in each school earn \$1500 scholarship.

**Future Speakers:**

- August 12 – Capt. Aron Buckles, Vanderbilt Naval ROTC
- September 8 – Dr. John O'Brien, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Museum
- October 14 – Tripp Osteen, Folds of Honor
- November 11 – Greg Wade, Tennessee Medal of Honor winners
- December 9 - TBD

**Inside the Chapter:**

- Quilts of Valor: Remember – if you would like a quilt, you must come to our monthly meetings. Sign-up sheet available
- "Reflection" poster available – FREE
- Mugs (15 oz, logo on both sides) which you can have for a donation of \$10 or more.
- 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. (See Gregg Conroy)
- Board visit with Jennifer O'Neill at Hope & Healing Equine Therapy ranch in Goodlettsville.

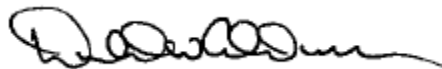
**Future Meetings:**

- Our next scheduled membership meeting is set for Monday, August 12, 2024, at 5:30 at the Williamson County Enrichment Center.
- The next scheduled Board meeting is on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 1:30 at the Williamson County Enrichment Center (upstairs). Members are always welcome to attend and silently observe the board meetings.

Thank you to all that financially support our chapter

**Adjourned at 7:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted:



Chapter Secretary