



Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 1140

9 September 2024 Minutes

Call to Order at 1732 hours with 52 attending members and guests

Opening Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

All officers and Board members were present

Secretary Report - Review and approval of prior meeting minutes

Treasurer Report: Checking account: \$12,845.41
 501c(3) checking: \$23,641.64
 Money Market: \$41,763.33

Unfinished Business

- **Tennessee State Veterans Home--Murfreesboro Visit** – Doug Schnabel reported that 2 members visited the Veterans Home this month
- **Williamson County Survivor Benefits Seminar** – Max reported that seven attendees participated in the Seminar
- **Fourth Annual Veterans Car Show** – Rick reported that this event had the most volunteers for a single day event. There were 77 cars exhibited, 61 silent auction items, and revenue of \$6,822

New Business

- **Quilt Presentation** – Garry Blaylock was presented a Valor quilt
- **Rich called on Barry Rice to introduce the meeting's Speaker** – Jennifer O'Neill – Founder & President, Hope & Healing at Hillenglade, an equine therapy service for veterans, first responders and their families. Following her presentation, Rick presented Jennifer with a gift of \$3,000 to support HHH.
- **Rich introduced** Carrie Meehan – Volunteer Coordinator, Compassus, who supports veterans in Compassus and is soliciting volunteers to visit with veterans in Compassus facilities in her 12-county region.
- **Joint AMVETS 1776 & VVA 1140 Food Drive** – The group discussed the possibility of assisting AMVETS 1776 with a staging space for food donations from AMVETS 1776. Discussion will be continued in October and November.



Events / Community Engagement

September

- **Visit Tennessee State Veterans Home** - Tuesday, September 17 at 10 a.m. Sign-up Sheet Available
- **Williamson County Toxic Exposure Town Hall Meeting** – Saturday, September 21, in the Williamson County Enrichment Center – Set-up 9:30, Event 10AM – 2PM - Signup sheet available

October

- **Maury County Toxic Exposure Town Hall** – Saturday, October 5, Tom Primm Commission Room, 6 Courthouse Square, Columbia, Set-up 9:30, Event 10-2, Signup sheet available
- **VetFest – Saturday, October 5, Granny White Park, Brentwood.** Set-up 8:30, Heroes Stroll @ 9:30, VetFest 11-4. VVA is confirmed for 2 booths, Signup sheet available
- **Visit Tennessee State Veterans Home** - Tuesday, October 15, 10 a.m.
- **PumpkinFest, Downtown Franklin - Saturday, October 26** – VVA Application approved

November

- **Franklin Family Day**, Saturday, November 2 – Harlinsdale Farm, VVA Application submitted. The day features the LT Dan Band from the Sinise Foundation
- **Veterans Day Parades** - Monday, November 11 – Franklin & Columbia VVA participation confirmed

SAVE THE DATE (Details as we get closer)

- **Monday, December 9** – VVA1140 Membership Luncheon, catered by Uncle Bud's Catfish @ Willis Johnson "Barn" – Doors open, 10AM, Lunch, 11AM. Last day to sign up for the lunch is the November meeting. We have a maximum of 160 attendees.
- **Saturday and Sunday, December 14-15** – Dickens of a Christmas - Downtown Franklin -VVA Application submitted***

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 report 150 members in the Chapter
- **Communications** Gregg Conroy - Need volunteers to call and remind members of meetings and events
- **Events / Fundraising** Max Hixon: See above
- **Awards**



- **Scholarship Committee - Report** Rich Krejsa reported that the Scholarship Committee has begun visiting each of the 8 area high school JROTC programs regarding the VVA Scholarship plan.
- **Programs / Speakers (Don Caldwell)**
 - **Future Speakers:**
 - **October 14** – Tripp Osteen, Folds of Honor
 - **November 11** – Dr. John O'Brien, executive director, 101st Airborne Museum, Ft. Campbell
 - **December 9** – Ramon Presson, humorist and columnist

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

Meetings:

- Our next scheduled membership meeting is set for **Monday, October 14, 2024, at 5:30** at the Williamson County Enrichment Center.
- The next scheduled Board meeting is on **Wednesday, September 18, 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.

Anything else for the good for the order?

The Chapter adjourned at 1853 hours

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Don Caldwell", written in a cursive style.