



# Vietnam Veterans Of America

## Chapter One

[www.vvachapter1.com](http://www.vvachapter1.com)

JANUARY 2009



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### MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Jan. 14, 2009

Four members attended.

The secretary's report was approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported a total of \$17,114.16 in the chapter's accounts. The report was approved unanimously.

President Andy Megrath reported membership at 138 members, including 83 life members.

Andy reported on the Jan. 10 State Council meeting. At the request of council President John Miner, Andy will write letters to the 77 at-large members of VVA in our area suggesting they affiliate with a specific chapter. All the dues money of the at-large members goes to national VVA. If they affiliate with a chapter, the chapter gets a portion of the money.

VVA is benefitting from a donation box at the Vietnam Veterans memorial at the Sharon rest stop on Interstate 89. In addition, the State Council is approaching the Vermont Lottery to see if a special lottery ticket could be used to support the rest stop memorial, the Vermont Veterans Cemetery in Randolph or other projects of the council.

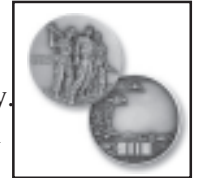
Richard Reed, veterans service officer with Vermont's Office of Veterans Affairs, will be in Rutland Feb. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to provide training to chapter coordinators. The coordinators, not as highly trained as service officers, will help veterans with paperwork needed to apply for Veterans Administration benefits. Compensation of \$75 will be provided for anyone who attends, and Chapter 1 would cover expenses, primarily mileage, for anyone willing to fill that position. Chapter 1 does not have a coordinator at present. Anyone interested in this position should contact Andy Megrath at 775-1745 or e-mail him at [vthogman@comcast.net](mailto:vthogman@comcast.net).

The value of service offers was made evident at the State Council meeting in the report on their activities over the last year and previously. Total benefits gained over the last fiscal year by VVA service officers in New England were over \$2.4 million. For the past seven years, the figure is \$12.1 million. VVA provided more than \$5,500 to the service officer program from October through the end of December in the area of computer repair, mileage, a fax line, training, internet service and office supplies.

The annual VVA hosted picnic at the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington will be held Aug. 1. VVA members from around Vermont hold a cookout, serve the food and eat with the residents.

Andy Megrath reported on the case of a young veteran at the Dodge House for homeless veterans in Rutland. Seeking to return to a productive life, the resident is hampered by being on probation in northern New Hampshire, and faces a cumbersome requirement to physically report there until a fine of about \$535 is paid. Dodge House executive director Christine Morgan wondered if Chapter 1 might assist. After some discussion, Jack Crowther move to provide the amount of the fine to the Dodge House, to be provided as a loan to the veteran. Christine Morgan will decide the terms of the loan repayment. Dodge House will be able to use the money for its program when it is repaid. Seconded by Dave Mathis. Passed unanimously.

Jack Crowther made a motion to pick up the cost of mileage and meals for Andy to travel to Montpelier for two trips, one to meet with Sen . Bernie Sanders on VVA matters and the other a general session with legislators on veterans matters. Seconded by Dave Mathis. Passed unanimously. Andy noted that he has put in an application to join the Governor's Veterans Council. State Council President John Miner is currently on the Governor's Council. Terms of current members, who include Rutland Mayor Chris Louras and Rutland County State Sen. Hull Maynard, expire shortly.



Jack Crowther reported a suggestion by member Andy Moschetto of Delray Beach, Fla., to produce a commemorative coin as a fund-raiser for the chapter. The Northwest Territorial Mint produces such coins. An example of a Vietnam commemorative coin is shown here. The coin would cost \$10, plus \$5 for engraving and \$5 for postage. The chapter could have these produced as a fund-raiser or simply try to recover its costs. There appears to be no minimum order. Members are invited to express their interest by e-mailing Andy Megrath at the address listed earlier. Andy said he would investigate the cost of having the mint produce a coin with the chapter logo. That would obviously cost more than ordering the generic Vietnam coin. In the sample shown, the Vietnam Service Medal on the right-hand coin is produced in color.

**Please Note: Chapter 1 will hold elections at the April Annual Meeting. Anyone interested in serving as an officer or member of the board should make their wishes known to Andy Megrath or another officer or board member. Andy's e-mail and phone number are listed above. Secretary Jack Crowther may be reached at 802-775-1182 or jack\_cr2@yahoo.com.**

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary

**THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009 AT 6 P.M.  
AT THE CHAPTER OFFICES AT THE VFW, 15 WALES ST., RUTLAND, VT.  
THERE WILL BE NO FEBRUARY MEETING**