



Vietnam Veterans Of America *Chapter One*

www.vvachapter1.com

APRIL 2010



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING April 14, 2010

Board member Bub Crosby presided in the absence of President Andy Megrath.

Four members attended.

Members approved the March minutes as printed in the newsletter.

Jack Crowther moved that the current slate of officers be re-elected for the coming year. Mo Burden seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Officers for the past and coming year are as follows: Andy Megrath, president; Larry Young, vice president; Dave Mathis, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; and Dick Doyle, Bill Whitney, Maurice Burden, Mike Divoll and Bub Crosby, board members.

Jack reported that Andy Megrath said the Disabled American Veterans have raised just \$3,000 to \$4,000 of the \$14,100 local share needed for a new van to drive vets to the VA center in White River Junction. Chapter 1 donated \$300 to the local chapter in January with the understanding we might increase that if the DAV needed more. Andy has suggested a further contribution of \$1,200 but will check further on the status of DAV finances before bringing the matter to a vote, probably at our May meeting. The local van is one of 16 the DAV operates in the state. In 2009, the vans covered 336,017 miles and transported 5,497 vets. The local van has nearly 90,000 miles on it.

Andy also relayed the information that an anonymous Chapter 1 donor has contributed \$1,000 to be used for the van.

Andy, who attends meetings of the VVA State Council, also relayed through Jack that the VVA-supported service officer program is in need of funds, so that will probably come up at the May meeting as well. Andy was in Silver Spring, Md., attending a national VVA meeting with John Miner, VVA State Council president. It is likely that Andy will succeed John as State Council president at some point in the future, and the trip to Silver Spring, where VVA is headquartered, was to familiarize him with the national operation.

Jack brought up the subject of the eventual folding of Chapter 1, saying he didn't know if that might happen in a year, five years, or longer. He noted the dependence of the chapter on the efforts of a few key people who might someday be gone. Jack proposed the chapter think about setting aside some money with the city of Rutland for ongoing maintenance of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Main Street Park. If and when the chapter ceases to exist, Jack suggested, it might transfer assets to the city for maintenance of the

memorial. Andy plans to raise the issue with Mayor Chris Louras, a veteran himself, who serves on the Dodge House board.

Mo Burden raised a matter that his local select board chairman in Tinmouth had asked him about. The select board had received a request for a proclamation promoting Silver Star Banner Day on May 1. This is described as a day to "honor our wounded and ill military veterans for their sacrifices." The group states that it is a non-profit 501c3 organization with over 2,550 cities and counties signed up to participate. Essentially Mo was inquiring if anyone could vouch for the organization's authenticity. Anyone with knowledge of the group can contact Mo at mwcjATvermontel.net. (Secr'y note: I printed it this way to spare Mo from spammers.) The organization has a website at <http://www.silverstarfamilies.org>. On casual examination of the website, your secretary would guess it's legit.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary

**THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2010 AT 6 P.M.
AT THE CHAPTER OFFICES AT THE VFW, 15 WALES ST., RUTLAND, VT.**