



Vietnam Veterans Of America *Chapter One*

www.vvachapter1.com

JULY 2007



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

July 11, 2007

PLEASE NOTE THIS DATE: On July 20, the VFW in Middlebury will host a fish fry to benefit Rutland's Dodge House for homeless veterans. Bub Crosby, a Chapter 1 board member and our chaplain, is commander of that post. The event runs from 5 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$8 per person.

Five members were present for the July 11 meeting.

The minutes of the May meeting were unanimously approved as printed in the newsletter.

Dave Mathis presented the treasurer's report, showing a total of \$16,364.15 in the chapter's two accounts. The report was unanimously approved.

President Andy Megrath received an appeal for help from Ted Stachulski of Williamstown, Vt., soliciting scholarships to a Traumatic Brain Injury Conference Oct. 18 and 19 of this year at the Sheraton Hotel in Burlington.

Stachulski is a Marine Corps veteran, a survivor of traumatic brain injury and a member of the Vermont TBI Conference Planning Committee. Also secretary of the Vermont TBI Advisory Board, he has been meeting with veterans around the state and disseminating information about TBI and how to cope with it.

Scholarships at \$35 per veteran would allow veterans to attend the conference, which will include speakers and exhibitors.

After some discussion, we decided to invite Stachulski to our Aug. 8 meeting to make a presentation.

Andy explained a problem he had encountered in delivering the Chapter 1 e-mail version of the newsletter. In a nutshell, the presence of a wrong e-mail address was disrupting delivery to valid addresses. Andy feels the problem is corrected.

We have a new member and life member, Barry Hoberman of Madison, Conn. Current membership is 132 regular members and four associate members. Seventy-two of our members are life members!

Nov. 10 marks the 25th anniversary of The Wall in Washington, D.C., the memorial to the 58,000-plus American servicemen and women who died in the Vietnam War. At 10 a.m., opening ceremonies will take place at the Washington Mall at 3rd Street between Jefferson and Madison drives. A parade will follow from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. From noon to 6 p.m. on the grounds of the Washington Monument, parade participants and the public can enjoy a variety of activities and street vendors. Chapter 1 is not formally involved in this event.

Individuals can join the parade but must fill out an application form. That form can be downloaded at www.vva.org (just look for "The Wall 25 Years" at the top right of web site's opening page) or by calling toll-free 800-VVA-1316, extension 151. You can also book a room and make travel arrangements at www.vva.org under "The Wall 25 Years" section. Or call toll-free 866-489-6888 for travel and lodging.

Andy again mentioned the tight financial situation of the Dodge House and said it would be approaching Chapter 1 for financial assistance. "They're going to need some money before the year end." He also reviewed some activities at the shelter, including the provision of new bedding and mattresses. Currently limited to occupancy for one year, the Dodge House is implementing a policy to allow a second year of residency, in an adjoining building. The two-year residents will have some evening responsibility in overseeing the home and in return receive free lodging. A former resident of the Rutland Mission is currently providing a nightly walk-through of the Dodge House.

There are now two regular residents of the home. Within 30 days, a resident must obtain a job of at least 20 hours a week. Drugs and alcohol are banned. Dodge House has a capacity of five regular residents.

The chapter will invite Christine Morgan, executive director of the Dodge House, to speak at our next meeting.

Jack Crowther reported on his contact with the Paramount Theatre concerning possible chapter sponsorship of a concert for the community and its veterans. The Paramount's programming director, Tim Marceau is investigating possibilities. Jack quoted from an e-mail he wrote to Tim, suggesting possible arrangements, including co-sponsorship with other veterans groups.

Andy Megrath noted the Rutland County Veterans Council as a vehicle for coordinating with other veterans groups.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary

**The next meeting will be Wednesday, Aug. 8, at 6 p.m.
at the chapter offices at the VFW, 15 Wales St., Rutland.**