

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 966
West End, NC

- a) The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on January 8, 2024, by Vice President, Bob Hall. There were 15 members present.
- b) Recognition of New Members/Prospective New Members/Guests: None to Report
- c) The Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and Moment of Silence were conducted.
- d) Roll Call of the Board was completed: All Board members present except Joe Easley.
- e) Financial Report (Mike Shapiro): Started Fiscal year with \$16,785.44 since then we have had net income of \$7,381.62 and expenses of \$8,896.54 for a current balance of \$15,270.52.
- f) Secretary Report (Jerry Sink): Minutes for the December 4, 2023, meeting was reviewed, and are available on the Chapter website.
- g) Vice President Report (Bob Hall): No report.
- h) Membership Update (Mike Pusillo): We have 114 Life members, 6 AVVA members for a total of 120.
- i) Events Update (Mike Pusillo):
 - a. Eagle Scout, Grey Booker, was presented a medal and plaque at the Scout Lodge on December 10, 14:00. Two other brothers – Griffen and Grant are already Eagle Scouts. Sent photo and information to Bob Simmonds to place on VVA Website.
 - b. Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 14:00, Joe Easley and Mike Pusillo will present an Eagle Scout plaque and medal to William Hill, West End Scout Lodge. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- j) Public Relations/Affairs: No Report
- k) Chaplain Update (Larry Rushing):
 - a. Pray for Patty Pusillo who is seriously sick.
- l) POW/MIA Update (Jim Ambler): No Report.
- m) History Update (Bob Simmonds): No report.
- n) Outreach Update: (Bill & Sandi Carl)
 - a. On December 14, 2023, got a request from Brigade Chaplain Assistance, Fort Liberty, for assistance in helping to pay bills for PFC Chantell Jenkins who had a compassionate reassignment from Germany to Fort Liberty. On December 19, 2023, with much discussion, the Board agreed to pay \$381.33 for the phone bill. None of the other bills were delinquent at the time the Board made their decision.
 - b. Christmas Baskets: Elderly veterans are not able to eat everything that is normally included in the basket. Decision was made that we will give a \$100 food gift certificate for 2023. Jim Ambler made motion “Chapter 966 will provide 10 baskets consisting of a \$100 food gift certificate in each basket, not to exceed \$1,000 total”, seconded by Jack Bergquist. 18 yes and 0 no, motion carried. **Follow up to this food gift certificate: “Veterans were very thankful for the gift cards.” In addition, quilts made by the Women of Sacred Heart were given out.**
 - c. Three extra-large contractors’ bags of toys were collected at our Christmas party. These unwrapped toys will go to lower-ranked enlisted families at Fort (Bragg) Liberty. Operation Christmas Rescue was very appreciative for our efforts. A big thank you to everyone who donated. We made many children incredibly happy Christmas morning!
 - d. Pinehurst 82nd Airborne pilot was injured in Iraq on Christmas Day by a series of drone attacks that left Garrett Illerbrunn sedated, unconscious and in critical condition from his brain injury. According to an update on his GoFundMe page, “In the drone attack, a piece of shrapnel struck Illerbrunn in the head, lodging from his temple to almost the back end of his ear; hitting the motor function area of his brain.” There is some slight movement in his arms. We will wait to see if further assistance is needed at a later date. He should be returning to the US later in the

week, with plans for continued round-the-clock care at Walter Reed Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland.

- e. Our chapter assisted Susan Delaney, widow of a veteran who passed away from lung cancer, when her house burnt down. She has paid off all her bills and will now be moving into a new mobile home.
- o) Fundraising Update: (Jack Bergquist)
 - a. 2024 – 2025 Officer Elections
 - i. Jack is asking members to consider running for Chapter Officers. Elections will be held in April, and we need to fill the President, Vice President, and Secretary positions. Please keep our Chapter running smoothly by running for an Officer position.
- p) Old Business: Bill McNeil provided the following information:
 - a. Christmas Party was held at Beefeaters, on Friday, December 8. Cocktails at 17:30 followed by Dinner at 18:30. By all accounts, everyone present enjoyed the evening, the food was excellent, we were not squeezed in like last year. Bill is planning on scheduling the event at Beefeaters again in 2024 and moving the event to another day, other than Friday.
- q) NEW Business:
 - a. Duane Coppeler stated that Wreaths Across America event came off very well. There were 55 people in attendance. He thanked all members that participated in the event. Cemetery wreaths still look good. Will schedule a date to pick them up. Mike Pusillo offered to help.
 - b. VVA Region 3 Leadership Conference in Asheville:
 - i. Mike Pusillo made a motion to send two delegates from our Chapter and pay for their registration only, hotel and meals will be at their expense. Mike Shapiro seconded motion.
- r) President's Report (Joe Easley): No Report
- s) Next meeting date: February 5 , 2024, 19:00.
- t) Motion was made by Mike Pusillo and seconded by Bill McNeil to adjourn the meeting 19:47.