



Chapter 966
Moore County, NC

Vietnam Veterans of America

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Chapter 966
West End, NC

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on May 1, 2023, by President, Joe Easley. There were twenty-four members present.
2. The Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and Moment of Silence were conducted.
3. Roll Call of the Board was completed: Bob Hall was absent.
4. Financial Report (Mike Shapiro): Started Fiscal year with \$ 16,785.44 since then we have had net income of \$1,017.00 and expenses of \$500.00 for a current balance of \$17,302.44.
5. Secretary Report (Jerry Sink): Minutes for the April 3, 2023, meeting was reviewed, and are available on the Chapters website.
6. Vice President Report (Bob Hall): No report available.
7. Membership Update (Mike Pusillo): We have 113 Life members, 6 AVVA members for a total of 119.
8. Events Update (Mike Pusillo):
 - a. Memorial Day Ceremony is scheduled for May 27th at 11AM. Duane Coppeler has volunteered to coordinate the ceremony this year. 09:00 breakfast at Pete's followed by setup at 10:00. Duane says everything is ready for the ceremony.
 - b. The placing of Flags and Flowers at the 7 Lakes Cemetery is scheduled for May 22nd at 09:00.
 - c. This year's Wall of Honor Memorial Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 20th at 7 Lakes Golf Course. Price is \$79. For additional information, and registration, call 910-685-0320. Currently, our chapter has one foursome playing.
 - d. 7 Lks W is sponsoring a newcomer event on May 7 in the Community Center from 3 - 5 pm. We need two volunteers to staff the VVA booth to promote VVA 966 and recruit new members. **Update May 1: Joe Easley & Bill McNeill will represent our chapter.**
 - e. The St Mary Magdalene Golf Tournament will be held May 7 at 7 Lakes Golf Club. Currently, our chapter has two foursomes playing and the sponsorship of one hole is paid for by the team members. This is an important event for our chapter, as we are the benefactor of some of the proceeds from the event.



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- f. Thursday, May 11, Mike Pusillo will represent our chapter by presenting the VVA medal and certificate to Landon Patterson. The presentation begins at 09:00 at Union Pines High School and is part of the JROTC Medal presentation.
 - g. Sunday, May 21 at 16:00 is the annual Memorial Day Concert held at the Pinecrest United Methodist Church. You do not want to miss it!
 - h. Annual Scholarship night will be held Thursday, June 1 at 18:00 at Union Pines High School. Our chapter will be represented by Mike Pusillo and Brian Brech who will present the \$1,150 Scholarship.
9. Public Relations/Affairs: No Report
10. Chaplain Update (Larry Rushing):
- a. Doug Burns wife Tina fell and broke her hip this Sunday Morning, April 23 and surgery was performed to put in a pin/rod. Tina was admitted to Pinehurst Med Ctr. April 24 update per Doug: She will be there a few more days and will move to once her blood pressure is under control. She seemed a little tired after they made her stand. Doug said they both will probably move next month to the Fox Hollow assisted living off Morganton Rd, Pinehurst. **Update May 1: Tina was released from the hospital April 28 and moved to a Quail Haven Rehab Ctr. Doug was admitted to the hospital April 26 for Pneumonia and released to come home April 29.**
11. POW/MIA Update (Jim Ambler): No report.
12. History Update (Bob Simmonds): No Report.
13. Outreach Update: (Bill & Sandi Carl)
- a. **Kelly Greene, Veteran Services Director, Veteran Service Officer with Moore County Veteran Services contacted Bill and Sandi via email with the following request on April 13, 2023:**

Good Morning,

I have a veteran that called this morning to need assistance with his rent.

The veteran is receiving 70% disability pay and this is all the income he and his wife have. He currently has a claim in for an increase and is trying to get Social Security disability. He is honorably discharged with service dates 1/31/1990 to 7/05/1997. He did not go over to the gulf war but had time in Korea and Germany.

The rent is \$500 a month and he has not been able to pay any this month. I called his landlord to verify the information and apparently, the veteran is several months behind. The landlord stated that the veteran pays what he can when he can. The landlord stated that to completely catch up it would be \$3500. I will say his landlord is extremely understanding and stated that he would take whatever he could get. The landlord is not looking to evict at this time. I have included a couple of organizations in this email, as I believe it may take more than one to reach the \$3500. I can give you contact information for the veteran and/or landlord as well.



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Respectfully,

- b. The Executive Committee unanimously agreed to immediately pay 1 month's rent of \$500 to the landlord, which is the maximum limit for the Executive Committee. Any additional funds can be considered by the membership at the regular meeting in May. A check was drawn for \$500 and dropped off at the VSO office by Bill and Sandi Carl.
- c. No additional funds were requested at the May 1 meeting.
- d. Kelly Greene, Veteran Services Director, Veteran Service Officer with Moore County Veteran Services contacted Bill and Sandi via email with the following request on April 20, 2023:

Good Afternoon Everyone,

I have just become aware of a WWII POW who is turning 103 on April 30th. Robert Levin is currently living in the assisted living part of Belle Meade. They are planning a birthday party on Friday April 28, 2023, at 11 am with a cookout to follow. Belle Meade had tried to get several organizations to come and help with a ceremony that would honor Mr. Levin and for whatever reason the only ones confirmed are a Chaplain from Ft. Bragg and Quilt of Valor. Is there anything that you or your organization might be able to help with? I did mention that we could have cards sent to him, but they also want people to attend and participate in the ceremony. Please let me know asap if you have any ideas or if you can help in any way. I have attached a couple of write-ups about Mr. Levin and what he went through as a POW. **Update May 1: Event changed to Friday, May 19, 14:00 at Belle Meade.**

Respectfully,

- e. The write-ups about Mr. Levin can be found on the VVA website.
- f. Some of our VVA officers plan on attending the celebration.

14. Fundraising Update (Jack Bergquist):

- a. At the June meeting we will have a guest speaker. Nick McCraw with the Moore County Board of Elections will be speaking to the chapter about volunteering as poll workers in state and general elections.

15. Old Business: None

16. NEW Business:

- a. Chapter member, Don Boito, spoke about the Redesignation of Fort Bragg to Fort Liberty on June 2, 2023, 09:00. New colors will fly under Fort Liberty. The public is invited to this redesignation. More information on the name change can be found on the chapter website.



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- b. Sunset Liberty March will be held June 1. The concept of the March is to conduct a half mile Sunset March 365 days a year to honor the service and sacrifice of Service Members. More information can be found on the Chapter website.
 - c. Chapter member John Pantaleo explained that the Knights of Columbus has a scholarship awards program (4 awards) and was doing the visit to interview the applicants at Fr. Vincent Capodanno high school. Veterans established this school, and they are having a fundraiser to build a new school. Fr. Capodanno was a Vietnam veteran and died while serving with the Marines. John will obtain more information for our chapter and perhaps a donation.
17. President's Report (Joe Easley): No new business
18. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.