

New River Chapter BOD Meeting
July 18, 2016
Bohemia's Coffee Shop
West Jefferson, NC

1. Attendees: Lou Burge, President, Steve Tucker, 1st Vice President, Bob Worley, Board Member, Doug Ehrhardt, Immediate Past President and Jim Cain, new member
2. Doug Ehrhardt stated that there was a quorum present and that the meeting was official and any actions taken as an outcome of the meeting would be considered binding for the New River Chapter.
3. President Lou Burge indicated that this was a follow-on meeting from an earlier one wherein there was not a quorum present and therefore the outcome from that effort was not considered official.
 - a. Lou said that planning from the earlier meeting determined that the 50th Vietnam War Commemorative event had been rescheduled from the original July date to Tuesday, 20 September, 2016.
 - b. The location for the event will be the Museum of Ashe County History (MACH).
 - c. The time for the event will be from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM.
4. Doug Ehrhardt shared that there was a potential date change for the commemoration in that after having visited the MACH and spoken with the Director, Ramona Renfro, that a suggestion had been made when Membership Chair, Mik Mikulan and new member Jim Cain visited the site and felt that a Saturday would enable a larger audience to attend. Doug presented the case to have the event remain on 8/20 for the following reasons: 1) Tuesday is our normal chapter meeting date; 2) the time for the event from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM will not make it difficult for veterans, even if working, to attend; and 3) public turnout for events such as these have characteristically been low, but the fact that there are so many competing activities in the High Country on weekends, that staying with our planned Tuesday should be retained. The consensus opinion of the Board was to keep the date as 20 September.
5. Doug presented a "draft" flyer that he developed following the prior planning meeting and asked for input/approval to go forward with it for advertising. Lou pointed out that the time was listed as 5:30 vs. 5:00 PM and recommended that it be changed. It was also agreed upon that when copies of the flyer are printed that members of the committee would work to post throughout Ashe County. Steve Tucker said he would assist...Jim Cain also agreed to take part in their distribution.
6. Doug reported that he had already been in contact with WSKS and that he and Lou were scheduled to be on the "Happy Time" radio program on Friday, September 9, 2016 to promote the program.
7. Doug also suggested that media coverage in the AMT and Jefferson Post should be made in late August - 3rd of 4th week - and that a second article submitted the week immediately before Tuesday, 20 September as residents are characteristically "last minute" planners for attending events. Doug said that Secretary Ken Lynn has already stated he will produce the articles to go to the papers.
8. Doug said that in spite of an earlier proposal to have a static Huey display, Mik Mikulan had sent an him e-mail that the resource group for the Huey helicopter felt the venue too small to provide. Doug suggested that the committee reach out to Jim Gee to bring his Vietnam era jeep to be a static display. Jim Cain also said he had a number of memorabilia of Vietnam era type articles and it was agreed that we should reach out to attendees to bring their own personal items from that war for display. The MACH stated that they can provide counter or cabinet space to set up displays. Persons willing to have their effects left on display can do so with the understanding that they would be on loan only. It was suggested that Ken make the information part of the article for the media.
9. Lou displayed the certificates from the DoD 50th Vietnam War Commemorative committee which he had framed, the flag, and that he had received 3 boxes of 100 lapel pins for distribution.
10. In discussion with the MACH, it was recommended that the table display - which

Doug will get from the North Carolina Council of Chapters custodian at the quarterly meeting in Blowing Rock -can be placed immediately inside the MACH entrance; it will have a table banner, panel displays of the various service logos, models of servicemen and a map of Vietnam that is intended for use in having attendees place a pin on where they were stationed during their time in country.

11. Doug stated that a certificate is being developed to present to veterans who sign in on a registry sheet with their name, service and rank/rate. The certificate may be "generic" or a means of printing the veteran's name on it will be researched.

12. Assuming good weather and a degree of attendance that exceeds the space in the MACH, the Director indicated that it would also be possible to use the pavilion just to the right of the museum for the presentation ceremonies.

13. The meeting adjourned after 1 and 1/2 hours and attendees agreed to make themselves available for taskers as they are determined and in leading up to the September 20th event date. If we choose to use the outdoor pavilion, we will need to request the support of the Ashe County Arts Council to use their chairs and have a working group to pick up, deliver, set up and finally take down and return the chairs to the Arts Council.

Minutes recorded/submitted: 7/20/16

Doug Ehrhardt