

Hi Everyone!

Sorry for being a little late on getting this out but I've just come back from seeing my first Granddaughter and as most of you will surely agree, that DOES excuse a lot.... Since the last communication, we've had the latest Mid Atlantic Chapter quarterly meeting and a very successful Memorial Day Dedication Ceremony. The following are the highlights of both events:

Our ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY meeting since being officially recognized as the "Mid Atlantic Chapter of Gamewardens of Vietnam" took place as scheduled from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm on Sunday, May 28 at VFW Post 392, 2408 Bowland PKWY, Virginia Beach, VA. There were (18) members in attendance and it was the first meeting since the Chapter was formed for (5) of the group. It turns out that the gentleman who set us up with the VFW Post as a meeting place is Mr. Stu Carson who just happens to be a Life Member of GWVN! We've changed his affiliation to the Mid Atlantic Chapter and are looking forward to seeing him again at future meetings. The Mid Atlantic Chapter presented a copy of the PBR "Firefight" print to the VFW Post and it was signed by each of the members in attendance. The attached picture shows Vaughn Schuler taking his turn with the pen.

The meeting started at 12:00 noon with a call to order and the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. The first item on the agenda was Clarence Cooper reporting on the Memorial Day monument dedication ceremony scheduled for Monday, May 29th. Coop had arranged for Charlie Montgomery, from the VA Beach Mayors Veterans Committee, to brief us on the sequence of events and how our portion of the ceremony would fit into the day's program. Retired USN Capt. "Wes" Weseleskey, was our speaker at the event and after the ceremony, the group adjourned to Pancho Villas' on VB Blvd. for fellowship and eating / drinks. The attached picture titled GWVN Mid Atl Monument is what the monument and wreath looked like with a certain "Rat" guarding the site.

2. Jerry Gandy reported out on the NECC (Naval Expeditionary Combat Command) unit establishment ceremonies. The NCWS (Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron) establishment took place on 5/20 and the RIVGRU ONE (Riverine Group) establishment was on 5/25. John Woody, GWVN National President, had received a personal invitation from the NECC Commodore, Capt. Mike Jordan, and attended the RIVGRU ONE ceremony on 5/25. I've forwarded John's note on that event and am very happy that he has managed to arrange for ADM. Bullard to be the keynote speaker at the upcoming National Reunion in Denver. BZ to John for pulling this off! The attached picture RIVGRU Establishment is some of our group..... The Chapter has also presented CDR Cambell of NCWS a small "Firefight" print for their offices.

The MRFA (Mobile Riverine Forces Assn) had brought their traveling exhibit trailer to the establishment ceremonies and the GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter voted to make a \$100 donation to help them offset the cost of fuel. Their exhibit was very well received during the ceremonies and has many pictures of PBRs as well as other Riverine Warfare units. Check out their website at: www.mrfa.org to see all of the items they have listed.

3. The third item on the agenda was Jerry Gandy with a report on the status of the relocation of the GWVN East Coast Monument and the MK I PBR out at Little Creek. Those relocations were supposed to be taking place sometime in May and have now been completed. Unfortunately, there was some damage to the GWVN Monument during the move and Coop is working with VB Monument to get the repairs done. We're planning on having the rededication ceremony for both the GWVN East Coast

Obelisk and the MK I PBR on Friday, July 21, and will have more details on that event as we get closer to the date.

4. The fourth item was Larry Weatherall talking about the recent Naval Institute Conference on Riverine Warfare at Annapolis and the visit to the USS Williams. Pictures were passed around from the visit to the ship and a letter that the CO had written for the Memorial Day ceremony was read. The letter is attached Tidewater Memorial.pdf file.

5. The fifth item on the agenda was Gary Marker and the Secretary's report on Mid Atlantic Chapter finances. The GOOD news is that the Chapter is in the BLACK with \$639.11 in the General Fund and \$240.20 in the Monument Fund for a total of \$879.31. There were additional funds generated during the meeting as a result of the raffle and those will be accounted for at the next meeting.

6. The sixth item on the agenda was Pat Doyle and the Supply Officers Ships Store report on current stock and plans for additional items. We've got a total of \$2880.05 worth of current inventory, some of which was part of our "Start Up Kit" from GWVN National, and are going to make a concentrated effort to mark down the slow moving items to clear them out of inventory. For example, we've got LOTS of misc RIVDIV and RIVSEC License Plate holders and will mark them down from \$12.00 to \$5.00 to get them cleared out..... The Sweat Shirts are also going to be reduced from \$25.00 down to \$20.00 to free up some \$ for other purchases.

Gary Marker had made a purchase of some VERY good looking golf / polo style shirts (with embroidered GWVN logo and the Mid Atlantic Chapter name) with his own \$, and had them available at the meeting. He sold most of them and only has a few left so if anyone is interested in a high quality shirt to wear at our meetings or the National Reunion, get in touch with him at markergw@cox.net as soon as you can. The cost is \$46.00 each but they are well worth it. FYI, my wife (and fashion advisor) said that this is THE NICEST reunion / meeting shirt I've ever gotten.....

Jerry Gandy has uncovered a contact (actually it's Ron Laratta of the SE Chapter) for REUNION VESTS and was taking orders. Jerry is now in New York for the summer so please contact Coop at seniorcoop33@aol.com if anyone is interested in ordering a vest. Coop is handling the contacts while Jerry is out of town.

7. The seventh item on the agenda was a reminder about the upcoming GWVN National Reunion on the weekend of August **2nd** through the **6th**. (Larry Bissonette sent a correction on the upcoming reunion dates....) See the GWVN website at <http://www.tf116.org> for the details.

8. The eighth item on the agenda was MEMBERSHIP CARDS. John Woody has this as an agenda item for the Denver Reunion and while he was here, he left several sheets of signed Membership Cards with Coop for distribution to those of us who do not have them. Several members were able to get cards at the meeting and Coop still has both Yearly and Life cards if any of you would like to get one. Contact him at seniorcoop33@aol.com or call him at 757-340-4898 to work out the details. We passed around a Mid Atlantic Chapter membership roster from the National Membership Database and I'll be helping Glen Fry with the updates and other minor corrections prior to the August National Reunion.

9. The ninth item on our agenda was the election of Chapter Officers. Per our Chapter By Laws, we must have elections at our Annual Business Meeting and the following

Chapter Officer positions were up for re-election:

President Currently filled by [Larry Weatherall](#)

Vice President Currently filled by [Jerry Gandy](#)

Secretary Currently filled by [Clarence Cooper](#)

Treasurer Currently filled by [Gerd \(Gary\) Marker](#)

Supply Officer Currently filled by [Pat Doyle](#)

Seeing as how each of us had agreed to continue in our present position if there were no other candidates, a motion was made to reelect us all, it was seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous. The elected positions remain as before and the next elections will be at our Spring meeting in 2008.

Our Chapter Chaplain continues to be [Monte Blackwell](#).

One of the Chapter BOD members, Milt Larkin, had resigned his position since our first meeting and Vaughn Schuler volunteered to be his replacement. An additional BOD member was needed as a potential tie breaker and Ron Kirkey volunteered to fill that position.

The Mid Atlantic Chapter BOD now consists of the following members: [Ken Meek](#), [Newell Butts](#), [Vaughn Schuler](#) and [Ron Kirkey](#).

Our Chapter Mascot is [A. Billy Ratt, Jr.](#) and was in attendance at the meeting as well as the Memorial Day service. E-3 Ratt was looking surprisingly fit after his recent bout with rehab and I'm wondering if there might be a little "plastic work" going on behind the scenes....

The next meeting will be on **Saturday, August 26th, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm and will again be held at the VFW Post 392**. The meeting after the one in August may be one of our "non local" meetings as we are soliciting ideas from the membership as to future locations. Keep in mind that we need a local member who is willing to make the meeting location arrangements for where ever we meet so that is one of the criteria that needs to be considered for meetings outside the Norfolk / Virginia Beach area. One proposal was to meet in D.C. on Veterans Day and we'll continue that discussion at the August meeting.

That's it for now and I hope to see as many of you as possible at the next meeting in August.

Best regards,

Larry Weatherall
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President, Mid Atlantic Chapter
Gamewardens of Vietnam

