

Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2026

Meeting was held at The Grange in Sayville, NY during Civil War Weekend

Participants: Lynne Dolan, Alycia Chillemei, Laura Congleton, Eileen Sleckman

New Business

Lynne discussed raising the Tent dues \$2 to match the increase from the Dept and it was decided to do that for this year. Laura will send out the annual dues notices reflecting this change.

VAVS

The Tent is continuing to support programs at the Northport VA. The VA just had its annual Veterans Appreciation BBQ and we donated \$100 towards the balloon animal artist that they had requested. We also just contributed 10 children's comb and brush sets (also a request) for the Women's Clinic there. As the holiday season is approaching, it was discussed that we make our annual contributions to both the Secret Santa Soldier program, and the Hero Hunger Help program for food insecure veterans and their families. It was decided to increase our on-hand monetary amount for contributions to VA programs another \$200 dollars. Having this money already approved and on hand makes it easier for our Tent VAVS Rep to respond quickly to requests that the VA makes. The VA has also requested donations to the Uber Help Program, contributions of sweat shirts and there is an ongoing need for underwear. So we may want to talk more about making those contributions at a future meeting.

The VA is asking for volunteers, so if anyone is interested in being part of the Friendly Visitors Program, they really would like to have help with that. Some veterans living on the VA grounds don't have many visitors. They are also sorely in need of drivers to take disabled veterans to appointments and are asking if anyone is able to be of assistance. It might require driving a van, so it seems like a big ask, but they are putting it out there. The garden at the VA is always in need of maintenance, so if a Fall clean-up date is announced, that information will be passed along to members in case any would like to participate.

Holiday Party

The date for the Holiday Party is December 6th at 12:30 at the Davenport Press in Mineola where we will celebrate along with members of SUVCW Moses Baldwin Camp #544. A flyer is being made up and will go out shortly along with dues notices.

Headstone Dedication

Lynne announced a Headstone Dedication to be held in Babylon Rural Cemetery on October 17th at 10 am. She will send out a flyer to the Tent.

Old Business

Last call for raffle tickets for the Dept quilt: \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The quilt is absolutely stunning and also comes with 2 shams. The photo of the quilt is in GOs #1. Please let Lynne know if you want a ticket asap, as the drawing will be on Veterans Day.

The Remembrance Day service at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Manhattan will be held on **November 8th** at 4pm. We will participate with our Tent banner in the procession of patriotic societies. The decision was made to make our annual contribution automatic.