



SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars,
Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America,
Military Order of the Purple Heart

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12th, 2022, AT THE RED ROSA, PIERRE, SD

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the South Dakota Veterans Council was called to order by President Connie Johnson at 3:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER:

Vice President Kevin Hempel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

3. ROLL CALL:

Secretary/Treasurer Marty Pennock called the roll call showing the following members present:

American Legion: Kevin Hempel, Gary Watts, Gary Wolkow,

Disabled American Veterans: Dick Turnwall, Gene Murphy, Marty Pennock,

Veterans of Foreign Wars: Glynis Collier stated she was representing

Vietnam Veterans of America: Phil Braeger, Denny Brenden, Terry "Hawk" Mayer

Military Order of the Purple Heart: Connie Johnson, Buck Underwood

Paralyzed Veterans of America: Terry Paulsen

Official Officers Absent: Barbara McKean (VFW), Anna Waltner (VFW), Tom Hafner (VFW), Jerry Denman (VVA), Bill Flippo (MOPH), Lisa Cummings (PVA), Mike Olson (PVA)

There was a total of 28 present for the meeting that signed in (attached).

4. WELCOME DISTINGUISHED GUESTS / VISITORS /ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Johnson welcomed members of the Council and Guests.

5. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

President Johnson called on Secretary Pennock to read the minutes from the October 20th, 2021, meeting.

On a motion by Terry Mayer (VVA) to waive the reading of the minutes as they were mailed to members of the council and provided at the meeting. The motion was seconded by Gene Murphy (DAV). Motion carried.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT:

President Johnson called on Treasurer Pennock for a Treasurer's Report. Income as of January 1st, 2022, was \$0.06 and expenses of \$1,000.00 leaving a balance of \$1,396.38 with all membership dues paid. A corrected treasurer report with the correct date was submitted out to the council with the finalized minutes.

On a motion by Terry Paulsen (PVA) and seconded by Buck Underwood (MOPH) to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

7. STATE UPDATES:

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Update - Secretary Whitlock:

Secretary Whitlock provided the Council with an initial legislative bill update (attached).

Secretary Whitlock also explained that MJFSVH Superintendent Brad Richardson had resigned and would not be present. Secretary Whitlock explained the qualifications of the interim position as well as the timeline for hiring a replacement into this role. Deputy Superintendent, Teresa Phillipson, is filling in this role on a temporary basis. Secretary Whitlock also gave an update on financial benefits that had been received by South Dakota Veterans last year, \$295,000,000.00, which was 17.5 million dollars over last year. Secretary Whitlock gave an update on the Fallen Hero Bridges in South Dakota in which there are over 3000 SD Veterans that have made the sacrifice to be honored in this program. Secretary Whitlock encouraged all the organizations to continue to work with the SDDVA on solutions and developing new programs that serve our Veterans.

SDVC Director Erin Brown:

Director Brown updated the Council on internments at the SD State Cemetery with a total of 277 burials with one being a memorial marker.

South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations Update - Secretary Flute:

Secretary Flute is a MOPH member and a Veteran of Afghanistan and Iraq. He gave the Council a vote of concurrence to try an expand Veteran relations within the tribes of SD and wants to work with us in the future. Secretary Flute expressly encouraged for organizations to work with Tribal Veteran Service Officers

<https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteransserviceofficers/locatevso.aspx>, to improve programs and services across the state.

8. INVITED GUEST SPEAKERS:

Endowment Fund Balance Update -Terry Paulsen: Terry Paulsen updated the Council and provided an endowment financial report (attached).

VHA Update - SFVA Hospital Update - Director Lisa Simoneau & Health System Specialist to the Director/Associate Director Stephanie Weidler: Director Lisa Simoneau reported on the CITC (attached). Director Simoneau also reported on the Beneficiary Travel System (BTSS) and the removal of the old kiosk travel system that will be replaced (attached). Lastly, the Director updated the group on an upcoming hiring event on January 29th, 2022 (attached).

Senator Thune's Military Liaison: Ben Ready reported on the reset week of MLK and the upcoming legislation on voting. Ben reported on the NDAA and several items of interest about Ellsworth Air Force Base. Ben reported that 19-20 bills have passed, and it is hoped that a comprehensive Veteran package will soon be put together.

Senator Round's Military Liaison: Michael Bekaert & Bob DeJong reported on Senator Rounds and his wellbeing after the recent loss of his wife last year. Senator Rounds is committed to serving Veterans and is on several key Committees to do so.

Representative Johnson's Military Liaison: Katie Murray
Katie Murray was unable to attend the meeting as scheduled due to a medical issue.

CVSO Update - President of the Veterans Service Officers Association: Aaron Walberg:

Aaron reported on several items that he encouraged the Council to support. One of which is a law change for South Dakota to accept the new federal ID card being issued to military retirees to be accepted as an acceptable document for proof at the DMV. A second point of concern he brought forward was bringing awareness that nursing homes are allowed to not allow a Veteran to receive their prescriptions from the VA as the venue of the nursing home has a contract. This is terribly wrong. A third point, Aaron brought forward a memorial headstone financial package for a deceased Veteran's surviving spouse to receive a compensation of at least \$150.00.

9. State Fair: Veterans Building:

A motion was made July 21st, 2021, to have an appraisal done on the Veterans Building at the SD State Fair. Upon initial discussion with the State Fair Officials, no evidence could be found on ownership of the building. The SD Bureau of Administration has been engaged to help determine ownership. The SD Bureau of Administration is unable to find factual evidence that the building is owned by the State of SD. SD Fair personnel agrees that the building is owned by the SD Veterans Council. The SD Fair has since sent to the SDVC an updated lease agreement for the future. An initial investigation was done with a company, and it is going to several thousands of dollars to do an appraisal.

On a motion by Terry Mayer (VVA) and seconded by Gene Murphy (DAV)
To sell the Veteran Building. Discussion. Motion carried.

10. Recognition of Certain Individuals: President Johnson recognized the VVA Chapter 1054 as the National Chapter of the Year.

11. Updates from each VSO:

MOPH: reported that they did a fund raiser at Grand Falls Casino and raised over \$12,000.00

VFW: reported on raffle ticket availability for the “Don’t Tread on Me”.

DAV: reported on the availability of the DAV Department of SD Quarterly Bulletin, the upcoming Department Convention on April 8th-10th in Rapid City, the DAV Dept of SD has 17 Legislative Endorsements, and the VA Stakeholder minutes of December 8th, 2021.

VVA: reported on the recognition of Chapter 1054, an raffle ticket availability for na elk hunt, and the election of officers in Chapter 959.

TAL: reported that a midwinter meeting is coming up in February 2022 and on the Midwest Honor Flight partnership.

PVA: reported that those that want to engage in the annual May fishing event, to be getting registered.

12. Unfinished Business:

Social Media Platforms: SDVC President Connie Johnson reported on the importance of having a social platform to provide information to its members and the public. Cost will be a decision factor as it is a matter of development and maintenance to the site. President Johnson has investigated an initial cost of the development of this site at \$2600.000 and a quarterly maintenance fee of \$240.00.

On a motion by Buck Underwood (MOPH) and seconded by Terry Mayer (VVA) to approve the development of this site when the sale of the Veterans Building on the State Fair Grounds concludes. Motion carried.

On a motion by Gene Murphy (DAV) and seconded by Terry Mayer (VVA) for each VSO organization to approve \$500.00 to be donated to the SDVC for the development of a social media platform and for this to be done by the next approved and scheduled SDVC meeting on April 20th, 2022. Motion carried.

2022 MOPH National Convention 2022 South Dakota – **Change of dates** --Rapid City August 15 – August 17, 2022.

13. New Business:

2022 July and October Meeting Times and Locations

It was discussed to provide the SDVC meetings across the state on a quarterly basis. At the next meeting a proposal of this will be provided.

Legislative 2023 Discussion

Due to time, no discussion took place on this issue.

14. Next Scheduled Meeting:

On a motion by Terry Mayer (VVA) and seconded by Gene Murphy (DAV) to hold the next meeting on April 20th, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Military Heritage Alliance Building, in the Spirt of America Room, in Sioux Falls. The motion carried.

15. Good of the Order: President Connie Johnson encouraged all organizations to communicate in and amongst the VSOs and increase dialog with her on issues that need to be addressed by the Council.

16. Closing Comments and Adjournment.

With no other business before the council, Vice President Kevin Hempel led the council in the benediction followed by a salute to the colors from President Connie Johnson.

On a motion by Terry Paulsen (PVA) and seconded by Dick Turnwall (DAV) to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.



SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars,
Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapters 1054 & 959
Military Order of the Purple Heart

PREMINUTES

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20th, 2022, AT THE SD MILITARY HERITAGE ALLIANCE BUILDING

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the South Dakota Veterans Council was called to order by President Connie Johnson at ____ p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGINECE AND PRAYER:

Vice President Kevin Hempel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

3. ROLL CALL:

Secretary/Treasurer Marty Pennock called the roll call showing the following members present:

American Legion: Kevin Hempel, Gary Watts, Gary Wolkow,

Disabled American Veterans: Dick Turnwall, Gene Murphy, Marty Pennock,

Veterans of Foreign Wars: Barbara McKean, Anna Waltner, Tom Hafner

Vietnam Veterans of America: Phil Braeger, Denny Brenden, Terry "Hawk" Mayer

Military Order of the Purple Heart: Connie Johnson, Buck Underwood, Bill Flippo

Paralyzed Veterans of America: Terry Paulsen, Lisa Cummings, Mike Olson

Official Officers Excused: Gene Murphy(medical)

There was a total of __ present for the meeting that signed in (attached).

4. WELCOME DISTINGUISHED GUESTS / VISITORS /ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Johnson welcomed members of the Council and Guests.

5. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

President Johnson called on Secretary Pennock to read the minutes from the January 12th, 2022, meeting.

On a motion by _____ to waive the reading of the minutes as they were mailed to members of the council and provided at the meeting. The motion was seconded by _____. Discussion. Motion failed/carried.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT:

President Johnson called on Treasurer Pennock for a Treasurer's Report. Income as of April 1st, 2022, was \$3,146.44 and expenses of \$1,500.00 leaving a balance of \$1,646.44.

On a motion by _____ and seconded by _____ approve the Treasurer's Report. Discussion. Motion failed/carried.

7. STATE UPDATES:

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Update - Secretary Whitlock:

Endowment Fund Balance Update -Terry Paulsen: Terry Paulsen updated the Council and provided an endowment financial report (attached).

8. INVITED GUEST SPEAKERS:

U.S. Congressional Delegate - Representative Dusty Johnson :

VISN 23 - Director Robert McDivitt :

9. State Fair: Veterans Building:

A motion was made July 21st, 2021, to have an appraisal done on the Veterans Building at the SD State Fair. Upon initial discussion with the State Fair Officials, no evidence could be found on ownership of the building. The SD Bureau of Administration has been engaged to help determine ownership. The SD Bureau of Administration is unable to find factual evidence that the building is owned by the State of SD. SD Fair personnel agrees that the building is owned by the SD Veterans Council. The SD Fair has since sent to the SDVC an updated lease agreement for the future. An initial investigation was done with a company, and it is going to several thousands of dollars to do an appraisal.

The SDVC approved to sell the Veterans Building at the January 2022 SDVC Meeting.

10. Recognition of Certain Individuals:

11. Updates from each VSO:

MOPH:

VFW:

DAV:

VVA:

TAL:

PVA:

12. Unfinished Business:

Social Media Platforms: SDVC President Connie Johnson reported on the importance of having a social platform to provide information to its members and the public. Cost will be a decision factor as it is a matter of development and maintenance to the site. President Johnson has investigated an initial cost of the development of this site at \$2600.000 and a quarterly maintenance fee of \$240.00.

The SDVC approved the development of this site when the sale of the Veterans Building on the State Fair Grounds concludes.

The SDVC approved for each VSO organization to approve \$500.00 to be donated to the SDVC for the development of a social media platform and for this to be done by the SDVC meeting on April 20th, 2022. To date, The DAV, PVA, VVA, and TAL, DAV have all contributed \$500.00.

<https://sdveteranscouncil.com/>

Login: sdveterans

Password: SDVetssd123

2022 MOPH National Convention 2022 South Dakota –Rapid City August 15 – August 17, 2022:

13. New Business:

2022 July and October Meeting Times and Locations

Legislative 2023 Discussion

Chet Sorenson Award

14. Next Scheduled Meeting:

On a motion by _____ and seconded by _____ to hold the next meeting on 20 July, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., in Watertown. Discussion. The motion failed/carried.

15. Good of the Order: President Connie Johnson encouraged all organizations to communicate in and amongst the VSOs and increase dialog with her on issues that need to be addressed by the Council.

16. Closing Comments and Adjournment.

With no other business before the council, Vice President Kevin Hempel led the council in the benediction followed by a salute to the colors from President Connie Johnson.

On a motion by _____ and seconded by _____ to adjourn the meeting. The motion failed/carried. The meeting was adjourned at _____ p.m.