



# **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

## **MINUTES OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JULY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 17 1412 9<sup>TH</sup> AVE SW, WATERTOWN**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting of the South Dakota Veterans Council was called to order by President Connie Johnson at 9:05 a.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 (TAL):** Doug Feltman, Kevin Hempel, Fred Nelson

**Disabled American Veterans (DAV):** Dan Francis, Marty Pennock, Mark Wolf (Jr. Vice CDR) filled in

**Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW):** Sean Johnson filled in (JA)

**Vietnam Veterans of America Chapters 1054 and 959 (VVA):** Jerry Denman, Phil Braeger, Terry "Hawk" Mayer

**Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH):** Connie Johnson, Bill Flippo, Ken Teunissen filled in

**North Central Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA):** Terry Paulsen

Official Officers Excused: Gene Murphy (DAV), Lisa Cummings (PVA), Mike Olson (PVA), Tom Hafner (VFW), Anna Waltner (VFW), Dave Baumiller (VFW), Jonathan Tilk (MOPH)

There was a total of 31 present for the meeting and 29 that signed in.

### **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-Treasurer Pennock to read the minutes from the April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting.

On a motion by (VVA) Terry Mayer and seconded by (PVA) Terry Paulsen to waive the reading of the minutes as they were mailed to members of the council and provided at the meeting. Discussion. Motion carried.

## **6. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

President Johnson called on Secretary-Treasurer Pennock for a Treasurer's Report. Income as of July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, was \$13,146.49 and expenses of \$1,567.93 leaving a balance of \$11,578.56.

On a motion by (PVA) Terry Paulsen and seconded by (VVA) Terry Mayer to approve the Treasurer's Report. Discussion. Motion failed/carried.

## **7. STATE UPDATES:**

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Update - Secretary Whitlock:

- Fallen Hero Bridge update – 33 in Total to Date
- SDDVA Benefit School – August 15-17
- Veteran Town Hall Meetings – Around SD
- Legislative Red-Line Review in 2022-2023
- SD Veterans Home Update – Policy/Procedure / Staffing Concerns Priority
- Overview of Veteran Benefits – VA 2021 GDX – 867,917,000,000.00 in SD
- South Dakota Cemetery Update by Erin Brown – 399 Burials to Date
- South Dakota Cemetery Road Update by Aaron Pollard – Anticipated Ready to Use by Veterans Day 2022

Endowment Fund Balance Update -Terry Paulsen: (attached). - \$199,337.46 due to fall in stock and funds with the Community Endowment Foundation.

## **8. INVITED GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**Dakotas Regional Office Director: Shawn Bohn covered in detail the following;**

- Burn Pit Update – Rare Respiratory Cancers for SW Asia Veterans added to Presumptive List
- Agent Orange Update – Local and National Data Points Given
- PACT Act – Full Support of VA
- VRE – Reminder to Push Veterans to Utilize

**Acting Director SFVAHCS: Dr. Timothy Pendergrass covered in detail the following;**

- Mental Health Building Construction
- CITC
- Scheduling
- Staff Shortages
- Introduced the New PAO for the SFVAHCS – Sam Otto
- Introduced the Watertown CBOC Nurse Manager: Mr. Richard Henderson, who covered the capabilities and services of the VA facility in Watertown with two Primary Care Teams.

## **Congressional Delegate Updates from the Staff of Senator Thune and Senator Rounds**

Bruce Jones with Senator Thune's Office

- 2023 NDAA
- B21 Legislation in Ellsworth AFB
- AIR Commission
- PACT Act

Bob Dejong with Senator Rounds' Office

- MSA Applications
- AIR Commission
- NADL
- B21 Legislation on time

### **9. State Fair Veterans Building:**

The building was sold to the DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 for \$10,000.00 on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Going forward, VSOs of the SDVC will be allowed to utilize the building on Veterans Day at the Fair. A policy was handed out to the group and is attached. This year that will be September 1<sup>st</sup>. Please notify Marty Pennock by close of business today if your VSO will need space on this day. The VVA was the only organization to notify the need for a table on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

### **10. Recognition of Certain Individuals: None**

### **11. Updates from each VSO:**

#### **MOPH:**

- August 14-19 is the National Convention in Rapid City, SD
  - 175 Register to Date
  - Harley Davidson Raffle and Convention Ads
  - First Time in South Dakota

#### **VFW:**

- State Convention was Complete in June in Mitchell
- All the SDVC VFW Leaders are in Kansas City for the National Convention
- Vietnam Wall in Parkston July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

#### **DAV:**

- September 3<sup>rd</sup> is the 727<sup>th</sup> / DAV Hospital Trans. Network Charity Run in Brookings, SD
- New Chapter in Mitchell – Chapter #27
- HTP Update – New Vehicle in Rapid City and one for East River (TBD)
- \$64,000.00 in scholarships given out in 2022
- Fall Conference October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>
- District 14 Conference Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> in Billings MT. Joe Parsetich (MT) is in line for the DAV National Commander
- National DAV Convention is in Orlando, FL, August 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>

**VVA:**

- POW / MIA Ceremony in Sioux Falls, September 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m., at Veterans Memorial Park
- Provided detail on the Traveling Vietnam Wall in Parkston in July 2022

**TAL:**

- Introduction of Doug Feltman New Department Commander
- National Convention August 26<sup>th</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup>
- \$180,000 raised for the Honor Flights
- Handed out a Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair Flyer – November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in Sturgis

**PVA:**

- Oct 21 Dueling Piano sponsorship
- Completed the Annual Fishing Event in May 2022 and Had over 70 Boats

**12. Unfinished Business****Social Media Platforms:**

The website can be accessed with the following information;

<https://sdveteranscouncil.com/>

Login: sdveterans

Password: SDVetssd123

President Johnson reiterated that it is incumbent on each organization to review the site to ensure accuracy of each VSO information before it goes live.

**Chet Sorenson Award:** President Connie Johnson stated that each organization needs to vote for one award per organization. Ballots were handed out to each organization and returned to the leadership for counting.

The Following Organizations Nominated the Following Veterans

Veterans Of Foreign War - Martin Christensen

Paralyzed Veterans Of America - Rick Albrecht

The American Legion - Paul Weckman

Military Order Of The Purple Heart - Bill Flippo

Vietnam Veterans Of America - Phillip Braeger

Disabled American Veterans - Kim Hubers

Rick Albrecht was selected as the 2021-2022 Chester “Chet” Sorenson Veteran Award.

On a motion by (DAV) Marty Pennock and seconded by (PVA) Terry Paulsen as the 2021-2022 Chester “Chet” Sorenson Veteran Award. Discussion. Motion carried.

### **Legislative 2023 Discussion:**

On a motion by (DAV) Marty Pennock and seconded by (TAL) Fred Nelson to introduce a resolution to lobby the State of South Dakota to amend South Dakota Codified Law Chapter SDCL 10-4-10 and 10-4-41, to include the service-connected disabilities 70%-90% for the property tax exemption. Discussion. Motion carried.

On a motion by (DAV) Marty Pennock and seconded by (MOPH) Bill Flippo to lobby the South Dakota Legislature during the 2023 session to pass legislation to amend SDCL 33A-1-22 to include the stipulation that counties with Veteran Populations of 1000 to 3999 according to the most recent Annual VA GDX Report have at a minimum one full-time dedicated County Veterans Service Officer; and for counties with greater than 4000 Veterans an additional one full-time dedicated County Veterans Service officer be employed for each additional 4000 Veterans. Discussion. Motion carried.

On a motion by (DAV) Marty Pennock and seconded by (MOPH) Ken Teunissen to introduce a resolution to the South Dakota Legislature to research placement of Veterans in community nursing homes with funding from federal, and State governments and Veterans in rural states. Discussion. Motion carried.

On a motion by (VVA) Terry Mayer to introduce a recommendation to the South Dakota Legislature to eliminate the internment spousal fee. Discussion. Motion was retracked after learning the internment fee was part of the original discussion on the establishment of the SD State Cemetery.

### **13. New Business**

**Sanford International Color Guard Posting Detail – 17<sup>th</sup> Hole - Paul Weckman.** A sign-up sheet was ahnded out to each VSO

**South Dakota Cemetery Eagle Project - Paul Weckman.** A PowerPoint was handed out.

#### **Proposed Future Meetings:**

September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Rapid City 9:00 am – 12:00 am (MT)  
November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Sioux Falls 9:00 am – 12:00 am (CST)  
January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Pierre, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm (CST)

#### **14. Next Scheduled Meeting**

On a motion by (DAV) Marty Pennock and seconded by (TAL) Doug Feltman to hold the next meeting on September 28, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (MT), in Rapid City. The venue is tentatively set with TAL Post in Rapid City. Motion carried.

#### **15. Good of the Order:**

- 2022-2023 Dues are due to the Secretary-Treasurer
- Invitation for the next meeting will be sent to the BH Cemetery at the request

#### **16. Closing Comments and Adjournment.**

With no other business before the council, Secretary-Treasurer Marty Pennock led the council in the benediction followed by a salute to the colors from President Connie Johnson.

On a motion by (PVA) Terry Paulsen and seconded by (DAV) Dan Francis to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.