



# **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 (SDVC), WEDNESDAY, THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 8 - 520 S. PIERRE STREET – PIERRE, SD 11 JANUARY 2023 - 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. (CST)**

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

The meeting of the South Dakota Veterans Council was called to order by President Connie Johnson at 2:03 p.m. Prior to the meeting an update agenda was provided that included guest speakers and talking points in new business that were not advertised previously (updated agenda attached dated 1/17/23)

### **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, and Fred Nelson

**Disabled American Veterans (DAV):** Dan Francis, and Marty Pennock

**Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW):** Anna Arnold

**Vietnam Veterans of America Chapters 1054 and 959 (VVA):** Phil Braeger (1054) and Terry “Hawk” Mayer (959)

**Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH):** Connie Johnson,

**North Central Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA):** Mike Olson

**Official Officers Excused:** (DAV) Gene Murphy, (VFW) Tom Hafner, (VFW) Dave Baumiller, (VVA 1054) Jerry Denman, (MOPH) Bill Flippo, (MOPH), (PVA) Terry Paulsen (PVA), and (PVA) Lisa Cummings

**Official Officers Unexcused:** (MOPH) Jon Tilk

There was a total of 25 present for the meeting (attached sign in roster). Several did not sign 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 November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, SDVC meeting.

On a motion by (VVA) Terry Mayer and seconded by (VFW) Anna Arnold to waive the reading of the minutes from the November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, SDVC meeting, as they were mailed to members of the council, posted on the website and provided at the meeting. Discussion. Motion carried.

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

President Johnson called on Secretary-Treasurer Pennock for a Treasurer's Report. Beginning Balance as of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, was \$12,241.19 and expenses of \$1,000.00 leaving a balance, as of January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, of \$11,241.19.

On a motion by (DAV) Marty Pennock and seconded by (PVA) Mike Olson to approve up to \$900.00 for Legislative reception food expenditures. Motion carried.

On a motion by (DAV) Dan Francis and seconded by (VFW) Anna Arnold to approve the Treasurer's Report. Discussion. Motion carried.

#### **7. INVITED GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Update: Secretary Whitlock** read his last column from the SDDVA news bulletin. He also presented a reflection of accomplishments in 2022, that included Burials, Claims, Wreaths Across America, SD State Veteran's Home, Education Benefits, Bonuses, Funeral Honors, Public and Private Transportation, and Fallen Hero Bridge Dedications.

**Medical Center Director / CEO BHVAHCS:** Lisa Curnes covered in detail the following.

- Completed 1 year in current position
- Provided a report for the SFVAHCS that is reflected in the SFVAHCS stakeholder meeting minutes earlier that day
- BHVAHCS workload increase and goal to increase enrollments
- BHVAHCS enrollment Expos
- Update on CITC
- Explained HBPC and HHC – Programs to reduce cost and increase accessibility to rural Veterans
- Construction Update to facilities
- Update on flue shots travel and CLC
- PACT Act

**South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery Director:** Erin Brown covered in detail the following.

- Update on burials
- Dedication of Eagles
- Honor Guard Support Thank you

**Congressional Delegate Update form Senator Rounds Office:** Bob Dejong introduced the new West River liaison to Senator Rounds Office – GP Carmichael. He also updated the group on NDAA wins for South Dakota (attached).

**Michale J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home:** Superintendent Chuck Johnson covered the following.

- Been the Superintendent for approximately one year
- Has 25 years long-term care experiences
- The Home has to follow two “bosses” – Medicaid and VA for certification
- Policy and procedures
- Focus on Veteran
- Staffing challenges
- Eligibility
- Current customer base
- Budget
- Skilled versus traditional nursing care

#### **8. ENDOWMENT UPDATE:**

Endowment Fund Balance Update - Connie Johnson provided an updated endowment fund summary (attached).

#### **9. RECOGNITION OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS:**

(DAV) Jim Wosje and (DAV) Tim Walsh for their work to set up for the Legislative Reception.

#### **10. UPDATES FROM EACH VSO:**

**VFW:** Anna Arnold

- Stock show – February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Legislative Conference – February 5-6<sup>th</sup> – Moose Lodge with Open House from 5:30p – 8:30p – 7 Legislators have confirmed to date on attendance. Voice of Democracy will be held at noon on February 6<sup>th</sup>.
- State Conference – June 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> with other VSOs speaking on June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Membership is at 94.84%

**TAL:** Doug Feltman

- Boys and Girls State February 7<sup>th</sup>
- 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Huron Midwinter Conference
- National February 26<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup> – Washington D.C.
- Department Convention – Oacoma June 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>

**DAV:** Dan Francis

- 2 New Vans – Winner and Lake Andes
- State Convention is in Sioux Falls, May 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>
- National Midwinter Conference is February 27<sup>th</sup> - March 1<sup>st</sup> in Arlington, VA
- Legislative Endorsement Handouts
- Membership is 98.32%

**VVA:**

959 – Terry Mayer

- Christmas gift event at the SFVAHCS with the DAV and MOPH
- Summary of Wreaths Across America support in 2022

1054 – Phil Braeger

- Review of a radio program and school programs in the NE part of SD
- \$20,000.00 gift cards given out to Veteran efforts in the NE part of SD
- Working with the CBOC for electric wheelchairs

**MOPH:** Connie Johnson

- Low membership
- National restructuring of MOPH Fund versus MOPH Foundation

**PVA:**

- PVA fishing event to be held in Chamberlain in May 2023

## **11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Legislative 2023 Discussion:**

A review of the legislative roundtables was given

Also was discussed and reviewed were – available for review on SDLRC and attached 17 January 2023 update on SDVC sponsored bills.

- HB 1051  
On a motion by (DAV) Marty Pennock and seconded by (DAV) Dan Francis for an amendment be made to meet the original intention of the original resolution and resubmit the amendment for consideration. Discussion. Motion passed.
- HB 1052
- HCR 6003

## **12. NEW BUSINESS:**

Proposed Future SDVC Meetings:

UPDATED - April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, - Hot Springs- Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home

- Tour of facility at 1p (MT)
- SDVC Meeting 3p – 5p (MT)
  - Nominations for SDVC Leadership will be Due
  - Structured VSO reports will be required going forward

UPDATED - July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Sisseton – 2024 Legislation Topics

On a motion by (VVA) Phil Braeger and seconded by (VFW) Anna Arnold to add the National Association of County Veterans Service Officer Association (NACVSOA) to the membership for the SDVC. Discussion.

On a motion by (TAL) Fred Nelson and seconded by (DAV) Dan Francis to table the discussion until the next meeting to determine if the NACVSOA meets all the requirements of being in the SDVC. Motion passed.

## **13. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

On a motion by (TAL) Doug Feltman and seconded by (DAV) Dan Francis to hold the next meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 3:00p to 5:00p (MT), in Hot Springs, at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home.

Additionally, a tour of the facility will start at approximately 1pm (MT) and the SDVC Meeting to follow from 3 – 5p (MT). Motion carried.

## **14. GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Governor Proclamation – Persian Gulf War Veterans Day (Attached)
- January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Minnehaha County Historical Society- Linebacker II (Attached)
- Coats are available from DAV to be issued to Veterans or their families

## **15. 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 (DAV) Dan Francis and seconded by (VFW) Anna Arnold to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:55p.