



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



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
1519 W 51ST ST – SIOUX FALLS, SD
15 NOVEMBER 2023 - 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM CST
 Microsoft Teams meeting – **For Council Members Only**
 Meeting ID: 281 504 409 876

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the South Dakota Veterans Council (SDVC) was called to order by President Connie Johnson at 9:00am.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The SDVC was led in the Pledge of Allegiance by President Connie Johnson.

3. OPENING PRAYER:

Vice President Anna Arnold led the Council in opening prayer.

4. ROLL CALL:

Vice President Anna Arnold conducted roll call of the Council showing the following members present and a Quorum was met. A current list of Council Members was provided. Handout Provided dated September 18, 2023. Gordy West (1054) has been removed and Bob Frink has been submitted as a replacement to the SDVC for the VVA 1054.

American Legion (TAL): Courtney Steffen and Fred Nelson

Disabled American Veterans (DAV): Christine Speirs, Marty Pennock, and Gene Murphy

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW): Anna Arnold

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapters 1054 and 959 (VVA): Bob Frink (1054) 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): Terry Paulsen and Lisa Cummings

Official Officers Excused: (TAL) C.P. Van DeList, (VFW) Derek Besler, (VFW) Dan Klimisch, Bill Flippo (MOPH), Buck Underwood (MOPH), and Mike Olson (PVA)

There were a total of 32 present for the meeting (attached sign in roster). Three in attendance were counted that did not sign in.

5. WELCOME DISTINGUISHED GUESTS / VISITORS /ADMINISTRATIVE

COMMENTS /ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

6. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

President Johnson called on Secretary-Treasurer Pennock to read the minutes from the October 25th, 2023, SDVC meeting.

On a motion by (VVA 959) Terry Mayer and seconded by (DAV) Gene Murphy to waive the reading of the minutes from the October 25th, 2023, SDVC meeting, and approved them as written as they were mailed to members of the council, posted on the website and provided to members prior to the November 15th SDVC meeting. Discussion. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

President Johnson called on Secretary-Treasurer Pennock for a Treasurer’s Report. Beginning Balance as of October 25th, 2023, was \$10,209.24, with no deposits and no expenses a balance, as of November 15th, 2023, of \$10,209.24.

On a motion by (DAV) Gene Murphy and seconded by (VFW) Anna Arnold to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Discussion. Motion carried.

7. ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT: President Johnson provided the endowment fund report.

8. RECOGNITION OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS:

President Johnson Thanks Jim Wosje, Tim Walsh, and the DAV for hosting the SDVC meeting and the Legislative reception. President Johnson thanked everyone for making the trek to the meeting.

9. UPDATES FROM EACH VSO:

VFW: Anna Arnold reported

- Legislative Session January 14-15 Pierre
- VFW will be at the National Pheasant Festival March 1-3
- Membership is a priority, and it appears that they will meet goal of 102%

TAL: Courtney Steffen reported

- Fall Meetings have wrapped up
- Pursue Purpose as the Mission within the communities. Keeping the focus on Veterans as the issue as Veteran population decrease
- Midwinter February 8-10 Deadwood
- Veteran Appreciation Fair in Sturgis 25.5% increase. Thank you to VFW and DAV for participation

DAV: Christine Speirs reported

- 727th Poker Chairty Run raised \$53,000 for the DAV HTP
- Rapid City had a Military Appreciation Night at Golden Coral and raised \$1,500.00
- There is an upcoming information fair in Rapid City next week
- Scheels in Sioux Falls did a coat drive for DAV and all Veterans can contact the DAV if they have a need for winter clothing items

VVA:

959 – Terry Mayer reported

- The local Chapter had a successful Veterans Day event at the SD Heritage Alliance Building where there was a WWII Veteran recognized
- Wreathes Across America- December 16th at 11:00am at the SD State Cemetery

1054 – Phil Braeger reported

- School Vietnam program in NE SD / Brookings – 280 kids
- Programs have been going on for 10-15 years
- Focusing in on the Transportation programs of the VA
- Funding to Veterans through the Sea of Goodwill

MOPH: Connie Johnson reported

- Recruiting the priority and the mission is focus on the community
- Shadow box presentation in Sisseton – David Fluit
- Donated \$300 Heros to Heros Brookings where 200 Veterans were served
- Completed Grand Falls Giving Back in October where \$5,300.00 was raised
- 1st Annual Pheasant Hunta at Wings of Valor
- Several peaking presentations, one in Iowa recently
- Winter Warrior Event in Brookings, December 16
- \$1,000.00 Donation to Wings of Valor
- Brookings was named a MOPH City

PVA: Terry Paulsen reported

- Last two pheasant hunts November 17th and 18th in Platte
- Completed several hunts this fall at Top Gun – approximately 50 Veterans
- National Fall Conference in Orlando – Lisa Cummings and Mike Olson attended
- Christmas Luncheon is on December 14th, 2024, at the PVA office
- Spinal Cord Injury is the priority of Veterans the Chapter serves

10. INVITED GUEST SPEAKERS:**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS****Secretary Greg Whitlock reported on the SD Veterans Home**

There is a COVID outbreak, and a mandatory mask mandated. They currently have 59 in nursing care and 14 in independent living. Staffing is still the number one issue the limits the operations of the facility. They are partnering with Western Tech College in an effort to provide a certification with the LPN program to provide an opportunity to have student get the clinical portion at the state home and get an interest in pursuing a job at the state home after getting aa degree. The State is also working with the VA on a VA retention grant that is pending and a software upgrade point click care program that will be more efficient in-patient care. The state is also upgrading handheld radios and trying to obtain Medicare eligibility.

Brett Dickerson reported on the Veterans' Benefits and Services

There are six VSOs in the claims office and five in the filed that report back to the office. There are nine tribal officers. There are 64 VSOs in the 66 counties, keeping in mind that several counties have more than one CVSO and several counties are consolidated. The office had 144 walk-ins/month prior to the PACT Act. After the PACT Act in the last ¼, it is 229/month. The office had 636 filings prior to the Pact Act. Afte the Pact Act in the last ¼ it is 1051/month, an 66% increase.

Erin Brown reported on the SD State Veterans' Cemetery

There have been 682 burials. There have been 140 walk ins. 21 burials in the last month. 145 phone calls were received in the month. Wreaths Across America is December 16th, at 11:00 am.

Deputy Secretary Pollard reported on Legislation

There were two bills discussed in length. The council voiced concern over the removal of the residency requirement without first addressing the need for an east river option of long-term care and providing for an explaining to our Veterans on why we would do this and open up bed space to nonresidents.

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to amend the eligibility for admission to the state veterans' home and repeal the residency requirement.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

Section 1. That § 33A-4-25 be AMENDED:

33A-4-25. Eligibility for admission to veterans' home.

~~Any A~~ A veteran as defined by § 33A-2-1 is eligible for admission to the State Veterans' Home if who has maintained a residence in the state at any time in the five years preceding the date of the application, and who has no income in excess of one thousand dollars per year above the maximum income limitation for pension benefits as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, is eligible for admission to the State Veterans' Home the veteran is eligible for the purpose of payment of per diem for domiciliary care or nursing home care in a State Home.

A veteran domiciled in this state within the past five years shall receive admission preference, contingent upon the veteran meeting all admission criteria. A veteran who is a member of a federally recognized tribe shall receive admission preference, contingent upon the veteran meeting all admission criteria. For the purposes of this section, a residence is a physical structure in which a person resides and the term does not include a post office box or address of another mail service purchased by the veteran. A veteran who has a rating of total disability as defined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for pension and compensation purposes is also eligible for admission.

Membership Residency status at the State Veterans' Home is not affected because of a medical leave of absence either in a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility or other hospital. ~~Any veteran who is an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe located wholly or partially in the state meets the residency requirement.~~

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to amend the county requirement to employ a county veterans' service officer.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

Section 1. That § 33A-1-22 be AMENDED:

33A-1-22. County veterans' service officer--Approval by secretary of veterans affairs--Term of office.

The board of county commissioners of each county in this state shall employ or, join with another county or counties in employing a county veterans' service officer, or contract with the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide services as required by §33A-1-24. ~~who, before such employment takes effect, is approved by the state secretary of veterans affairs~~ Employment is contingent upon approval by the secretary of veterans affairs. ~~The county veteran's service officer's first appointment ends on the first Monday in January of the second year subsequent to after the year of the appointment. The county veteran's service officer may be reappointed for terms of four years for each term. The appointment is subject to removal by the board or boards of county commissioners upon the recommendation of the state secretary of veterans' affairs or for cause.~~

**DARIN SEELEY SOUTH DAKOTA BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION
COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND
ADMINISTRATION**

Gave an overview of the Capital Lake Memorial Lake Master Plan. Attached

KEYSTONE MATT SWISHER

Matt briefed that he has filed a freedom of information act inquiring why Keystone treatment facility is no longer being used as a treatment resource in the area for substance abuse by the VA. Discussion took place by Matt's supervisor Eric Miler and several audience members about the past and operational expectations. The bottom line is that everyone in the room has the same expectations to take care of Veterans and it understood by all that speed of assistance is key to success.

The SDVC intends to follow up with the SFVAHCS.

SFVAHCS: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO SARA ACKERT

PACT ACT Updates:

- Screened over 21,400 Veterans, 40% claiming at least one exposure.
- A PACT ACT event was held in conjunction with Indian Health Services (IHS) on November 2nd.

COMPACT ACT:

COMPACT ACT stand for Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care and Treatment. It requires the (VA) to directly furnish, pay for, or reimburse for emergent suicide care (to include associated transportation costs) at VA and non-VA facilities for eligible individuals in acute suicide crisis.

This includes:

- Up to 30 days of inpatient or crisis residential care
- 90 days of outpatient care related to the acute suicide crisis (this period can be extended if deemed clinically necessary). This includes both medical care and mental health care.
- Prescription medications
- Emergency transportation (ambulance or air transport) that are related to the suicide crisis.

Held a community partner education event in conjunction with VA Black Hills on October 26th.

Sioux Falls has had a total of 125 Veterans covered under the COMPACT ACT since it was rolled out in January. There are currently 55 Veterans who have an active episode.

Health Administration Service Update:

- Bene Travel – SFVAHCS received national support to assist in working bene travel claims.
 - We are recruiting for 4 Bene Travel clerks
 - We currently have 1491 paper claims to process
 - As of 11/14/2023 the oldest claim is from 10/23/2023
- Scanning –the backlog continues to decrease.
 - We have ended our scanning backlog project as of 11/09/2023.
 - We are currently sitting with 2110 scanning files.
 - Daily average of received files is 220.
- Release of Information – we continue to have a backlog in ROI.
 - We continue to receive support from another VA to assist in this area.
 - The second of 2 new ROI Clerks started training 11/6/23.
 - We anticipate large decrease in ROI backlog by the end of December.

Care in the Community Update FY24 Notable Metrics:

Days to schedule appointment: 13.4 days

Call center calls Handled: 97.8% Call center number for questions: 605-333-6800/1-800-316-8387

Construction:

- Work is progressing on the 10-bed Hospice Cottage and we anticipate completion in the Spring 2024
- New Prosthetics department on the 4th floor – anticipate completion by the end of the calendar year
- Work continues on the EHRM infrastructure project despite the EHRM implementation rollout being put on pause.

Community Living Center Update – The latest CLC Compare data has been released and the Sioux Falls VA CLC continues to be rated a 5-star facility.

Nurse Recruiting Efforts

- Our current RN Vacancy rate is 9.7%, LPN vacancy rate is 14.7%, and Nursing Assistant vacancy rate is 57.75%.
- Increase in vacancy rates related to change in staffing methodology in the CLC Units. LPN and NA numbers staffing were increased (which results in more vacancies until they are recruited) and a decrease in RNs staffing numbers to correspondence with the increase in LPN and NA.
- We are offering recruitment bonuses (amounts vary by location); we are implementing 72/80 for inpatient and CLC nurses; and we are offering flexible scheduling for nurse managers.
- Sioux Falls has initiated two different nurse residency programs:
 - The **RNTTP** Residency Program is a year long residency that any nurse within their first year of nursing is automatically enrolled in. They attend class 1 day a month and we review different topics in accordance with CCNE accreditation. These topics include: Change in patient condition, Veteran Centric Care, Safety, Ethics, End of Life Care, Stress Management and Professional Development. We incorporate simulations, guest speakers, case studies and lecture each month as well as provide a system of support for the new graduate learning their new roles in a new career.
 - The **PBRNR** Residency Program is also a year long residency, but is only for BSN nurses who have just graduated nursing school. This program is funded by OAA (Office of Academic Affiliate). These residents will have 100% protected time and will meet weekly for didactic/simulations. These residents will rotate throughout the facility to all the different units and departments and will spend the final 4 months in the “immersion phase” where they will hope to see themselves working at the end of their residency.
 - VA offers multiple scholarship programs and tuition reimbursement programs.

OIG Report

- The Office of the Inspector General completed a Comprehensive Healthcare Inspection the week of January 9, 2023. During this inspection they reviewed 5 areas:
 - Leadership and Organizational Risks – No recommendations
 - Quality, Safety and Value – no recommendations
 - Medical staff privileging – no recommendations
 - Environment of Care – no recommendations
 - Mental health focusing on suicide prevention initiatives – one recommendation

- There is a requirement for designated staff to complete a suicide risk evaluation for patients following a positive screen to be done the same day unless it is not logistically feasible or clinically appropriate.
- In December 2021, two years prior to the OIG visit, through some audits we did internally, we self-identified we were missing some of these same day screens in some cases calling the following day. We changed our process and with these changes, we have been at 100% since April 2022.
- When the OIG came, they pulled records prior to when we made our changes.
- We are now recognized nationally as being one of the top 3 facilities in the country for this metric.

BHVAHCS: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO REPORT PROVIDED BY POA TOM JOHNSON

PACT ACT Updates

Toxic Exposure Screens (TES)

- Clinical reminders for Nurses and Providers are in place for the assessment of Veterans for their exposure to toxins. Toxic Exposure Screens are being offered through your Primary Care Team. TES is also being done in some Specialty Care areas as well and we continue to expand these screens into other areas of the healthcare delivery system.
- VABHHCS has screened over 14,000 veterans with 37% endorsing at least 1 exposure concern.
- 0 Veterans waiting over 30 days for follow-on care.

VA Black Hills Census

- Community Living Centers: 44 available beds, HS and FM have a census of 42.
- HS DOM: Census of 37 as of 11/13/2023. We are still actively recruiting RRTP employees.

COMPACT ACT

- Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care and Treatment.
- VA Black Hills has assisted 72 Veterans with coverage under the COMPACT Act since implementation.

Care In the Community

- Black Hills leads has 1962 unscheduled consults.
- Recently we have seen an increase of over 1000 consults a month over the last month. We expect our unscheduled to return to around 1000 in the next month.
- There are no unscheduled consults >30 days with no activity.
- No consults aged >180 days

Home Health Program

- VA medical staff including Physician Assistants, Registered Nurses, Dietitians, Occupational Therapists, Psychologists, and Pharmacists travel to the homes of Veterans in rural communities.
- 0% readmission rate for all veterans using home-based primary care at VA Black Hills.
- Reduced inpatient days by 86.3%.
- Reduced ER visits by 36.6%.
- Reduced readmissions by 39%.
- Currently serving over 160 Veterans in the Community/

ON-BOARDING EVENT

- Focusing on hiring high-need positions: The type of employees who will be attending the surge event include Providers, Nurses EMS, Nutrition and Food Service workers, Social Workers, and Medical Support Assistance (MSAs).
- Last event was held in Fort Meade on Sept. 6th. 53 perspective employees attended. Offers were made on the spot to RNs, LPNs, and CNAs.
- Due to the success of the Hiring Fairs, future events are being discussed based upon current staffing needs.

Travel Claims

BTSSS Backlog is at ZERO. The oldest claim in review is less than 10 days from the date the claim was submitted.

Construction update – Hot Springs

- PACT AREA UPGRADE- Renovate Bldg. 12 for PACT (HS) to increase the size of the PACT Area- A study has been completed identifying a potential space layout.

Construction updates – Fort Meade

- Renovate Inpatient 113 will consolidate inpatient care (ICU, Med/Surg, and sleep lab) for staffing efficiency and modernize patient rooms. Anticipated completion in September 2024.
- The Upgrade MH Lock Ward project will correct several MHEOC deficiencies including ceiling height, hard ceilings, windows, and handrails. The project has been awarded, with an anticipated start in September 2023 and completion in September 2024.

DAKOTAS REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTOR SHAWN BOHN

PACT Act

Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (PACT) has been signed by the President adding 20 toxic exposure related condition to the presumptive list of Veterans and Survivors.

- Empower VA to deliver benefits to Veterans living with more than 20 toxic exposure-related conditions and to their survivors;
- Make generations of Veterans eligible for VA health care, while increasing care for many more;
- Ensure that every enrolled Veteran receives an initial toxic exposure screening at VA and follow-up screening at least every 5 years;
- Increase VA research on toxic exposure; and
- Give VA tools to hire and retain employees and modernize over 30 facilities.

VBA has received over 1198416 claims since the passage of the law. Decisions are being made as of January 1, 2023. VBA has already processed over 738527 PACT related claims.

Cancer claims are being prioritized for processing due to the potential for terminal illness.

Conditions included as presumptive for PACT for toxic airborne exposures:

These types of cancers:

- Brain cancer
- Glioblastoma
- Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- Head cancer of any type
- Lymphoma of any type
- Lymphatic cancer of any type
- Neck cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Reproductive cancer of any type
- Kidney cancer
- Melanoma

These illnesses:

- Asthma that was diagnosed after service
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Emphysema
- Granulomatous disease
- Interstitial lung disease (ILD)
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Sarcoidosis
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

Veterans and survivors are encouraged to submit claims.

[VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry - Reports - Public Health](#)

Veterans and survivors are encouraged to submit claims.

PACT Registries: Below is a link to a PACT registries website.

- [VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry - Reports - Public Health](#)

Blue Water Navy (Vietnam Agent Orange) Presumptives

Bladder cancer

AL Amyloidosis

Diabetes Mellitus Type 2

Multiple Myeloma

Hypothyroidism

Chronic B Cell Leukemias

Hodgkin's Disease

Non-Hodgkin's Lymph.

Parkinsonism

Chloracne

Ischemic Heart Disease

Parkinson's Disease

Peripheral Neuropathy

Porphyria Cutanea Tarda

Prostate Cancer

Respiratory Cancers

Soft Tissue Sarcomas

For Vietnam Agent Orange Exposure PACT Act new Presumptives:

- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance
- High blood pressure

New areas: Any US or Royal Thai military based in Thailand from January 9, 1962 through June 30, 1976, Laos from December 1, 1965 through September 30, 1969, Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969 through April 30, 1969, Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa from January 9, 1962 to July 30, 1980, Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972 through September 30, 1977.

VBA Veteran Readiness and Employment Services

Veterans may receive Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) (Formerly known as Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment) services to help with job training, employment accommodations, resume development, and job seeking skills coaching. Other services may be provided to assist Veterans and Servicemembers in starting their own businesses or independent living services for those who are severely disabled and unable to work in traditional employment.

Veterans/Servicemembers can visit the Regional Office in Sioux Falls or visit the following website to learn more and apply for VR&E benefits: <https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/>.

Current Regional Office Public Contact/Veterans Readiness and Employment Hours

Regional Office is opened from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding Federal Holidays. Masks are not required when entering the Regional Office at this time.

US CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE LIAISONS

SENATOR THUNE: BRUCE JONES reported

CR: Government funding would be extended to January 19, 2024, for some federal agencies, and to February 2, 2024, for most others under H.R. 6363. The first deadline would cover agencies under four appropriations bills – Agriculture-FDA, Energy and Water, Military Construction-VA, and Transportation-HUD. Funding for the eight remaining appropriations bills would be extended until February 2, including Defense. This continuing resolution would generally extend fiscal 2023 funding levels for agencies and programs that are otherwise slated to shut down on November 18 under the current continuing resolution. The House is scheduled to consider the measure on Tuesday, where it is expected to pass with bipartisan support. Once passed by the House, the measure will head to the Senate, where it is also expected to pass with bipartisan support.

Of note, this measure does not include supplemental funding requested by the Biden administration for Israel, Ukraine, or border security. Senate Appropriations Vice Chair Susan Collins said Congress should act on a supplemental spending bill in December.

Tuberville's military holds: Tuberville's military holds: A number of off-ramps have been proposed to Senator Tuberville. While Senate Republicans continue to fight the administration's misguided abortion travel policy, the conference remains hopeful an outcome can be reached soon that allows many of these military nominations to move forward, particularly the nominees who have no authority to change the policy.

SENATOR ROUNDS: BOB DEJONG reported

- Senator Rounds sends his Veterans Day greetings
- Keith Moore has been hired as the SE Director and State Director of Tribal Relations
- Recent awarded three Atomic Service Medals in Pierre
- Banking Hearings Financial Protocol for military and families 40% of DOD is 25 years or younger
- NAIV charter is close to being completed as verbal Oks have been received in House and Senate

11. Unfinished Business

- Future Meetings
January 10th, 2024, The American Legion Post 8, Pierre, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm (CST)

On a motion by (VVA 959) Terry Mayer and seconded by (VFW) Anna Arnold to approve the next SDVC meeting on January 10th, 2024, in Pierre, SD at the American Legion Post 8, starting at 2:00pm and ending NLT 5:00pm (CST). Discussion. Motion carried.

- Legislative Reception January 10th, 2024, The American Legion Post 8, Pierre, 5:30pm – 7:30pm (CST)

- Legislative Roundtables:
 - November 15th Sioux Falls – DAV, 12pm (CST)
 - November 16th Watertown – The American Legion Post 17, 11am (CST)
 - November 17th Pierre - The American Legion Post 8, 11am (CST)
 - November 18th Rapid City - The American Legion Post 22, 11am (MT)
- SDVC Federal Tax-Exempt Status – Treasurer Marty Pennock

SDVC Tax-Exempt Status: Treasurer Pennock reported that Form 1024 was filed on behalf of the South Dakota Veterans Council after the motion from the August 11th, 2023 SDVC meeting motion to approve the council to seek a tax-exempt status. The SDVC new EIN is 37-2103133 and the SD Business ID is NS256444. The SDVC filed under 501C-19 is waiting for the IRS to provide a decision. These decisions can take several months.

Application for Recognition for Exemption Under Section 501(a) or Section 521

Form Number: 1024

Form Status: Accepted

Pay.gov Tracking ID: 2775E2KG

Date Submitted: 08/24/2023 14:30:19 PM

Application Name: Form 1024, Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(a)

No update

- SDVC Website Discussion – Discussion tabled.
- Virtual Meetings – Discussion tabled. Pending review of Owl capabilities.
- SD Veteran Cemetery Advisory Board - President Connie Johnson introduced letter form Secretary Whitlock. NO further action will be taken at this time pending the viewpoint of the Secretary. There is disagreement from (DAV) Gene Murphy and (PVA) Terry Paulsen as this was an agreed upon discussion several years ago on how to properly address the usage of the endowment funds for the maintenance and beautification of the Veterans Cemetery from a stakeholder group that could provide insight and knowledge. An example of a recent authorization of a unauthorized memorial was the stone that was placed in the cemetery that had unauthorized markings on it that would not be allowed in a National cemetery. This stone was accidentally destroyed and was subsequently replaced. If an advisory board had been in place, this may have been handled appropriately in the first place. Another example was made of the naming of the road that led into the cemetery where a non-veteran organization paid for the naming of the street. It is an example where the Veteran was completely left out of the decision and the process.

- SDVC Shirt / Cards / Tablecloth – Vice President Anna Arnold

On a motion by (PVA) Terry Mayer and seconded by (VVA 1054) Phil Brager to approve up to additional \$700.00 for promotional merchandise for promotional the SDVC. Discussion. Motion carried.

- Legislation - President Connie Johnson reviewed that the Legislative roundtable would follow the meeting and the topics would be those of which the SDVC had previously discussed at the October 25, 2023 SDVC meeting.

12. NEW BUSINESS: None

13. GOOD OF THE ORDER AND CLOSING COMMENTS:

Kim Hubers, Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No.1 Commander was in attendance and recognized for being awarded the National DAV 2023 Disabled American Veteran of the Year.

SFVAHCS was congratulated as being one of the top 3 facilities in the country for Mental health focusing on suicide prevention initiatives and VBA was congratulated on being number 1 in the Nation.

14. CLOSING PRAYER

Vice President Arnold provided a closing prayer

15. HONORS TO THE AMERICAN FLAG AND ADJORNMENT: President Johnson rendered honors to the flag.

On a motion by (DAV) Gene Murphy and seconded by (VFW) Anna Arnold to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Marty Pennock, Secretary-Treasurer 11/20/23