



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



MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING
26 JUNE 2024 - 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM CST
 Microsoft Teams Meeting Information
Meeting ID: 228 209 580 960
Passcode: jG8zDW

Call to Order

President Johnson called to order the meeting at 9:02 a.m. and state that the parliamentary proses would be modified to accommodate the meeting virtually.

Roll Call

Secretary / Treasurer Marty Pennock 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 May 6, 2024.

American Legion (TAL): Fred Nelson (TAL) and Kevin Morello (TAL) (arrived after roll was completed)

Disabled American Veterans (DAV): Kim Hubers (DAV), Marty Pennock (DAV), and Gene Murphy (DAV)

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

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, (MOPH) and Bill Flippo (MOPH)(arrived after roll was completed)

North Central Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA): Terry Paulsen (PVA), Lisa Cummings (PVA)

Official Officers Excused: C.P. Van DeList (TAL), Glynis Collier (VFW), Bob Frink (1054), Dan Klimisch (VFW), Buck Underwood (MOPH), and Mike Olson (PVA),

Minutes of Last Meeting

President Johnson called on Secretary-Treasurer Pennock to read the minutes from the April 17th, 2024, SDVC meeting.

On a motion by Terry Paulsen (PVA) and seconded by Anna Arnold (VFW) to waive the reading of the minutes from the April 17th, 2024, SDVC meeting. Discussion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

President Johnson called on Secretary-Treasurer Pennock for a Treasurer's Report.

Beginning Balance as of April 17th, 2024, was \$8,270.56, with \$0 deposits and \$187.97 of expenses leaving a balance, as of June 26th, 2024, of \$8,082.59.

The June 2024 First Interstate Bank Statements was provided.

Reminder that organizational membership dues of \$250.00 are due July 2024 for 2024-2025.

Shirts were handed out to Aaron Pollard, Phil Braeger, Terry Mayer, Gene Murphy, and Christine Speirs. Everyone has been notified to pay what is owed to the Council. Gene Murphy, and Terry Mayer have paid for their shirt. A shirt is still to be handed to Courtney Steffen.

SD Annual Report due August 1st, 2024

President Johnson noted that the invoice for Creative Unframe was due, \$879.19. A check will be mailed prior to the next Council meeting.

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

Updates from Each Veterans Service Organization

President Johnson asked that all organizations at the next Council meeting be prepared to provide a report that does more than just lists past or upcoming events. Please describe how each organization is assisting Veterans within their organization.

Unfinished Business

- 2025 Legislation
 - Notecard Priorities from April SDVC Meeting
 - **Transportation** – Phil Braeger (VVA 1054) discussed meeting with Senator Rounds. President Johnson discussed and provided Beth Connors paper. Vice President Anna Arnold will investigate a federal grant bill that will be proposed by Senator Rounds prior to next Council meeting and report back.

S. 592/H.R. 1278 Driver Reimbursement Increase for Veteran Equity Act of 2023 or the DRIVE Act of 2022 - This bill increases the mileage reimbursement rate available to beneficiaries for travel to or from Department of Veterans Affairs facilities in connection with vocational rehabilitation, required counseling, or for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care. Specifically, the bill makes the reimbursement rate for such travel equal to or greater than the mileage reimbursement rate for government employees using private vehicles when no government vehicle is available.

- **Mental Health** – Kim Hubers (DAV) will provide committee experience she is on with DAV national - *DAV's 2024 report, Women Veterans: The Journey to Mental Wellness*.
- **Property Tax for Disabled Vets** – VP Anna Arnold will investigate the summer study from the 2024 SD Legislation. A report will be given at the next Council meeting.
- **Major Richard Star Act**
- **Long Term Medical Care**
- **Misc. Medical Concerns**

S. 2294/H.R.4249 - Veterans Exposed to Toxic PFAS Act - To amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish hospital care and medical services to veterans and dependents who were stationed at military installations at which the veterans and dependents were exposed to perfluorooctanoic acid or other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, to provide for a presumption of service connection for certain veterans who were stationed at military installations at which the veterans were exposed to such substances, and for other purposes.

- **Sales Tax Exempt (Up to 25K)**
- **Resource Communication**
- **Reform Veteran Service Officers Pay**

- **Free Entrance State Parks for Veterans** – Sec / Tres. Marty Pennock will coordinate with the leadership of the SD GFP along with Dan Klimisch, President Johnson and VP Arnold prior to the next Council Meeting. This effort will tie into the Mental Health priority.
- **Educational Benefits 100% Dependents**
- **Unaccredited Parties Filing Claims**
- **SDNG Benefits** – President Johnson will investigate proposal for synching Active Duty and Reserve Service Members benefits to that of National Guard in aspects of education benefits.
- 2024-2025 Officer Elections
July 2024 will be Officer Elections for SDVC Secretary, Treasurer, and Judge Advocate
- Chet Sorenson Award
Every Organization is encouraged to submit a nomination for the Chet Sorenson award. The Council will vote on the recipient at the July Council meeting. Nominations are due July 1st, 2024.
- 2024 Meeting Dates – Gene Murphy (DAV) requests that all facilities that are scheduled by the Council are ADA compliant.
 - July 17 – Aberdeen VFW Post #17, 802 S Main St., starting at 1:00 p.m. CST.
POC: Sean Johnson 605-228-1636
 - August 21 – Yankton VFW Post #791, 209 S. Cedar, starting at 1:00 p.m. CST.
POC: Anna Arnold 314-435-5772
 - September 18 - Rapid City The American Legion Post 22, 818 E. Saint Patrick St., starting at 9:00 a.m. MT. POC C.P. Van Delist 605-210-0428
 - October 16 – Brookings The American Legion Post 74, 1229 Western Ave., starting at 1:00 p.m. CST. POC: Connie Johnson 605-651-3649
 - November 20 – Sioux Falls – DAV, 1519 W. 51st St, Sioux Falls, starting at 9:00 a.m. CST. POC: Marty Pennock 605-332-6866
 - Nov. 20 Legislative Roundtable – Sioux Falls, DAV – 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. CST
 - Nov. 21 Legislative Roundtable – Watertown, TAL Post 17
 - Nov. 22 Legislative Roundtable – Rapid City, TAL Post 22
 - Nov. 23 Legislative Roundtable - Pierre, TAL Post 8
 - January 15, 2025 – Pierre – TAL Post 8, 520 S. Pierre, SD 57501,
POC Kaitlyn 605-224-7681

New Business

- **C/TVSO** -Discussion included VP Anna Arnold obtaining the SDDVA policy on CTVSO accreditation.
- **Final Salute Miss Veteran America** – Hether Bormann is the CDR of WOTAF and is seeking support at the August Council Meeting. The Council supported this effort in 2022 with a donation of \$250.00.
- **Travel Pay Demonstration July Meeting** – The July Council meeting will include a briefing by a SME on filing for travel pay.
- **Progressive Insurance: Keys to Progress** - Since 2013, Progressive has been honoring veterans with vehicle donations through the Keys to Progress® veteran vehicle giveaway program. The one-day vehicle giveaway events happen annually and are a strong source of pride for everyone who works here. Employees across the country volunteer to select vehicles to donate, organize fundraising activities to collect money or goods to provide recipient families, and plan memorable vehicle giveaway events for the recipients.
This program is a way for us to come together as a company to give back to people who have given so much for our country.

Application information

The Keys to Progress veteran vehicle giveaway program provides support to those in need in the following areas:

Personal transportation support: Our hope is to offer a little relief and improve the lives of military men and women facing tough personal circumstances for which a vehicle may help — from finding employment or transporting children to and from school to getting to medical appointments or visiting loved ones.

Application for personal transportation needs will be accepted from 8:00 AM (local standard time) on Monday, April 1, 2024 to 11:59 PM (local standard time) on Friday, Aug. 2, 2024. If you want to request an application, send an email to: KeysToProgress@progressive.com.

Commercial vehicle needs: Vehicles also are available to help veteran-focused organizations and non-profits and veteran-owned small businesses.

Application for commercial vehicle needs will be accepted from 8:00 AM (local standard time) on Monday, April 1, 2024 to 11:59 PM (local standard time) on Friday, Aug. 2, 2024. If you want to request an application, send an email to: KeysToProgress@progressive.com.

Class 8 truck operator giveaway: Since 2022, a Class 8 semitruck also is gifted to one program recipient annually, typically in the fall of each year to help them start or expand their own truck operation.

Applications for the Class 8 truck operator giveaway will be accepted from 8:00 AM (local standard time) on Monday, March 4, 2024 to 11:59 PM (local standard time) on Monday, July 1, 2024. If you want to request an application, send an email to: KeysToProgress@progressive.com.

How to apply

If you want to request an application for any of these program areas, send an email to: KeysToProgress@progressive.com.

Good of the Order and Closing Comments

- 2023 GDY provided
- Lisa Cummings was recognized for her many years of work for Veterans, and this is her last Council meeting. The Council wished her well and thanked her.

On a motion by Marty Pennock (DAV) and seconded by Bill Flippo (MOPH) to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Marty Pennock, Secretary-Treasurer 6/27/24