



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., SIOUX FALLS
20 November 2024 – 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM CST
Microsoft Teams Meeting Information
Meeting ID: 281 504 409 876
Passcode: RXD8u4

Call to Order

President Johnson called to order the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prayer & Roll Call

Vice President Anna Arnold led the Council in opening prayer and conducted roll call of the Council showing the following members present and a Quorum was met. A current list of Council Members was provided date October 11th, 2024.

American Legion (TAL): C.P. Van DeList (TAL)

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW): Anna Arnold (VFW) and Dan Klimisch (VFW)

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

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH): Connie Johnson (MOPH) and Bill Flippo (MOPH)

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

Official Officers Excused: Fred Nelson (TAL), Kevin Morello (TAL), Glynis Collier (VFW), Buck Underwood (MOPH) Todd Rose (PVA), and Mike Olson (PVA)

Official Officers Attended Via Online: None

Welcome Distinguished Guests and Visitors – Secretary Whitlock plaque presentation and get-well card for Paul Weckman was passed around

Minutes of Last Meeting

President Johnson called on Treasurer Pennock to read the minutes from the October 16th, 2024, SDVC meeting.

On a motion by Terry Mayer (VVA 959) and seconded by Anna Arnold (VFW) to waive the reading of the minutes from the October 16th, 2024, SDVC meeting. Discussion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

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

Beginning Balance as of October 16th, 2024, was \$8,642.04, with zero deposits and \$100.00 of expenses leaving a balance, as of November 20th, 2024, of \$8,542.04.

October and November 2024 First Interstate Bank Statement were distributed.

There was postage items purchased in support of the legislative roundtables that need to be resourced. There were 154 color invitations mailed out at a total cost of \$169.40. These items were initially paid for by the DAV (154 color copies .07/copy; .30/envelope; .73/stamp)

On a motion by Marty Pennock (DAV) and seconded by Terry Mayer (VVA 959) to approve the purchase of postage items for a total of \$169.40 to be reimbursed to the DAV. Discussion. Motion carried.

A plaque was also purchased to recognize Secretary Whitlock for his years of service to South Dakota.

On a motion by Marty Pennock (DAV) and seconded by Anna Arnold (VFW) to approve the purchase of the plaque (\$34.59 to be reimbursed back to the DAV) to honor Secretary Greg Whitlock. Discussion. Motion carried.

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

Endowment Fund Report

President Johnson provided the endowment fund report. Ending Fund Balance November 18th, 2024, \$3,428,164.32. Handout Provided.

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.

VVA:

1054 – Phil Braeger

- 5K relief to North Carolina
- 3K to relief to Florida
- 2 K to relief to North City
- 22K relief to Native Veterans
- Work with DAV and VA with Transportation – VTS up in NE
- Membership up to 550-6000 – 12th Largest in United States
- 180K Donated in 5 years

959 – Terry Mayer

- POW/MIA Ceremony in Sept – 13th Ceremony
- Veterans Day Ceremony at the Alliance with Key Speakers

VFW: Dan Klimisch

- Voice Of Democracy Finished Up
- Supporting Teacher/LE/EMT/FF of the Year
- # 8 in the Nation Membership
- Legislative Meetings Jan 12-13 in Ft. Pierre AmericInn
- Yankton Post – Nov 28 – Chislic Feed at 5:30 p.m.

TAL: Bill Peters

- District Meetings Complete
- Boys State Coming Up
- Membership Steady

DAV: Kim Hubers

- Aug-Oct Busiest Time
- Preparing for Gifts to be Given at Christmas to the Patients at CLC
- Check Received from Tee it up from the Troops
- 727 Check Received – 57K
- Veterans Day – 2K Received from Girl – Filed of Flags
- DAV Scholarships Open Up in March
- May 25- Women Conference for Women
- Time to Unwind 6p-9p Dec 9th
- Hunting and Fishing Events throughout the Year
- Abbey of the Year in Nov Completed

MOPH: Bill Flippo

- Brookings County is now a Purple Heart County
- Veterans in the Classroom
- 21 December Winter Warrior Fest – McGlory Gardens
- Sponsored Several Hunters at Wings of Valor

PVA: Terry Paulsen

- Audit Wrapped Up
- Mike Olson at the National Conference in Orlando
- Wrapped up Fishing and Hunting events

Guest Speakers**SD Department of Veterans Affairs:**

- Erin Brown – SD State Cemetery Director
 - 898 Burials as of 20 November 2024
 - Irrigation has been done throughout the property
 - Wreaths Across America – December 14th, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.
- Brett Dickerson – SD Claims Director
 - Almost Up to Staff – 1 more to Hire
 - Claim #/s – 1000/Mo
 - Training Position Created
 - Outreach is Going well – West
- Greg Whitlock – SD Secretary
 - Thanked the Group
 - Veteran Home
 - 61 Resident in Nursing Care
 - 12 in the Domiciliary
 - Several Families ‘Interested’

Sioux Falls Veterans Administration Health Care System: Chief of Staff Dr. Timothy Pendergrass

PACT Act Update

- Recent PACT Act Outreach
 - Alliance in Sioux Falls - April 2024,
 - Watertown & Aberdeen – June 2024,
 - Show and Shine Car Show - August 14 - SFVAH.
- As of November 19, 2024:
 - 24,606 Unique Veterans screened.
 - 10,275 Unique Veterans reporting at least one exposure concern.
 - 42% of Veterans reporting exposure.

Compact Act Update (SF)

- 222 Veterans covered under the COMPACT ACT since January.
 - Currently 41 Veterans w/ active episode.
- COMPACT ACT
 - 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.
- 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 is related to the suicide crisis.

Construction Update

- Work is progressing on the 10-bed Hospice Cottage and we anticipate completion in the Spring of 2025

Business Office Update

Veteran Transportation Services:

Rides: as of 11/5/24

Total Rides: 272

VTS Rides: 207

3rd Party Rides: 65

Denials: 0

We have a new Ground Transportation contract which started 10/1/24.

Vendor – GovTranz

Beneficiary Travel:

Travel claims backlog = 811 claims (oldest date – 10/10/2024)

In Manual Review = 114

We have had a clerk resign. We now have 3 BT Clerks processing claims. Backfill is pending approval.

We are currently helping Fargo VAMC process the travel claims backlog due to being short-staffed and overwhelmed.

Watertown Driver

- Driver started on October 6, 2024, and has completed training.
- Completed 10 successful Veteran rides, several from South Dakota communities and one in Iowa.
- Anticipating the driver will travel outside of Watertown on a regular basis
- Planning to continue outreach to share the expansion of our services and increased capacity to help Veterans get rides for their care.

VHIC Card Project

- The project to assist Veterans without an approved ID to “Proof their identity” to have a Veteran ID (VHIC) Card requested/issued.
- Plan on working w/ S.D. State Dept. of Public Safety
 - Contact initiated to start collaboration but we have not received a response. We will continue to work with them to garner their assistance.

Community Care Update

- **Scheduling Numbers**

Average Daily Incoming:	189 Per Day	(FY25 - 5,292)
Average Daily Scheduled:	221 Per Day	(FY25 - 5,980)
Pending-Active LTE 2 Days:	97%	(FY25 - 97.2%)
FED to 1 st Scheduled Avg:	9.4 Days	*FY25 VISN BEST!*

- **Call Center Numbers**

Call Center Avg Incoming:	265 Per Day	(FY25 - 7,445)
Call Center Avg Wait Time:	33 Seconds	
Call Center Handle Rate:	98.14%	
Clinical Incoming/Outgoing:	326 Per Day	

- **Utilization of Call Center**

- Call center is the BEST way to reach us
 - **605-333-6800 Option 2.**
- Maintained 98% Handle Rate in FY24, with low hold time averages.

- **Community Care Copays**

- In July 24, VA resumed billing
 - 1st party copays for non-service connected care
 - 3rd party payers for Veterans who have billable health insurance and received care for non-service-connected care.
- All Veterans who obtained care in the community and are copayment required, just as if they had received care within a VA medical facility.
- Information for Veterans about managing their VA debt for copayment bills is available at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/pay-copay-bill/>

Home Health Update

For skilled and non-skilled services:

- In October 2024, we served 166 different Veterans which and conducted 937 total visits.
- Between October 1-24, we served 148 different Veterans and conducted 785 total visits.

(Numbers include each unique Veteran so some receive therapy only, skilled nursing services only, non-skilled only or combination of the 3. Have about 35 Veterans that receive all services.

- We openings for all services at this time.
- Current staffing:
 - 6 RN's
 - 2 LPN
 - 5 NA's
 - 2 PT's
 - 2 OT's

We will be piloting a new process where reauthorization requests for consults will be managed locally with Home Care Based Services instead of the VISN IDT team.

Medical Massage Treatment

- VISN23 workgroup developed standardized process for VISN23 to improve care equity care quality for VISN23 Veterans. This included a new consult template. Template includes contraindications/risks and specific conditions for massage therapist to treat.
 - Myofascial pain
 - Fibromyalgia
 - Cancer pain
 - Chronic low back pain
 - Other – reviewed by SME

- SEOC Updates 2/23/24
 - Now 12 initial visits in 90 days and
 - 12 continuation of care visits in 180 days if deemed medically beneficial

- SEOC Massage Overview
 - Allows for an initial 60-minute medical massage
 - Subsequent visits allow for 30 min maximum UNLESS there is documentation of a complex condition (medical condition with severe physical disability, multiple injuries, complicated injury)
 - Components of a successful course of Massage Therapy may include:
 - *Durable improvement in condition being treated, or
 - *Durable functional improvement demonstrated by the following: clinically meaningful improvement on validated disease-specific outcomes instruments; return to work; and/or documented improvement in activities of daily living, or
 - *Documented decreased utilization of medications and/or decreased need for other interventions for the condition being treated.
 - Medical massage is not a full-body spa treatment massage. It is a clinical therapy focused on a specific area of concern with the intent of improving the patient's symptoms/condition.
 - It is expected that most care will be completed within twelve (12) visits.
 - A Request for Services (RFS) can be submitted for clinical review and consideration IF additional visits are deemed **medically necessary** by the community provider.
 - Requests for additional services must include a detailed plan linked to time limited attainment of objective outcomes with documented justification relating to outcome utilizing standardized measures. Prior to authorization of additional visits for medical Massage Therapy, consider the inclusion of appropriate individualized active care strategies. (Self-care strategies, trialing PT, chiro or acupuncture)

Local happenings:

1. New massage consult
2. SME review = good news! Full chart review and having Veterans reevaluated by their VA care PCP/care team for possible referral to other disciplines for best outcomes. i.e. PT, Chiropractic or pain team
3. Interdisciplinary Team Meetings to discuss more complex cases.
4. Meeting with community vendors in person to provide education on SEOCs, indications and treatment outcome expectations.

ID.me and Login.gov Help Desk

- For Veterans who need assistance with the new login requirements for My HealthVet, va.gov, and VA Health and Benefits App
- Monday, Nov. 25, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 9, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Women Veterans Tele-Townhall

- Tonight (20 Nov 2024), 18:00
- Dr. Helm, Womens Health
- VBA benefits update
- Enrolled Women Veterans have received call with details on joining

Black Hill Veterans Administration Health Care System: Executive Director/CEO Spencer Mion

VA Black Hills Census

- Community Living Centers: 52 available beds, HS and FM have a census of 50 (increase of 2 beds in the last month).
- HS DOM: Census of 43. Continue to increase census (34 in Dec. 2023). Average is approx. 50 daily census.
- 17 day average to get Vets into the DOM. Reason for 17 day admit: Veterans need time prepping for the DOM, family Affairs, Employment, and Medical Clearance.

Care In The Community

- Black Hills has 1203 unscheduled consults.
- There are no unscheduled consults >30 days with no activity.
- No consults aged >180 days
- We have a call center so veterans don't have to leave voicemails open from 9-3
- 605-720-6830

Home Health/ Home Based Care Programs

- VA medical staff including Physician Assistants, Registered Nurses, Dietitians, Occupational Therapists, Psychologists, and Pharmacists travel to the homes of Veterans in rural communities.
- Reduced inpatient days by 84%.
- Reduced ER Visits 36.6% and ER admits 44%.
- HBPC Currently serving 312 Veterans (up from 218 in April. 2024)- HBPC has served over 382 Veterans since launch. 84 Veteran currently in Home Health.

PACT ACT FY24

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 18,712 veterans with 40% endorsing at least 1 exposure concern (Burn pit, Agent Orange, radiation). 82% of VABHHCS enrolled Veterans screened.
- 0 Veterans waiting over 30 days for follow-on care (Referral to VBA, registry information)

COMPACT Act

- Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care and Treatment. VA funded care for acute Mental Health crisis.
- VA Black Hills has assisted 151 Veterans with coverage under the COMPACT Act since implementation (Jan. 2023). Nationally 63,288 Veterans and former service members have used this benefit providing them with lifesaving care and saving more than \$64 million in health care costs.
- COMPACT ACT Coordinator assigned, Jessica Cornwell MSW.

Travel Claims

Current BTSSS backlog: 3800. This is being actively addressed. We have staff onboarding. 1 new hire, 1 onboarding.

*Staff away on leave, increase over the next 2 months.

Construction update – Hot Springs

- **PACT AREA UPGRADE**- The AE Renovate Bldg 12 for PACT (HS) . This upgrade will add approx. 6000 sqft to HS Primary Care and allow for same day access for Veterans in HS.
- **CLC Expansion**
- **Nurse Call and Overhead Page upgrades**

Construction updates – Fort Meade

- Renovate Inpatient 113 will consolidate inpatient care (ICU, Med/Surg, and sleep lab).
- The Upgrade MH Lock Ward Bld 148. Increase safety to the area.
- EHRM Infrastructure construction project ongoing. New fiber. New servers.

Dakotas Regional Office: Supervisory Staff Assistant Tracee Metcalf
Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

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 2,144,247 claims since the passage of the law. Decisions are being made as of January 1, 2023. VBA has already processed over 1,833,519 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) Presumptive*Bladder cancer**2Multiple Myeloma**Hodgkin's Disease**Chloracne**Peripheral Neuropathy**Respiratory Cancers**AL Amyloidosis**Hypothyroidism**Non-Hodgkin's Lymph.**Ischemic Heart Disease**Porphyria Cutanea Tarda**Soft Tissue Sarcomas**Diabetes Mellitus Type**Chronic B Cell Leukemias**Parkinsonism**Parkinson's Disease**Prostate Cance*

For Vietnam Agent Orange Exposure PACT Act new Presumptive:

- 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

Appointments can be made for in person or virtual by using the VERA link below:



U.S. Congressional Representative Liaison for Senator John Thune – Bruce Jones

Sen. Thune's Office DC update for SDVC Meeting 20NOV24

Israeli Arms Sale Votes: Sen. Bernie Sanders is expected to force votes this week on up to six joint resolutions of disapproval to block more than \$20 billion in offensive U.S. weaponry to Israel. The resolutions would block the sale of \$774 million in 120mm tank ammunition, \$550 million in tactical vehicles, \$262 million in joint direct attack munitions, and \$61 million in 120mm high explosive mortar rounds. It

would also block the sale of 50 F-35 aircraft and associated aircraft parts, including engines and radars, valued at \$18.8

billion, with delivery scheduled to begin in 2029. We expect a strong vote in support of Israel/against Sen. Sanders' efforts.

Nominations: Majority Leader Schumer is expected to tee up votes this week on several controversial judicial nominees that were approved on a party-line basis out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. We expect the Republican Conference to oppose all of these nominees.

U.S. Congressional Representative Liaison for Senator Michael Rounds – Keith Moore

The Senator is in the process of making his selection for his nominations to the United States Military Academies. We received 25 applications from students across the state.

The nominating-committee met two weeks ago to review the nominations and now the Senator doing a final review.

We are also soliciting applications for our spring interns.in both South Dakota and DC.

Our staff is traveling the state visiting with College and University students and financial aid officers to seek input on the Senator's proposed Affordable Student, Loan programm

The Senate is just coming off of an October recess and ,much of the discussion in DC is now on the election, nominations, etc.

The Senator has been busy doing interviews about next steps in Senate confirmation of Presidential nominations for cabinet level positions.

Seeks maximum H-28 work visas to support small businesses

U.S. Senators Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) and Angus King (I-Maine), alongside a bipartisan group of their colleagues, have written to the Department of Labor (DOL) and the Department of Homeland security (OHS) to release the maximum allowable number of additional H-28 visas for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025.

H-28 visas fill needs for American small businesses when there are not enough able and willing American workers to fill the temporary, seasonal positions. As required by law, employers must first make a concerted effort to hire American workers to fill open positions. When the local workforce is insufficient, H-28s are seen as a necessary tool to support local economies. Employers often spend more money to hire temporary H-28 workers, who are paid a prevailing wage as required by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Department of Education bill is getting dropped November 21st

Republicans are opposing all judicial nominations/nominees

Working on a Resolution of the definition of highly rural transportation grants

U.S. Congressional Representative Liaison for Representative Dusty Johnson – Chelsea Schull

Dusty voted for H.R. 8371 – *Elizabeth Dole Act*, which passed the House yesterday nearly unanimously 389-9. This bill provides for broad reforms in veterans health care and benefits. According to a CBO cost estimate, implementing H.R. 8371 would reduce direct spending by \$1 billion over the 2025-2034 period.

Top-line summary:

- This bill takes many steps to streamline the Veterans Community Care Program including improving the patient scheduling system, addressing the lack of dental treatment availability, improving outreach and education to Veterans, and establishing patient data sharing between the VA and HHS.
- Addresses the challenges of long-term care by increasing financial assistance for nursing home alternatives, establishing a program to provide in-home care services, and addresses the shortages of home health aides.
- Acknowledges caregivers by awarding grants for mental health care for caregivers, requires a GAO report on mental health support for caregivers and any lack of necessary support resources.
- Provides resources to Native American veterans to purchase, construct, improve, or refinance their homes located on federal trust land, and makes loans to Native community development financial institutions for the purpose of providing loans to qualified Native American veterans.
- Increases per diem support for homeless veterans and allows the VA to assist with bedding, shelter, food, hygiene items, blankets, and rideshare to medical appointments.

Dusty is a cosponsor of HR 7504 *Rural Veterans Transportation to Care Act*. It is awaiting action by House Committee on Veterans' Affairs subcommittee on Health. This bill expands the current "highly rural" transportation grants to "rural" areas of travel for VA appointments.

Top line summary:

This legislation would:

- Expand eligibility for the HRTG Program to both rural and highly rural counties.
 - This would make about 25 more counties eligible in SD
- Includes tribal organizations as eligible recipients.
- Increases the maximum HRTG funding amount from \$50,000 to \$60,000, or up to \$80,000 for grantees to purchase an ADA-compliant vehicle.

We have our service academy interviews in 2.5 weeks. We're looking forward to getting to know those candidates.

Our Green & Gold Fellow position is still open. Our primary goal is to fill the position in Sioux Falls, however, we're able to hire in Rapid City instead if need be. More information and the application can be found: <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/774752000>

Dusty has honored over 1,000 Vietnam veterans. Our next ceremony is in Garretson on Tuesday at 10:00 AM. As a reminder, the DOD sunsets this program next year so please spread the word and get your fellow veterans signed up on our website or by calling the office.

Unfinished Business

Secretary position is still open – No nominations

New Business

- Transportation: VVA Bob Frink – Resolution 177 Attached

Anna Arnold (VFW) made a motion and Gene Murphy (DAV) seconded to support resolution 177. Discussion. Motion carried

- Upvote: Vice President Arnold

Upvote is an AI legislative tracking platform, a short video was given. The company is willing to give the Council the platform for \$1,500.00, with technical support.

On a motion by Terry Mayer (VVA 959) and seconded by Phil Braeger (VVA 1054) to approve the expenditure of funds to purchase the upvote platform. Discussion.

On a motion by Dan Klimisch (VFW) and seconded by CP Van Delist (TAL) to table the motion. Motion carried.

The Council approved the amended motion to table the issue and gather more information on the platform such as competitive information and capabilities. This would be done prior to the start of the 2025 legislative session.

- Review of Council Supported Bills -
 - Reduced Tuition Bill – Not an agency Bill
 - Credit of Military Service Towards College Credit
 - Resolution 177

On a motion by Bob Frink (VVA 1054) and seconded by Phil Braeger (VVA 1054) to only approve resolutions or bills in writing before voting going forward. Discussion. Motion failed.

PVA – Y / VVA – Y / DAV - N - / TAL - N / VFW—N / MOPH -N

Good of the Order and Closing Comments

Newsletter thoughts going forward - quarterly

Website Discussion

Next Meeting January 15th, - TAL Post 8 – Pierre, SD 2p-5p.

Closing Prayer

Vice President Anna Arnold provided a closing prayer.

Honors to the American Flag and Adjournment

President Johnson rendered honors to the flag.

On a motion by Terry Paulsen (PVA) and seconded by Gene Murphy (DAV) to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.