

President Ben Lamp called the meeting to order at 1336 hours on 16 February 2006 at the Ramkota Inn in Pierre, SD.

Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

New guest present was the new State CSM Michael Bekaert.

A motion was made by John Ball and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Funk to accept the minutes of the minutes from the fall meeting as printed in the ECHO. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ed Revell to deviate from the printed agenda and Craig Towns 2<sup>nd</sup> that motion. Motion carried to deviate from the agenda if necessary.

Ed Revell gave the Treasurers Report in Nancy Ausland's absence. The Army and Air Guard are split out into separate line items for general membership. We had about \$100 left over from the Veterans Honor March. There will be an itemized report at the State Conference. Ed Revell made motion mad a motion to accept the report as read and John Ball 2<sup>nd</sup> that motion. Motion carried.

#### Committee Member At Large

Area 1 Representative, Dale Greenfield, had nothing to report for membership. He did mention that he is moving to another area, so Area 1 will be open for nominations at the State Convention.

Area 4 Representative, Scott Schmitt, reported the Air Guard is at 65 – 70% but he needed more information from the Area 4 representative for a better number.

Area 3 Representative, Michael Schwans, had nothing to report.

#### Committees

Publications Committee: Ed Revell gave the report for Nancy Ausland. The ECHO is changing and we are doing the layout all ourselves. We are still selling advertising space in the ECHO if someone wants to advertise, the cost is \$75 for a whole year. They just need to get a business card or the advertisement to Nancy Ausland or Julie McRenolds. All of the proceeds from the advertisements will go toward the Association. The cost of producing the ECHO is going from \$3000 to about \$1000. A lot of people did a lot of work to find a new publisher and we now have a new editor for the ECHO, so thanks for everyone's hard work.

Resolutions Committee: Bruce Anderson is the POC for resolutions. There was discussion about the process of bringing a resolution to the Association. Ben Lamp deviated to New Business. Last year at National Convention there was a lot of discussion and resolutions presented in regards to moral issues such as abortion, death penalty, etc. This year Texas is proposing a resolution to allow gays in the military and the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy be stricken. At the National Conference it will be brought up again in regards to standards. We need to discuss this at the State Conference so the representatives at the National Convention will know what position South Dakota will take.

Awards Committee: Wayne Fokken was not present, but there will be awards given at the State Conference. Awards that are given out are listed on the Website. If you want to give an award, get the information to the President before the start of the Conference. Airman of the Year are: Senior NCO –

Jennifer Reecy, NCO – Zona Hornstra, & Airman – Jeremy Van Cleave. Soldier of the Year are: NCO – Clay Reese & Soldier – Randi Frank.

Athletic Committee: Josh Wermers had nothing to report but asked everyone planning an athletic activity to get him the information ahead of time. He will be making a presentation at the conference so get in touch with him prior to the Conference.

Position Evaluation will be conducted at the Conference.

Credentials Committee: If a unit will not be at the State Conference, we need to make sure we get a proxy. The credentials committee will meet at 1600 hrs on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Budget Committee: in line with the Treasurer's report. Looks like we will be coming in under budget this year.

Time & Place Committee: 2006 Convention will be co-located with the Officer Convention in Sioux Falls

2007 Convention – Huron

2008 Convention – Black Hills unit will be sponsoring

2009 Convention – Mitchell is possibly looking at sponsoring

Ways & Means Committee: Nothing to report

Insurance Committee: Ed Revell reported that we did receive \$5500 again this year, but need to encourage our members to sign up for the insurance. The easiest way to do this is have Jim McEwen come to the next SRP your unit has. This will give him a chance to talk to the soldiers and airmen and get them signed up.

Scholarship Committee: All applications are due to Randy Decker by 1 March 06. All applications are on the Website. There are also auxiliary scholarships. If you are an auxiliary member and are interested in those scholarships, please contact Barb Kocer.

Membership Committee: Ben Lamp reported that we had 2677 members as of 16 February. There was 2667 on 31 January. We did pick up a few more life members, but we need to make sure we keep the retirees as a part of our Association. . We will bring changing our membership cutoff date from 31 January to 31 December so we have current years representation at the National Conference.

Nominations Committee: We will have quite a few positions coming open at the State Conference this year. We should have 2 or 3 people from each branch nominated for each position, so start talking to your members and get them to run for a position.

Legislative Report: Don List gave the report on current Legislative Bills. All the Bills are available for review on our Website.

State Conference Sponsorship: Bruce Anderson needs the names of soldiers if you would like the Association to sponsor them for the Conference. They need to be a 1<sup>st</sup> time Conference attendee.

Constitution & By-laws: John Mimmack discussed voting on Article 3 section 2 at the conference which deals with voting as a block and splitting votes. There will be discussion at the State Conference.

Young Hero's Committee: Craig Towns will give this report at the Conference.

All Committee Reports were accepted as given.

### Old Business

The Black Hills Veterans Honor March was discussed. This year we had a lot of 1 time expenses, so next year we should make a lot more. Next year's march will be 23 September 2006. We expect to have a lot more marchers next year, so we will also need a lot more volunteers if anyone would like to help.

John Mimmack gave an overview of the schedule of events for the 2006 State Conference at the Sheraton Hotel & Convention Center in Sioux Falls on 27-29 April 2006.

Everyone is encouraged to sponsor 1 person or bring someone with you to the conference. Also challenge each unit to sponsor a 1<sup>st</sup> time attendee at the conference this year.

If anyone has a Red Book, please keep it up to date or give it to Bruce Anderson and he will update it for you.

If you have anything to go on the Website make sure you get the information to the Webmaster.

### New Business

The Officers Association would like to start up a Website and are asking if we would share our space with them. This will be presented to us at the State Conference.

Make sure everyone is talking with our congressmen. Congressmen have a military representative that works for them. If you need their contact information, please contact Ben Lamp.

General Gorman wanted to thank everyone in the Enlisted Association for helping put on the Legislative Dining Out.

The museum is currently full and there has been talk of looking for a new location for the museum.

Area V Caucus – will be in Fargo, ND on 19-20 May, 2006. Registration forms are available if you would like to attend.

There was discussion on shortening the length of the State Conference in order to get higher attendance. It was presented to do a Friday – Saturday conference instead of Thursday – Saturday.

Don List reported that the Legislative Workshop will be March 5-9 in Washington D.C. If interested in attending, please contact Ben Lamp.

Ben Lamp also brought up a letter that was sent out by Governor Rounds to get Vietnam Era Veterans to register for the Vietnam War Memorial on 15-16 September. If you know of a vet encourage them to register.

Next meeting will be on April 27th, 2006 at 1430 hrs in Sioux Falls at the Sheraton Inn.

A motion was made by Bruce Anderson to adjourn the meeting and Craig Towns 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.  
Meeting was adjourned at 1615 hours.