

President Wayne Fokken called the meeting to order at 1400 hours on 14 February 2008 at the Ramkota Inn in Pierre, SD.

Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

There were several guests present, Maj. Gen. Doohen, two officers to talk about combined Web site information, CSM Bekaert, Command Chiefs Munger and Welch.

There was a motion made by Bruce Anderson and seconded by Don Stewart to accept minutes as printed in the ECHO. Motion passed.

Maj. Gen. Doohen was introduced by President Fokken. Maj. Gen. Doohen thanked those members that were present. He encouraged the E-9/10s to ask the younger members to attend the functions. Maj. Gen. Doohen talked about the different issues that have come up in legislation the past year and how we, as an organization, can effect what the legislation does.

Nancy Ausland gave the Treasurers report. She handed out a balance sheet along with a profit/loss hand out. There are some memberships coming through, so some numbers may change a bit. A motion was made by Roger Hansen so accept the treasurers report, it was seconded by Bob Funk, motioned passed.

Committee at Large Reports

Area 2 Representative: Membership drive is going well. They plan on doing some personal visits to units.

Area 5 Representative: The Air guard shows that there are 17 areas of base eligible, 73% of base. That puts the base down a little bit from last year.

Committees

Conference President Fokken and Gary Kafka will take care of the awards this year.

Constitution and By-laws Please take a look at the position evaluations for the veteran's honor march.

Time and Place Co-location of the enlisted conference and officer conference was discussed. It focused on how often and where it would be held. The last minutes were looked at to get information about what was talked about before. Having the conferences located in the same community but at different locations was preferred. Hosting the conferences every two or three years was agreed upon. A motion was made by Nancy Ausland to expect to take the offer the officers made, having a co-located conference starting in 2010, seconded by John Mimmack.

Resolutions We need to make sure that we have good resolutions in order to take them to the next national conference. Please get some written for the conference.

Publications There have been some problems with the ECHO but it is getting fixed. The data base is being updated with the correct information. The next ECHO will be printed on March 15th. Please get the correct information to Nancy Ausland and sell some adds.

Nominations There will be some positions opening and we would like to get these filled. If you have any names, please get them to Ed Revel.

Young Heroes There have been seven so far. A few have been done at the Air Guard and they took pictures with the jets and really enjoyed it. We are looking to do more of these in their environment, such as schools. It was discussed if they could be presented at the State Conference. It will be looked into to see if it can be done.

Legislative There have been several bills going through the state legislature concerning the military. Several have passed and others are still in committee. One that is still being considered is concerning the new armory in Mobridge; another is to reduce license fees for special license plates for disabled veterans, POWs, Pearl Harbor survivors and Purple Heart recipients; a House Concurrent Resolution was introduced to make March 29th, 2008 declared as Vietnam Veterans Day in South Dakota. Please contact you legislators and ask for their support on the C-17 aircraft funding in the 2008 Defense Bills. A special thank you to the Lists for all of their hard work.

State Conference Sponsorship Currently, there is one nomination from the Air side and we are looking for more nominations. The rank restriction has gone away, but we do ask for them to write on article for the ECHO.

Scholarship Applications on now on line and we are looking for people to apply. The Auxiliary scholarships will be available on line as well. Please get the word out so we can have people apply for these scholarships.

Membership To date we are currently standing at 3290 paid and life members for 80% of authorized members have paid their duties for this year. Last year we had 3024 paid members. Members paid by rank are: E7-E9 439; E5-E6 154; and E1-E4 1044. The state association receives \$11 for each member of E7-E9, \$6 for E5-E6 and \$1 for E1-E4. This year, we have had 9 members become life members with one of these are a Retired Army, 4 from the Army, and 4 from Air. We have 37 units that have achieved over 90% paid membership. We also have 12 units that are under 50% membership.

Investment Last year in April, we invested \$7000 in a CD. This will make us a few hundred dollars. The question was asked if we would like to re-invest this money or not. Last year right before the Veteran's Honor March the books were a little low, so many would like to see the money put towards that account. The committee will look into this and report on it at the State Conference.

Veteran's Honor March Most of the same committees were kept. We would like to have more volunteers for the March. The next march is set for September 20th, 2008. Our numbers keep increasing and we like to see that. Each MACOM has a rest stop and we need people to volunteer to work them. Due to the deployments we need to have more volunteers. Please get a team together or volunteer.

Website There was not a lot to report about, but we would like to discuss what the officers talked about at the beginning of the meeting. They would like to see a joint website where we can use each other's data bases and get more retirees involved with in the EANGUS and NAGUS. The Army would like to see more retiree functions such as what the Air Guard does with Retiree Coffees. This was tabled until April.

Junior Enlisted The Army Junior Enlisted is trying to find individuals to attend the state and national conferences but there are several deployments right now and there are few members that are able to attend. Pat Jones, the current Army Junior Enlisted representative will be promoted and unable to continue his position. All those interested to hold this position are encouraged to contact Pat for further information. The Air side has been very busy this year. Three members attended the national conference in August. They have been doing several fundraisers and are looking forward to sending several members to the state and national conference. New officers will be elected at March UTA and sworn in during April UTA.

There was a motion made by Don Stewart and seconded by Scott Schmidt to pass the committee reports.

Old Business

ECHO deadline is 15Feb.

Please help to keep the Website updated.

We have bid for the 2011 National Conference. This does not mean that we WILL host it, but that the bid team will visit South Dakota and see if we can host the conference. We need people to help with this process.

Bruce Anderson talked about the C3/C19 progress. He spoke with an IRS agent that gave him some reference material to review and will send additional information in the mail. We need to re-file a few documents and do some paper work because there has not been paper work filed for a number of years. If we want to have our deductibility status, at least 90% of our membership needs to consist of war veterans (which means ..'persons, whether or not present members of the U.S. Armed Forces, who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces during a period of war...").

Membership 100% plaques are getting to be expensive. It was discussed about getting certificates with the percentage on it for the unit to display. The numbers will also be printed in the ECHO. We are out of 20 year pins and we need to purchase more.

New Business

There was a motion to get a lap top for the treasure. The discussion was about what we would purchase and how often it would be replaced and/or updated. It was suggested to wait until the next treasurer was elected and see what their resources would be. Motion failed.

Suggestions were given about the uniforms that would be worn at the State conference. President Fokken will decide and make an announcement before the conference.

The next executive council meeting will be set once we talk with the state conference staff and see what works for them.

A motion was made by Bruce Anderson and seconded by Roger Hansen to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 1635 hours.