

SDNGEA Executive Council Meeting
23 April 2009

Lake Sharpe Meeting Room, Ramkota Best Western Hotel, Pierre, SD

Meeting called to Order by President Kafka at 3:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions of Special Guests by President Kafka

Nancy Ausland read roll call of Executive Council. It is determined we have a quorum.

Minutes of the last council meeting held in February 2009 were printed in the Spring issue of the Enlisted ECHO. Motion by Roger Hansen to accept minutes as printed. Second by Ed Revell. Carried.

Treasurers Report. No written report given. A detailed report will be given out at Friday's meeting at the annual conference.

Neil Harris gave the Insurance Program/Committee Report on behalf of the Insurance Trust. Report passed out to members. Report outlines the participation in the Insurance program from 2005 to current. Looking for valid POC's for each unit to coordinate a benefits briefing. Please get names to Neil Harris for correct POC's. Motion by Eisenbraun to accept. Carried.

Committees that will be holding meetings tomorrow, get your times for those meetings to Jim Poppen so he can post these times on the board at registration.

BHVHM committee report given by Ted Deloy. A table will be set up for registration at the conference. A full report will be given at the conference. Registrations have started to trickle in, support the march by purchasing a t-shirt, etc at their table. Good National exposure in the last issue of the New Patriot thanks to Ted Deloy and Gary Kafka for submitting article and photos. Motion by Revell to accept. Carried. Legislative Report given by Don List. Money crunch is on, so keep in touch with your representatives so we don't lose their support. Motion by John Ball to accept report as given. Comments by Scholten on Tri-care issues and encourages us to show our support to keep it going. Report accepted.

No Young Hero presentation at this year's conference.

Ways and Means report will be given at the conference but members need to know that a dues increase will be proposed and there will be a Ways and Means committee meeting Thursday evening after the council meeting for those who want to attend. President Kafka comments on the National Associations intent to raise national dues. We will need to keep this in mind when raising our dues.

Membership report is given by Jim Poppen. Complete written report will be filed with the minutes of this meeting and a more complete report will be given at the conference. Motion to accept by Pat Jones. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Workshop report given by Dale Greenfield. Greenfield passed out a report on the area covered during his visit 1-5 March. He gained a good understanding of how things work in D.C. and recommends we keep sending members when we can.

Legislative Visit scheduled for Enlisted members on 30 March was cancelled due to snow storm. Not sure if it will be rescheduled, will get the word out if President Kafka hears something.

Area V meeting is coming up May 28-31 and right now Bruce Anderson, Gary Kafka, Don & Marlys List, and John Ball will be attending. They will bring back information on the National Conference being held in Rochester, MN in August. Area V dues will be discussed and hopefully a more equitable amount will be paid by our state in the future for Area V dues.

Air Guard members will not be available for the BHVHM due to a mandatory UTA that weekend. The Army Guard will need to step up numbers and also take over some of the coordination that the Air Guard did. Some retired members of the Air Guard will be available to help.

Discussion is held on National Conference possibly being held in South Dakota in one of the upcoming years. This was based on a previous proposal when we tried to host the 40th Anniversary National Conference for 2011 that did not go through. Pat Jones will share information with the Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau on how they should go about working with National to see if they can qualify in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Gloria Doohen has requested from our Association to support a program that is being purposed to help support the OEF/OIF Hero Fund which will make banners for the families of those who have lost a loved one in the war. Tabled for further discussion after the council members have had time to review.

501c19 Status update given by Bruce Anderson. Lawyer was hired to look into changing our status to a War Veterans Association so that we can become tax exempt. A complete report of the changes that we must make in order to make this happen will be filed with the minutes of this meeting. Review of changes by Bruce Anderson. Discussion. This will be brought before the members of the body during the state conference. After discussion a motion is made by Bob Aiken to get an IRS ruling on the exact definition of a "war veteran" to ensure we can meet the 90% membership to get the IRS 170(c) status (this will allow anyone who makes a donation to our association the ability to write off the donation with the IRS) and then we will change our membership dues sheets, etc.. Second by Revell. Carried.

Roger Hansen reported on Scholarship applications and has had all applications reviewed and will announce the winners of the scholarships during this weekend's conference. The scholarships that will be awarded are the Mallow Memorial Scholarship, Duke Corning Memorial Scholarship, and USAA Scholarship.

Tri-West has contacted the Association to make a donation this year and help support our association in the future.

Executive Council Members positions were discussed and if you want to run for a position, please get your name to the positions evaluation committee chair Wayne Fokken.

Neil Harris passed out a flyer from the Black Hills Health Care System and how we can help the Veterans.

Upcoming Events:

National Conference 9-12 August 2009 in Rochester, MN was discussed and who will be attending. More info to follow after Area V Caucus meeting end of May.

AG's Golf Tourney – 15 August 2009

National Guard Fishing Tournament – August 22-23, 2009

4:50 p.m...Motioned by Don List to adjourn. Second by Roger Hansen.