



**Vietnam Veterans of America
Northern Warriors Chapter 941
16 April 2012
Kelly Inn-3800 Main Ave., Fargo, ND
1900 Hours**

Meeting called to order at 1900 by President Art Williams

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of silence for POW's and MIA's

Prayer by Wayne Wermager followed by Ray Bransititer

Members present: Jan Jorgensen, David Brunsvold, Dean Kroulik, Russ Stabler, Dave Seifert, Les Bakke, Ray Branstiter, Ronn DuRand, Dave Rice, Larry Nicholson, Wayne Ellefson, Wayne Wermager, Larry Reed and Art Williams. AVVA members present: Leslie Lewis, Ron Martin and Joe Bennett

Announcements: We have a guest speaker tonight, Les, from the Salvation Army who works with homeless veterans thanks to a grant funded until the end of September 2012. It is a year to year grant which he hopes will continue. Veterans who cannot be served are those who received less than an honorable discharge from the service. Thirty percent of the homeless veterans in the region are veterans and five currently are females. Les can be contacted through the Salvation Army at 232-5565. This program will pay rent, deposits, utility bills and other financial assistance.

Treasurer's Report: David Brunsvold reported an ending balance of \$10,714.36. Arlen Blumer was given \$500.00 as a contribution toward a Korean Veteran reunion he is planning. Arlen became an AVVA life member.

Stabler/DuRand, report passed.

Secretary's Report: Jan read minutes from last meeting and made note of corrections. Minutes have been corrected to show. Seifert/Wermager, report passed.

Membership Report: Larry Nicholson gave report of 26 AVVA members and 97 VVA. Wayne Wermager noted in a town east of Waubun, Minnesota would be a good place to have a function to draw members from that part of state. He suggested June on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday. Wayne is from that region. It was also noted that our member Dave Rice, Navy, was the last Vietnam veteran to retire after over 42 years in the service. Well done Dave. Seifert/DuRand, report passed.

Public Affairs Report: Wayne Ellefson gave report on the Vietnam Recognition Day that took place at the AMVETS post 1 in Fargo. Many VVA membership applications were passed out. On 31 March, veteran Erik Martz interviewed Ed Ahonen and Dave Brunsvold on his radio show on WDAY called Heroes of the Heartland. Reed/Stabler, report passed

Color guard Report: It was voted on by chapter that we will no longer participate in the Sabin Days due to lack of respect for the colors. This decision came as a complete surprise to some who were not included in the process. Many people along the parade route were noted to be sitting when the colors passed by. The American Legion, as noted by Dave Rice, will also be bowing out of any upcoming parades. Seifert/DuRand, motion passed.

Russ checked on prices for replacement poles for the second set of flags as well as belts to carry flags. A motion was passed to contact company where flagpoles were purchased to see if a refund could be given or some help in buying new poles. A motion was also passed to go ahead and buy 3 belts.

Seifert/Ellefson, motion passed.

Russ is now a member of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Committee. He read the minutes from the last meeting he attended.

Old business: Art Williams is withdrawing name from nomination for president.

New nominations for president: Dave Brunsvold

Vice president: Larry Reed

Treasurer: Dave Brunsvold

Secretary: Jan Jorgensen

Membership: Larry Nicholson, Russ Stabler

Public Affairs: Wayne Ellefson

Voting will be done in May with officers taking over in June.

Chaplain issue; the national bylaws say there must be 30 days notice given for a new position being started. Therefore last month began the thirty day notice the chapter was given.

Motion passed that we accept national bylaws for our chapter. Brunsvold/Reed

Chaplain: Wayne Wermager and Ray Branstiter nominated for position

DuRand/Ellefson, motion passed

New Business:

Les Bakke and Wayne Wermager are working on non-profit status of our chapter. 503 (c)3 status

Ellefson/Nicholson, motion passed

USS Block Island: motion was made to purchase coffee cups to be given out at reunion and any extra can be sold.

Motion passed to support the national convention of the VVA to be held here in Fargo.

Five sets of color guard patches will be ordered for future participants. Ellefson/Rice, passed.

1 May 2012 the SSBN North Dakota will be having a reunion which Dave Rice will attend as well as President Art Williams.

Dave Seifert recommends the chapter have a government affairs officer. This job would go into the Vice President's portfolio. Motion made and carried. Seifert/ Durand.

Motion to adjourn. Seifert/Ellefson at 2020

Next meeting, 21 May 2012

Respectfully submitted by Jan Jorgensen, secretary