

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Northern Warriors Chapter 941
15 Sept 2014
Kelly Inn 3800 Main Ave, Fargo, ND
1900 Hours**

Meeting was called to order by President Larry Nicholson

Pledge of allegiance

Moment of silence for POW'S and MIA'S

Prayer by Russ Stabler

Members present; Bob Mandt, David Brunsvold, Jan Jorgensen, Larry Reed, Steve Parradis, Les Forman, Paul Hydman, Ed Ahonen, Bill Peterson, Duke Johnson, Bruce Knopp, Don Nicklay, Mitch Campbell, Mark Helfter, Russ Stabler, Les Bakke, Wayne Ellefson, Larry Nicholson, Larry Kessel. AVVA Members Hella Helfter, Dan Thorstad.

Approval of agenda:

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Russ Stabler, second by Les Bakke. Motion carried..

Approval of the minutes.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Russ Stabler, second by Les Bakke. Motion carried.

Treasurers report.

Beginning balance		\$14,237.44
Total deposits	\$ 241.00	
Total expenditures	(\$2,452.10)	
Interest	\$ 00.12	
 Ending balance		 \$12,026.46

A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Larry Reed, second by Russ Stabler. Motion carried.

Color guard report:

Commander Russ Stabler reported that the color guard participated in th following events.

Aug 23	Barnsville Potato Days parade
Sept 5	Greater Moorhead Days parade
Sept 7	Leonard Days parade
Sept 11	Veterans Memorial Bridge to commemorate 13 th anniversary of 9/11.
Sept 11	6 th annual Andrew Nelson cross country tournament, sponsored by Shanley High School.
Sept 13	MSUM football game

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Line-up	Start
Sept 20	West Fest parade, West Fargo	1200	1300
Sept 23	MSUM volleyball game	1830	1900
Sept 26	MSUM volleyball game	1830	1900
Sept 27	MSUM homecoming parade	1030	1100
Sept 27	MSUM homecoming football game	1330	1400

Sept 27	MSUM volleyball game	1630	1700
Oct 10	MSUM volleyball game	1830	1900
Oct 11	MSUM football game	1315	1400
Oct 11	MSUM volleyball game	1630	1700
Oct 18	MSUM football game	1215	1300
Oct 24	MSUM volleyball game	1830	1900
Oct 25	MSUM volleyball game	1830	1900
Oct 28	MSUM volleyball game	1830	1900

Motion to approve color guard report was made by Bob Mandt, second by Les Bakke. Motion carried.

Membership report:

AVVA members 46
VVA members 210

New transfer member to AVVA, Barb Malzahn.

Membership chair Jan Jorgensen comments, she has continued to send out letters to 11 members asking for renewals as well as DD 214s.

A motion to accept the membership report was made by Russ Stabler, second by Mitch Campbell. Motion carried.

Public Affairs Report

Chairman Wayne Ellefson reports that in visiting with Janelle Sitz, a VA volunteer service representative that VVA individuals can volunteer for group activities however they must be vested at a national level.

Wayne also left a message with activities director Brenda Elijah of the Lisbon Soldiers Home that chapter 941 and possibly members from the Lisbon chapter 374 would like to assist in activities at the soldiers home or wherever needed.

Motion to accept the public affairs report was made by Russ Stabler, second by Mark Helfter. Motion carried.

Legislative Report

Chairman Russ Stabler reports the VA Inspector General report on Phoenix indicates that VA still has problem however most of the patients that died would have died any way due to delays

Department of Veterans Affairs update says there are still chances for upgrade for those applying for PTSD claims.

Motion to accept the Legislative Report was made by Jan Jorgensen, second by Mitch Campbell. Motion carried.

Old Business

Agent Orange Report

Ed Ahonen reports members need to keep track or all bases and duty stations where agent orange or other defoliant may have been used to support possible claims.

VAVS Report

Les Forman reported he is still waiting for the VVA national group to send a request to the Fargo VA for membership on their volunteer group. Once that is received members can officially volunteer at the hospital. Each volunteer is required to go through a background check and get a photo ID.

Bike night/Valley vintage car

Our final bike/car night of the season was held at the VFW in Dilworth on Sept. 11th. There were 3 bikes and 20 cars on display.

Money Contributions

Russ Stabler chairman of the donations committee made the following recommendations.

\$200.00	Suicide Prevention
\$250.00	Homeless Veterans (Gladys Ray Shelter).
\$400.00	Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

A motion to approve recommended donations was made by Les Forman, second by Larry Reed. Motion carried.

Chairman Stabler is asking for more information on the Oral History request, and committee is implementing a questionnaire to be filled out for every request for donation.

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

Reminder of the VFW, American Legion raffle and bingo being held Oct 22, 23, 24, at the Moorhead Legion and the Dilworth VFW. Proceeds going to VAMC Fargo, and Fergus Falls Vets home Rec. funds.

Plaque status update

Duke Johnson reported plaque for Moorhead high school of those who were killed in the Vietnam War is completed and a date needs to be set up for presentation to the high school.

New Business

USS Block Island

President Nicholson reported two events being considered for reunion are genealogy and native dancers. He requested chapter consider new ideas for activities and make them available at the next meeting.

Special Guest

Dan Thorstad Veteran Service Officer for the state of North Dakota was introduced. Dan spoke on some of the problems and solutions of Veteran Affairs Offices. Small counties often do not have staff to push claims through. It is better to go through larger staffed offices. Claims and appeals are taking longer in general these days. Dan also stated, we can file claims with whatever organization we choose (VVA, American Legion, VFW, ETC.) and not to let agencies to one or the other.

Next meeting to be held Kelley Inn Fargo at 1900 on 20 Oct 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 2010 with a salute to the flag.

Respectfully submitted by:

R. D. Mandt
Secretary