

Vietnam Veterans of America
Northern Warriors Chapter 941
21 March 2016
Biltmore/Kelly Inn 3800 Main Ave., Fargo, ND
1900 Hours

Meeting 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, Ronn DuRand, Gary Arth, Kevin Tegtmeier, Lyn D. Birkeland, Jerry Halmrast, Larry Reed, Joe Wallevand, Larry Kessel, Mark Helfter, D.J. Guerrero, Paul Hyndman, Bob Miller, Leo Almedia, Russ Stabler, Steve Perreault, Larry Nicholson, David Brunsvold, Les Forman, Gerald Henke. AVVA: Hella Helfter, Judy Devitt, Wayne Possehl

Introductions:

Members went around the room and introduced themselves.

Joe Wallevand read a poem. Art Forms for PTSD

Approval of the Agenda:

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Larry Reed, Second by Russ Stabler. Motion carried.

Approve the Minutes:

A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Larry Reed, second by Scott Halmrest. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Dave Brunsvold reported:

Beginning Balance		\$12,378.50
Deposits	Membership – Saewert	\$ 100.00
	Sales	\$ 65.00
	Donation – Bell	\$ 50.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS		\$ 215.00
Expenditures	ND Secretary of State Fee - #1574	\$ 15.00
	L. Nicholson – Copies/Postage - #1575	\$ 74.86
	Copy Kat – Forms - #1576	\$ 5.34
	R. DuRand – Casino Night - #1577	\$ 67.98
	D. Brunsvold – Flowers - #1578	\$ 62.28
	D. Brunsvold – Business Cards - #1579	\$ 53.44
	D. Brunsvold – Ink/Copies - #1581	\$ 79.51
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 358.41
Interest Earned		\$ 0.09
Ending Balance		\$12,235.18

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Russ Stabler, second by Ronn DuRand. Motion carried.

Public Affairs Report:

Chair Les Forman Reports:

- VA looking for volunteers to serve cake and handout pins for Vietnam Veterans Day on the 29th of March from 0800 to 1200
- Blackjack at the VA was held on Wednesday, 16 March 2016

A motion to approve the Public Affairs Report was made by Russ Stabler second by Ronn DuRand. Motion Carried.

Membership Report:

Chair Russ Stabler reported, national office running behind on membership due to volume of Life Members caused by \$100.00 life time fee. They anticipated 2500 new members and received over 8000. National board of directors voted to permanently keep the \$100.00 life time membership fee due to success.

Latest VVA 941 Membership report:

VVA	Individual 1 or 3 year	67
	Life	153
	Hospitalized	2
	New	2
	Not Paid	2
	Pending	2
	Transfer	4
	TOTAL	226

Motion to approve the membership Report was made by Bob Mandt, second by Gary Arth. Motion carried.

Color Guard Report:

Completed Events:

February 19	MSUM Women's and Men's Basketball Games
February 20	MSUM Women's and Men's Basketball Games
February 21	MSUM Wrestling
February 24	MSUM Women's and Men's Basketball Games
March 12	St. Patrick's Day Parade
March 19	Crusaders Bike Show
March 20	Crusaders Bike Show

Upcoming Events:

		Show	Start
April 2	Reserve Officer's Annual Meeting, Fargo Hilton	0830	0900
April 14	Metro Mayors Banquet, Ramada Inn	1100	1200

Motion to accept the Color Guard Report was made by Steve Perrault, second by Ronn DuRand. Motion carried.

Legislative Report:

Chari Russ Stabler Reports:

- Agent Orange – Thousands of Vets who claim they were sickened by tainted water at Marine base were denied Disability <http://www.nyl.com>
- Give the Vietnam Blue Water Navy Veterans their presumptive rights <http://www.change.org>
- Sick Navy Vets hunt for decades of old records to prove they should get Agent Orange benefits www.pilotonline.com
- High School band to premier “symbolic” song of Agent Orange’s effects www.dailyherald.com/article
- H.R. 969 Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015
- S.R. 681 Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015

Senate cosponsors from MN and ND

MN	ND
Amy Kobuchar	Heidi Heitkamp
Al Frenken	

Motion to approve the Legislative Report was made by Les Forman, Second by Gary Arth. Motion carried.

Old Business:

VVA DAY Saturday March 26th at VFW in West Fargo. Free chili and beer.

Vice President Steve Perrault reports on VA Choice Program. Problems are arising due to scheduling through VA phone bank which are located in Louisiana or Florida and are unfamiliar with local areas. They are scheduling appointment for Veterans with Doctors and clinics that do not do certain tests and therefore delaying needed test and treatment. Steve recommended Veterans be prepared to make noise with VA and congressmen/senators if we experience such problems.

Miracles for Vets: Russ Stabler, chair of donations committee, said he had received some negative comments on Miracle for Vets request for donation. The committee did recommend a \$200.00 donation. Ronn DuRand made a motion to donate \$250.00 which was seconded by Les Forman. Motion carried.

Color Guard Practice: chapter had a debate as to whether practice would be useful. It was decided that practice would be useful in understanding command and learning to function as one.

Toppers Car Show – April 2nd and 3rd. Set up will be on April 1st.

Valley Vintage Classic Car Show – April 23rd and 24th. Set up on April 22nd

West Acres – during VVA coffee session at West Acres and anonymous woman gave group a \$200.00 gift certificate as a Thank You to the Veterans. Russ Stabler made a motion to donate the Gift Certificate to the WDAY Honor Flight silent auction, seconded by Larry Nicholson. Motion carried. Dave Brunsvold wrote a Thank You and put it in the Forum.

Eagles Healing Nest Sauk Center will be hosting AVTT Vietnam Traveling Wall July 14th – 16th, 2016

Decorum – remember to be respectful of other people at meetings and at chapter functions.

Russ Stabler was nominated to check prices to repair flags and web gear.

Russ Stabler brought up purchasing non-firing M-16s for ceremony purposes. Members were split on the idea and it was tabled until our next meeting.

Granite City to donate 10% of bill as a promotion for Bonanzaville March 22nd, 2016

Dave Brunsvold reported dates for chapter Brat Sause at Hornbachers West on 6th and 7th of May, 2016 and 26th and 27th of August, 2016.

Anyone who is need of our prayers contact Wayne Wermager (chapter Chaplain) at 701-212-5071 or wwermager@farmidco.net

Lyn Birkland – spoke on Bike Night at Dilworth VFW. Crusaders Bike club will kick off its Rally in the Valley during our first night of 12 May 2016 at 1700.

Ronn DuRand thanked Lyn Birkland and the crusaders for allowing VVA 941 to participate in the Crusader's Bike Show.

Reminder – Veterans Coffee Hour at the Fargo Air Museum 2nd Wednesday of every month – 13 April 2016

Larry Nicholson received and email on Hepatitis C – it is being discussed on having a seminar and dinner.

Guest Tami Monsebroten – VA Crisis Center a licensed Social Worker spoke to the group on Suicide Prevention and the need for everyone keeping vigilant of friends and family. She also stressed the use of the VA Crisis line and assured members they would not call Police or Emergency personnel unless person had already hurt themselves or an immediate threat was detected.

Meeting adjourned at 2025 with a salute to the flag.

Next chapter meeting will be held on April 18th, 2016

Respectfully submitted by:

R. D. Mandt
Secretary