

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Northern Warriors Chapter 941
18 April 2016
Biltmore/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 Chaplain Wayne Wermager

Members present; Bob Mandt, Larry Nicholson, Steve Perreault, Russ Stabler, Joe Wallevand, Larry Kessel, Ron Krueger, Mark Helfter, Gary Arth, D. J. Guerrero, Lyn D. Paul Hyndman, Jerry Halmrast, Larry Reed, Ronn DuRand, James Gebhardt, Wayne Wermager, Les Forman. AVVA Wayne Possehl, Hella Helfter, Guests: Isaac Anlin, Christy Karst.

Introductions:

Members went around the room and introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of the Minutes.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Larry Reed, second by Ronn DuRand. Motion carried.

Treasurers report:

Beginning Balance		\$12,235.18
Deposits	Membership – Lube Now	\$ 100.00
	Sales	\$ 702.00
	VVA Membership	\$ 1,476.00
Total Deposits		\$ 2,278.00
Expenditures	Membership – Saewert - #1580	\$ 100.00
	Hays Companies - #1582	\$ 100.00
	Sportland - #1583	\$ 216.00
	D. Brunsvold – Casino Night Postage - #1584	\$ 74.63
	B. Mandt – Ink/Copies - #1585	\$ 78.24
	L. Nicholson – Copies - #1586	\$ 45.61
	Hornbachers – Postage - #1587	\$ 49.00
	US Postal Service – PO Box - #1588	\$ 82.00
	VVA Membership – Lube Now	\$ 100.00
Total Expenditures		\$ 845.48
Interest Earned		\$ 0.11
Ending Balance		\$13,667.81

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Russ Stabler, second by Steve Perreault. Motion carried.

Public Affairs Report:

Chair Les Forman reported VVA 941 handed out cake and Vietnam Veteran pins in honor of Vietnam Veterans Day March 29th at the Fargo VA.

-- Honor Escort doing well with many opportunities in the last month. Jim Haukedahl has replaced Ronn DuRand as one of the three leads for the Honor Escort program.

-- VA is looking for volunteers for Monday's, both mornings and afternoons for their Escort service (run wheelchairs or take patients to appointments within the VA).

-- VA is also looking for youth for summer volunteering, ages 14 to 17., one four hour shift per week.

Russ Stabler made a motion to approve the Public Affairs Report, second by Larry Kessel. Motion carried.

Color Guard Report:

Chair Russ Stabler reported:

Completed Evens: April 2nd ND Reserve Officer Association, presented Colors.
April 14th Metro Mayors Award Banquet, presented Colors.

Upcoming Events May 21st Fargo Marathon Opening Ceremony start 0730 show 0700.

Motion to approve the Color Guard Report was made by Joe Wallevand, second by Ronn DuRand. Motion carried.

Membership Report:

Chair Russ Stabler reported:

VVA	Individual	63	
	Life	157	
	Hosp	3	
	New Life	1	
	Not Paid	6	
	Transfers	In 1	Out 1
	Total	223	

AVVA	Individual	46	
	Life	16	
	Total	62	

Total VVA/AVVA 285

Motion to approve the Membership Report was made by Steve Perreault, second by Bob Mandt. Motion carried.

Legislative Report:

Chair Russ Stabler reported proposal before both houses of ND Legislator to eliminate state tax from military retirement pay.

Motion to approve the Legislative Report was made by Larry Reed, seconded by Les Forman. Motion carried.

Fargo Marathon -- Saturday May 21st. VVA 941 will be participating handing out water and Color Guard.

Adopt - a - Park -- City of Moorhead has contacted Larry Nicholson to see if VVA 941 would be

interested in planting flowers and taking care of them at Bennett Park. There was no interest from members and idea was dropped.

Traveling Wall in Sauk Centre -- July 14th thru 17th. VVA 941 has been asked to bring our canopy and sell shirts.

Hepatitis C Seminar is still in the planning stages.

VVA Region 6 Conference will be held June 3^d and 4th in St Cloud MN. More information in May meeting.

WDAY asked if VVA 941 was interested in donation to Veteran Commercials for Memorial Day/Veterans Day etc. Russ Stabler made a motion to Donate \$200.00 for the commercials, Lyn Birkland second. Motion carried.

Veterans Picnic is scheduled for May 26th at Bonanzaville. Start cooking at 1530 to feed by 1700.

September 11th - City of Moorhead called and wants chapter to participate in Moorhead Days scheduled for the weekend of September 11th. 9-11 ceremony will be held at 0900 on Sunday September 11 on the Bridge.

Bike/Classic Car Night -- Begins May 12th at 1700 at the Dilworth VFW. Crusaders Bike run kicks off that evening. Trophies for best car and bike will be given this year.

VA Choice Program

Steve Perreault reported that Senator John Hoeven conducted a round table meeting in regards to the efficiency of the VA choice Program. Head of health Net (civilian company hired by the VA to run the Choice Program) , senior officials from Washington D.C. VA system, DR Winestat Fargo VA, Steve Perreault and various other members of the Fargo VA were present, Head of Health Net admitted their office was not staffed to handle the workload they were given causing huge delays to Veterans. Senator Hoeven is working with these people to resolve these problems.

On April 15th Steve Perreault and a doctor from the Fargo VA (un-named), meet again with Senator Hoeven with the concern that the VA may be trying to sabotage the Choice Program. Authorization to civilian care are being issued with the expiration dates prior to the appointments. Steve recommended patients registered under the Choice Program read their authorization paper and report any and all discrepancies to Steve Perreault at 701-306-4634 or Senator Hoeven's office at 202-224-2551.

Member Wayne Wermager reported from the Fargo, Moorhead, West Fargo Chamber of Commerce meeting on 14th of April

- Military Appreciation Night at the Red Hawks will be held on June 30th at Newman Outdoor Stadium.
- VVA 941 to present Colors.
- They are looking for a veteran with a story to throw out the first pitch.
- There will be an induction ceremony into the armed forces at some point during the game.
- American Red Cross in a nationwide search, is looking for Veterans to Record their story of military service. Recordings will be stored at the Library of Congress on a permanent basis.
- Retired General McDonald and Haugen are heading to Washington D. C. in an attempt to maintain North Dakota's Guard and Reserve Units.
- Senator Hoeven sent a letter to the American Legion in regards to P)W/MIA's. an agency (DPAA) is established to keep family of POW/MIA'S updated on their missing members status.

Guest Isaac Anlin of Moorhead requested a donation from our chapter to help pay for a Flag Pole arrangement he is going to build a local church for his Eagle Scout project. Matter was turned over to the chapter's donation committee for approval.

Christy Karst from the Fargo Vets Center was introduced as our guest speaker. She started by giving members a welcome home, thanks for your service. Christy explained the Vets Center was started to provide counseling to Vietnam Veterans but it has been expanded to all veterans. They especially target combat Vets. The Vets Center is located on Fichtner Drive in Fargo, Hours 8am to 4:30 pm M-F and one Saturday a month. Counselors do make house calls upon request.

Sickness and Health: anyone who is in need of our prayers contact Wayne Wermager (chapter chaplain) at 701-212-5071 or wwermager@farmidco.net.

Reminder of coffee with the Vets at the Air Museum 2nd Wednesday of the month from. Next one will be 11 May.

Next meeting 16 May 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 2020.

Respectfully submitted by

R.D. Mandt
Secretary