

SDVSOA EC Meeting - Friday, 15 June 2018 10 - 2 Pierre

Attendees: Doug Huntrods, Ron Hoffer, Mike Mc Donald, Manaja Hill, Mike Holzhauser, and Susan Irons (Aaron Walberg via phone)

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Finance Report \$16,235.21 currently in checking account
3. Updates on NCT in August
 - a. Registration update - Audry will send emails again to other states to invite and will work with FSOs to remind counties/tribes to get their registrations turned in.
 - b. Steak-fry - recognition of retirees - Doug will have plaque made for presentation, Denver American Horse - Denver will be honored during our steak fry. Doug will coordinate with Lake County to make a banner for tribute and Manaja will provide Doug with a written tribute.
 - c. Registration - members of the EC will help Susan with registration as needed. Hopefully, there will be minimal payments made at conference as most should be able to pay prior to conference.
4. Discussion on where we stand with the Drug Cost Initiative: Discussion was held by EC about whether or not we should support either side of this initiative. At this time, we have decided not to support either side because of the ambiguities behind this initiative.
5. Legislative Panel Update - Aaron had a meeting with the SD Veterans Legislative Task Force. Aaron sent minutes of meeting to Doug. Legislative issues that will be brought up in next year's session need to be decided on by end of June or July so that final discussion can be held during our Association meeting. Proposed issues: tax breaks based on level of service connection. The TF is looking at what level of SC and at what dollar levels the breaks will be is yet to be determined. Task force will have another meeting on 9 July. Proposed legislative issues from this meeting will be discussed during Association meeting in August. Other issue to look at: Nursing homes are preventing patients from getting their meds from the VA. Because of this, costs are increased to the veteran. Task force is looking at legislation to prevent nursing homes from forcing veterans to use Part D plans or pay for medication out of their own pockets. Veterans have earned this benefit, they should be able to keep their VA meds. Audry will look into the issue to see if this is driven by the Department of Health. Other legislative issues: Veterans Preference: State, City, County, Schools. Salary subsidies: counties are required to have a CVSO. Input is needed from the counties on how to best handle this. Bonus Program: hasn't been updated in the constitution since the 1920's. State is looking at changing the language of that. This will be a long process as it has to pass legislation and then go on the ballot for approval. VSO requirements: that issue will be addressed again. Discussion was held specifically about the

Honorable Discharge requirement. Manaja asked how the tribe would be impacted by this. The state can't mandate the requirements for the tribe. Manaja expressed concern that whatever is decided for the state, the same should be upheld for the Tribes. If not, TVSOs may not be treated the same as CVSOs. Lengthy and positive discussion was held about the type of discharges. Of the seven types of discharges, the EC feels that the discharge requirements for C/TVSOs for legislation should be: Honorable or General under Honorable Conditions. Additionally, C/TVSOs should be US Citizens. Input from the EC needs to be called into or emailed to Aaron before his 9 July meeting. The question was asked, can the Association work together with the State to come up with accreditation standards? This topic will be discussed at our meeting in August.

6. Presentation by Rick Weiland on supporting the drug cost initiative 11:45 am: Rick did not show up for his presentation.

7. August SDVSOA Business meeting: Discuss agenda:

Monday Meeting (held at Ramkota prior to Steak-fry at 5:00 pm):
Legislative issues - will find out what those are after the task force July 9 meeting. Email will be sent to the Association discussing the issues prior to the meeting.

Nominations for positions that are up for election - President, Vice-president, Regions 1, 3, 5, and Tribal.

Tuesday Meeting (held after training on Tuesday at 5:00 pm): Hold elections for vacant positions and vote as needed on legislative issues that we are supporting. Approval of minutes from last year's meeting and the Financial Report. These will be sent in an email prior to conference for review by Association members and any necessary discussion will be held at the meeting prior to approval

8. The EC will meet by phone after the 9 July Legislative Task Force meeting. The date for that is TBD.

9. Meeting adjourned.