

SDVSOA EC Meeting - Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 10 - 2 Pierre

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Finance Report: \$12,811.25 is currently in our checking account.
3. Updates on NCT in August
  - a. Registrations - Susan gave update on registrations and had some concerns the low registration rate. Also, question was asked about the one day of state conference. Is there a registration for that? Are we going to charge a fee for treats during the state conference? Yes. State conference fees are \$25.
  - b. Promotion of Registrations - discussion about how we can promote our NACVSO conference. Mike H. addressed some options of how we can do this. He said that we could contact each state's individual CVSOs by going to their websites and getting email addresses from State websites and sending them an invitation. Audry said she could assist with this and Gordon said he would send Audry the invitation and she would send it to the Listserv to the other states.
  - c. School issues/concerns/plans...Audry at 10:10
    1. Issue with Tues or Thurs being the 'local' day...hope to have heard from ED Chairperson with NACVSO by then... We have not heard from them to confirm if the Tuesday plan for local training will work or not. We will plan that it will work.
    2. We will still charge \$25 per person for State Conference attendees. Susan will send invoices out to all C/TVSOs and only those that are attending just the state portion of training will need to pay the \$25 fee. Those attending the NACVSO training have that fee included in their \$125 payment. State conference registration will be Monday afternoon. All conference attendees are invited to attend the Steak Fry on Monday. The state training will occur on Tuesday and will be tested on Wednesday.
    3. Discussion was held about State training topics. We need to know what NACVSO is training on so that there is no overlap on the topics. (video telehealth, 211, National Cemetery, VA suicide prevention program were suggested topics. Get any suggestions to Audry.)
    4. Registration numbers and any training materials that go in binders needs to be to Audry by 1 August.
  - d. Other: Steak Fry - Monday, 20 August at the American Legion Cabin. Out of state guests will be invited to this.
  - e. Tuesday evening : Vendor night (from 6-8 pm 21 August) will be in Gallery A. Any money that comes in from vendors, will be given to SDVSOA offset the cost of the social.

4. Beginning presentation on Drug Cost Initiative with Mike Knuth from PAC (anti-ballot issue)...10:45 am (Representing the “No” side of the ballot initiative on November 6<sup>th</sup>.) Rick Weiland brought this initiative measure forward. This measure requires SD to base its Rx prices on what the VA charges. Doing what this initiative proposes will result in more red tape for the State. The VA gets a 24% reduction automatically for all prescriptions. VA gets further rebates and we don’t know what these are as these are confidential/private between the VA and the Drug Companies. The State will have to challenge the VA for this information and there will have to be a law suit in order for the State to get this information. These costs were designed to meet the needs of the veteran population. Consequences to veterans could be discounts no longer given to VA and costs increase for veterans. It could limit availability of certain medications. Consequences to others: costs increase for others, taxes will increase because of the law suits. Who is behind this? Rick Weiland. Funded by Michael Weinstein in California. His organization spends billions of dollars on pharmaceuticals. Built into the initiative is that the circulators of the petition can also act as defense for the initiative if it gets challenged. Therefore, Rick Weiland and his organization, TakeltBack.org can be paid to defend this and make money because of the lawsuits that will be generated because of this initiative. This measure was brought to California in 2016 and was defeated. It was publically opposed by every newspaper and every veteran group in California. 2017 was defeated in Ohio (80/20) and again not supported by veteran groups and newspapers. This includes CVS0 Associations. What can we do to help? PAC would like us to support the opposition to this initiated measure. Something needs to be done with prescription costs, but this is not the way to fix that.
5. Legislative Update: Issues that were part of the 2018 Session; East River Veterans Cemetery (Governor will sign on Monday, 26 March. Anyone can attend and all who can are encouraged to do so.) VA Health Care Proclamation has been signed. Aaron Walberg was nominated by the Association to be our representative for the legislative task force that has been organized by Aaron Pollard.
6. Presentation by Rick Weiland on supporting the drug cost initiative 11:45 am: Take it Back.org - goal of organization is passing public policy reforms. Been involved in minimum wage act and IM 22, have tried to get other things on the ballot with some success. “This measure limits the amount that is paid for Rx. State agencies can’t pay more than VA.” (Attorney General’s statement summarized) The drug industry throws the most money at public policy. \$2.3 (I can’t remember if he said million or billion????) have been spent in lobbying congress and funding campaigns. Curtailing the drug industry has to start at

the state and local level. Discussed the VA 24% discount. He knows that we have already heard from the opposition. Rick wanted to know our questions. "If this passes, why is it unworkable?" Rick: unworkable isn't a good way to describe this. He says it's not true. Pharmaceutical industry sued state of SD on the wording of the ballot initiative wording. Suit was overturned but it has been appealed to the SD Supreme Court. Both sides are confident that this will get on the ballot in November. Doug asked the question, what is the State's current discount (because they do have one) and is it really different or significantly less than the VA discount? Rick could not provide an actual number of what this bill would actually save the state. TakeltBack.org is funded by a billion dollar non-profit healthcare organization for AIDS patients. Funding from this organization is what helped get this initiative on the ballot. This initiative only affects those that get prescriptions from the State (Medicaid, state insurance, prisoners). This doesn't affect those who have private insurance.

\*\*\*\* Both Mike Knuth and Rick Weiland have questions to answer and also get the Association some additional information. Based on this, we are not going to make a decision at this time.

7. Issues/Concerns surrounding dismissal of Davison County VSO. Executive session was held to discuss this matter further.
  
8. President resigning and VP taking the office (May or before) + replacement of Region IV (Angella's area) Representative. Jana Virtue, from Custer County, was nominated to fill the position of Region IV representative. Motion passed and was approved unanimously. Mike Holhauzer was nominated to fill the position as Vice-president, as of 1 May. Motion passed and was approved unanimously.
  
9. Other business issues at the August meetings: Election of Officers>> The positions of President, Vice President, Regions 1, 3, and 5 (Tribes) are up for election in August. If anyone is interested in these positions, please let your Region Representative know.

8 June 2018 is the next meeting at 1000 at the American Legion in Pierre.

Attendees: Gordon Richard, Dennis Evenson, Ron Hoffer, Mike MacDonald, Mike Holzhauzer, Doug Huntrods, Susan Irons