



Minutes for the EC of the SDVSOA Meeting

Friday, October 27th 10 am -2 pm in Pierre

- Attendees: Gordon Richard, Doug Huntrods, Susan Irons, Dennis Evenson, Aaron Walberg, Mike McDonald, Ron Hoffer, Angella Sutton Bates, Manaja Hill.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Financial Report since Annual School

- **Evaluation/comments on Annual School and Association meetings.** This will be discussed at a later date.

- **Looking ahead to August 20-24, 2018 SDVSOA Sponsorship of the National Certification Training by the NACVSO:**
 - Registration Fee & Registration Procedure: Registration will cost - \$175 . Motion made by Mac, seconded by Aaron. Motion approved. We pay all fees (travel, food, lodging for instructors from NACVSO). Procedure for registration was discussed. EM Conference used a Weebly.com website for registration. There will still be the option to pay by check. There may be a fee for the transaction, so we will need to weigh the cost vs. expense. Doug and Angella will also design the registration website.

 - Working with NACVSO (Mike Holzhauser) to address Certification & other concerns/issues: Membership dues are due in Jan. We need to figure out how to help our SDVSOA

members with keeping our memberships with NACVSO. Mike is our liaison with NACVSO and sends our training into them to maintain certifications. Discussion about scanning certificates and then all maintained electronically. Should our certificates go to the state for them to be maintained for accreditation purposes? You have to be a member to take the training. Discussion was held on the value of maintaining individual memberships. NACVSO training is very good, but is there value other than getting DAV accreditation, to have individual memberships? Dennis E. "If I learn one thing during NACVSO training that benefits one veteran, then it's totally worth my time and my county's money for me to attend the training." When you come to training, you learn to be a "quick learner". Every training, a VSO learns something new.

- NACVSO builds in a block of time for training by the host and the State will conduct this training.

- Audry Rickett's visit with EC to include:
 - Initial report on evaluation of 2017 Annual School: Audry gave a list of the survey monkey results. We will look at this and discuss later.
 - Looking to August, 2018: Contract with Ramkota, Department responsibilities for one day of National Training – Aaron has agreed to do that and will be reaching out to C/TVSOs about possible classes, State will print binders, they will need materials 3 weeks prior. Contract with Ramkota is done. We have gallery B and C. Gallery A is reserved for "vendor night". Vendors could possibly cover the cost for foods/drinks that could be a part of the social event for the evening. Audry is open to suggestions about vendors that

the State could contact. She will send an email to all C/TVSOs to ask about that.

- Discussion held about having State Conference at a different location. We have the Ramkota contact until 2020. At this time, we feel that the Ramkota is the best option for our organization because of central location and that they offer state rates for lodging.
- Working with the SD 2018 Legislature + the Legislative Research Council:
 - Potential goals for 2018 – Doug – Headstone setting fee and NGB22 becoming an authorizing document for license plates.
 - Seeking Proclamations: Aaron read the proposed Joint Resolution for VA Healthcare. The resolution still needs some editing and the EC needs to have further discussion on this.
 - Issue of Senator Stace Nelson: SB144 “Service Members Firearms Protection Act” (40 sponsors; on 3/1/17 it was sent to the 41st Day by a vote of 8 – 4). He is asking for our support. Discussion was held about whether or not we should support this. Aaron made a motion to support the bill. Doug seconded it. Motion passed.
- SDVSOA partnering with the Department on best practices related to hours of work for C/T VSO’s. Audry said that the State is working on quantifying how many hours of VSO working hours are needed per veteran. The State is looking at studies that have been conducted by other states. Per Audry, there will be more counties combining to have one CVSO.

- Safeguarding personal data discussion: Encryption software is available. Doug discussed this. He has done this for his county. This will be covered at the mini-conference.

- Other:
 - Manaja brought up the point of having a partnership between the Tribes and counties to support women veterans. He is specifically addressing Corson County.
 - Dan Cullen – gift to Secretary Zimmerman. He paid \$149.00 for that. The Association decided that as an Association we should not pay for something that didn't come to us prior to purchase. Doug made a motion to not pay Dan. Angella seconded. Motion passed. Individuals can pay Dan on their own if they choose to do so.
 - Veterans Council – Gordon felt this was positive that we attended their meeting. We will continue to try to do this in the future.
 - Issues with the State Claims Office: Gordon will set up a meeting with Aaron Pollard to discuss this and to see what the plans are for training individuals within the Claims Office.

- Next meeting: Meeting with Aaron Pollard and EC on December 4th to discuss issues with the SDDVA Claims Office.