**SDNGEA Executive Council Meeting**

**18 September 2020**

**The Lodge, Deadwood, SD**

Meeting was called to order at 1400 hours. Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Courtney Tyrrell.

President Tyrrell introduced and welcomed the following guests: Past President(s) Dale Greenfield and Josh Wermers, the legendary Bruce Anderson, and all first time attendees.

**ROLL**

Roll was taken and the following members were present: Courtney Tyrrell, Charles Fincher proxy for Derek Jaeger, Josh O’Dea proxy for Josh Guthmiller, Dale Greenfield proxy for Nate Hedin, Don Kranz, Rick Vandenhoek, Charles Fincher, Jeremy Martin, Stephanie Kinsella proxy for Karen Tucker, Josh O’Dea, Tabitha Carr proxy for Meagan Krahn, Helen Juelfs, Katie Hoff, Josh Wermers, Isabella Binde proxy for Roderick McRae, David Frock, and Dale Greenfield proxy for Robert Aiken. Enough were present for a quorum.

Bruce Anderson made a point of order to deviate from the agenda and Rick Vandenhoek seconded it.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The BHVM Report was presented by Josh Wermers. The March is here and it is the largest event to date. We had 257 total marchers and 8 virtual marchers register this year. This year was the largest age range from 10 to 73 years old. The mini march has grown exponentially. There were 12 teams competing. The committee chose 4 different organizations to donate to: Veterans Helping Hands Project, The South Dakota Veterans Cemeteries Support Council, Black Hills Health Care System, and Mission 22. Made a motion to accept this report as presented. Report will be filed. Josh did request additional people for rest stops and crossing guard assistance.

The Area V Report was presented by Josh Wermers. At the National Level our organization is in a complete turn over. The Executive Director’s contract ends in a few months and both of our lobbyists have resigned. All meetings this year have been conducted online due to COVID so they haven’t spent much of the budget. First, looking forward at the February Presidents/Legislative Workshop and whether it should be virtual or in person. Secondly, the Veterans Education Project. Daniel started this program for increased awareness of veteran’s education benefits and it was supposed to be self-sustaining financially. At the last EC meeting it was decided to not fund the contractors and to shut the project down. Daniel is asking the board to sell him the rights of the project for $20k. Membership has declined and voting numbers for National end 31 December. We need to gain over 1000 members to get back to last year’s membership numbers. At the last Area V Caucus it was voted that SD will be hosting the next Area V Caucus in the Black Hills Area in May 2021. Will need volunteers to help with this event. Area V did vote in a new Area Director at Large, Bobbi Coker from Wisconsin. Next National Conference is scheduled for Albuquerque, New Mexico from 8-11 August 2021. Made a motion to accept this report. Report will be filed as presented. Courtney brought up the vacant positions. If we keep the VEP program under EANGUS it will cost around $10,000 a month to employ someone to run it. Any input please send to Josh Wermers by the next meeting which is 24 September.

Legislative Report was presented by Josh Wermers. With the upcoming elections in South Dakota and nationally, there is very little to report on. Congress has still not passed a stimulus bill or a NDAA. We will most likely be running on a continued resolution starting 1 October until the elections are over. The Social Security Payroll Tax has taken effect. The 6.2% Social Security tax will be deferred for most enlisted members. Do not spend that extra money as it will be taken back next year. Made a motion to accept this report. Report will be filed as presented.

SSLI (Insurance Report) presented by Josh Wermers. The association gets an extra $5 per person that signs up for this insurance. Dave Burr has had a hard time getting in to talk to the Air Guard, but is working on getting a point of contact. Cory Starr did make some good contacts on the Army Guard side over the last few weeks. We need to get back out into the units for a 10 minute brief so this information can be presented to our Soldiers. It’s an inexpensive insurance that all Soldiers are eligible for. Courtney did note that the Insurance committee last meet on August 19th, but there wasn’t enough people present to discuss things in depth. We need to work on marketing this insurance. Maybe look for someone who is retired to help.

2021 State Conference Report presented by Josh Wermers. The State Enlisted Conference is still happening even with a slow start with the planning process due to COVID. The committee has almost sold all of the raffle tickets for the custom AR, and the plan is to draw the winner once they are all sold. The Fort Meade Gym has been requested to host the conference and the mess hall will be utilized for the hospitality room. There are 40 rooms blocked at the Baymont Inn and working on additional rooms through the Super 8. BOQ rooms on Fort Meade will be reserved for the Jr. Enlisted in order to keep cost down and to encourage attendance. Still working the logistics as far as transportation and finalizing breaks for the event. Events and theme will include the 147th Army Band, a “speak easy night” with casino games and prizes, and “The Roaring 20’s” with zoot suits and flapper dresses. The committee is looking for additional staff to help put this on. Made a motion to accept this report. Report will be filed as presented.

**MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes from the last Executive Council Meeting were provided for review. The Echo did not go out due to a delay in the last meeting and the current COVID situation. Courtney suggested that we combine the Summer edition with the Fall edition due to the pandemic.

Scholarships – No official report to be presented. This program will be handed over to 2nd Vice, Josh Guthmiller.

Membership Report was presented by Tabitha Carr. As of this report, the paid membership at all levels was 1913 members which was 492 short from this date last year. The 10% discount code was created to run from 1 July – 30 September and was pushed out to the council and every armory location on the Army National Guard side. Since July 1st there has been 187 people sign up with the majority being online. Last year there was only 300 total online sign ups. Tabitha sent out the discount code as a reminder, and will send out a final reminder before the end of the month. Forms for the army side were updated and sent out to everyone to push to their M-day Soldiers. Made a motion to accept this report. Report will be filed as presented. Courtney suggested we extend the discount to 15 October so we hit one more drill. Approach the SGM’s and the 1SG’s within the units. Helen Juelfs made a motion to extend the discount code through 15 October and Dale Greenfield seconded it. The discount only effects our State program, not the National fund. Motion carried.

Young Heroes Report was presented by Kelsey Lambert. She is looking for a point of contact West River to assist with events/ceremonies on this side of the State. This program is still on hold due to COVID. Looking for volunteers to help once we can start holding ceremonies again. Dave Frock volunteered to run items back and forth across the state if needed.

Discount code was extended until 15 October. The code will remain the same.

**OLD BUSINESS**

AAR for 2019 State Conference was presented by Dale Greenfield. All of the initial deposits were paid by Dale, and he did receive that money back. Registrations were refunded. The committee had received $1390 from last year’s conference committee, and that money is still sitting in the account. They also received an anonymous donation for $235 from the community of Huron. Current account balance is $1658.49. The committee had one administrative charge for check blanks. All refunds were handed out and registrations were forwarded to next year’s conference. File as presented.

Area V Caucus Update was presented by Bruce Anderson. This event was hosted through a Zoom meeting. They hired a new Area V representative with Bobby Cocker. Looking for a new Treasurer.

2021 National Conference update was given by Courtney Tyrrell. The Association has 12 pre-registrations for 2021 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. At some point in time we will have to tie names to those registrations. The Air Guard has a big inspection during that time frame. At the National Conference we are allowed a specific number of delegates based on the number of State memberships we receive. Those delegates get to sit on the floor at the National Conference and vote on the different resolutions that get presented. Resolutions from every State get discussed and voted on at National. National is about hosting business, but it’s also a great opportunity to network with other states and enjoy the various social events. Filed as presented.

Treasurers Report was presented by Courtney Tyrrell. The current balance in the checking account was $67,590.13 and our business market savings account was $50,513.48. Pat Jones asked about the money that is to go towards membership incentive. The Association split $1000 between the Army and Air to put towards membership incentive. This money was added as a line item from the previous President, Nate Hedin’s budget. The Air Guard is giving out gift cards, and the Army side will give $1 to a unit’s fund for everyone that signs up online.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Future State Conferences:**

2021 – 16-18 April - Ft. Meade / Sturgis – Josh Wermers

2022 – 21-23 April - Rapid City Co-Located with NGAUS – Neil Harris/Bob Aiken

2023 – Brookings – Barb Boyer

**Future National Conferences:**

2021 – 8-11 August, Albuquerque, New Mexico

2022 – Little Rock, AR

2023 – Rochester, MN

We revisited the minutes from the last meeting. Rick Vanden Hoek made a motion to accept the minutes and Charles Fincher seconded it. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The date and time of the next Executive Council Meeting will be at the Ramkota in Pierre, SD on 4 Feb 2021 at 1400 hours. Get rooms reserved.

With nothing further to discuss, Josh Wermers made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Helen Juelfs seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 1513 hours.

Following the meeting we conducted an installation of new officers – President Courtney Tyrrell, BN Rep – Josh O’Dea, BN Rep – Katie Hoff.