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13 November 2014

Minutes of 03 October 2014 meeting of the
South Dakota Veterans Service Officer Association
Executive Board (SDVSOAEB)

Members present: Terry Cousins, Robert Dunsmore, Dennis Evenson, Roy Farabee, Ron Hoffer, Gordon Richard, Angella Sutton, Mike Wiley.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM.

Pledged allegiance

Welcome remarks by Association President Gordon Richard.

Each individual introduced themselves and the county/tribe they represent.

We each spoke about the “why” and “how” of the work we do as Veterans Service Officers as well as our military and veteran experiences.

Farabee explained the difference of the \$50.00 county dues and the \$25.00 each member pays at the annual school.

Around 12:00 noon Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard joined our meeting. Mr. Pollard spoke on various topics, trip training, etc.

Motion made, seconded and passed to authorize Gordon travel pay to Western SD.

The following notes were compiled by Gordon. I'll include them here instead of duplication.

Notes from EB Meeting of October 3, 2014

Compiled by Gordon Richard, President SDVSO Association

Part of our first discussion involved raising the fees for membership in the Association. The consensus was to wait. We discussed the need to make the Association more viable to its members. We, the EB, need to be more proactive and seek the opinions and thoughts from our members. As we do more, we may then want to solicit more funding from County memberships.

We talked about setting goals and defining better our 'vision' and purpose. We may very well create a "vision statement" as we continue to move forward over the next several years. "Team" and speaking in "one voice" was talked about during this period of our EB meeting.

Utilizing the Department's Survey outline and results guided some of our conversation at the meeting to include:

1. Helping new VSOs: here we stressed the need for "checklists" that may be created or have been by current VSOs and sharing them. We spoke of having "mentors" for new VSOs. It seems we could use a better "structure" for training new VSOs in the state and will talk to the Department about this ongoing effort. Overall there is a need to assist VSOs as they start out and the Association can help.
2. In our discussion surrounding training materials, we emphasized the importance of fully utilizing VetraSpec and all that is in that program.
3. We would like to utilize better the SDDVA website to the point of having "our own page". This may be used for posting minutes or just for better communication within the Association. We would not at this time create a 'blog', but move to better our communication.
4. Extending training: We had Aaron Pollard join us for lunch and he shared some of the changes anticipated for the Mini-Conferences (an on-site working lunch) plus the extension of the Annual School to an extra day.
5. We talked about our sponsoring the National Accreditation Training every five years and encouraging the members to take the TRIP Training. Two topics which seemed to be highlighted for further study/presentation were the CFR and ongoing Pension training. There was discussion to seek qualified trainers to help in our ongoing education and having "Round Robin" sessions for "advanced" training opportunities. Speaking of training; it was shared with the group that South Dakota VSO's played an important role in creating the national organization (NACVSO) and our leadership needs to continue.
6. At our Annual School, we talked about our inviting vendors and have a fee for them to help defray the costs of our breaks and, maybe, help pay for a banquet on, say, that Wednesday evening of the school. Some possible vendors may include VetraSpec, USAA, flag distributors and the like.

I, too, would like to thank the EB for our meeting. We anticipate a 'conference call' for our next meeting in the months ahead to take our actions out further.

Meeting adjourned.

Sincerely

Roy Farabee, cvso

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Charles Mix & Gregory County

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SDVSO Association

Secretary/Treasurer

