

UNITED STATES ARMY WARRANT OFFICER ASSOCIATION
STAR OF THE NORTH CHAPTER

MINUTES FROM THE CHAPTER MEETING

14 December 2006

1. The meeting was brought to order by Mr Michael Danberry, Chapter 306 President, at 1130 hours at 506 Roeder Circle, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

2. The following members were in attendance:

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| Mr Michael Danberry | President |
| Mr Kevin Appel | Vice President |
| Ms Frances Bergren-Kienlen | Secretary |
| Mr Lyle Fridlund | Member |
| Mr Howard Lundin | Member |
| Mr Billy Robinson | Member |
| Mr Dale Shepard | Member |

Proxy representation for the following members:

Mr Dennis Ahrens
Mr Robert Billings
Mr Gary Gaffner
Mr Nick Goodwin
Mr Richard Hathaway
Mr David Karels
Mr Wayne Koski
Ms Connie Payette
Mr Gary Talbot
Mr Timothy Vreeman
Mr Thomas Wilharber
Mr Dale Wippler

Non-Member Visiting Warrant Officers:

Mr David Clayton
Mr Robert Kostka

3. The members Pledged Allegiance to the Flag. Mr Robinson provided the invocation.

4. President Danberry confirmed that we had a quorum to conduct business. Minutes from the 16 November 2006 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made Mr Lundin to accept the minutes and seconded by Mr Danberry with the following correction: The Chapter website address is <http://starofthenorthwoa.danberry.us> (do not use www.).

Minutes from the 14 December 2006 Star of the North Chapter Meeting (continued)

5. Mr Danberry provided the Treasurer's Report. There was no change to the amount of \$482.49 in the checking account. A check for \$46.43 was issued to Ms Bergren-Kienlen and this will be reflected on next month's invoice. Mr Danberry contacted National regarding the membership/meeting check. The checks are disbursed quarterly and we should see a check for the October-December meetings with that disbursement. Mr Robinson motioned to accept the report and Mr Appel seconded the motion.

6. Announcements:

a. Mr Lundin handed out information about an obscure federal policy that helps veterans and their spouse with long term care costs. The monthly benefit pays up to \$1470 to a veteran, \$945 to a surviving spouse or \$1743 to a couple. This information will be disseminated with the newsletter.

b. Mr Lundin discussed a letter he received from Mr Bob Scott, from USAWOA National, regarding Sears and their excellent treatment of their employees who are returning from mobilizations. By law, employers are required to hold the jobs open and available, but nothing more. Usually people take a big pay cut and lose benefits as a result of being called up. Sears is voluntarily paying the salary difference and maintaining all benefits, including continuing health insurance and bonus programs for all called up reservist employees for up to two years. MRR Scott personally verified this information. Sears needs to be recognized for this outstanding contribution. Any Soldier shopping at Sears should take the time to thank the management or send a note to their customer service. Mr Appel noted that ROA website also has a list of about 100 businesses that similarly support our Troops, including QWest and Bell South.

7. Membership Reports: Mr Lundin is in the process of sending out letters and emails. Action needed: Mr Lundin will provide a membership report next month.

8. Unfinished Business:

a. Website.

(1) Mr Danberry is continuing to work on placing the Chapter history on the website. The binder containing much of the history was on hand. Mr Lundin will continue to look for the original minutes and roster of members. The charter shows that this Chapter was started on October 3, 2001. We received our Five Year Affiliation banner at the National meeting this past October. Mr Robinson brought the banner to the meeting.

(2) Mr Danberry raised concerns about including ranks on any of the web postings. He will sanitize the information that is put on the web site so that rank is omitted.

(2) Ms Bergren-Kienlen recommended that the meeting minutes be posted to the website.

Minutes from the 14 December 2006 Star of the North Chapter Meeting (continued)

b. Fundraising:

(1) Mr Appel suggested that we start planning for a spring golf tournament (but make sure it is at a different time than the AUSA tournament). Emerald Green Golf Course has worked with military tournaments in the past and may be one option. Action needed: Mr Robinson will contact Mr Galene Schlosser for ideas and advice. Mr. Schlosser has had considerable experience in this area. Mr Fridlund also will check his contacts for guidance about prizes.

(2) Chapter memorabilia continues to be researched. Mr Lundin was wearing a Chapter polo shirt that was from a local vendor and was of high quality. Action needed: Mr Appel will talk with the Fort McCoy Chapter to get vendor information.

(3) Mr Appel also suggested that we could do a mailing to solicit funds. The mailing would need to be artistic and present our goal so that it would be well received.

9. New Business:

a. Ms Bergren-Kienlen read a letter received from Chapter member Mr Dennis Ahrens. Mr Ahrens recalls that there was an earlier WO Chapter that was started in the later 80's or early 90's at the prompting of Mr James Ostrander. Meetings were held in the Anoka Army National Guard Armory. Mr Lundin noted special thanks to Mr Ahrens for his input to the history.

b. Community involvement:

(1) Mr Appel stated we are at a decision point with the Adopt-A-Highway program. This is a good program because it not only helps the community but publicly acknowledges our contribution and gives us visibility. Mr Appel has spoken to MNDOT regarding the Adopt a Highway program and the Chapter needs to make a decision on continuing in the program. Action needed: Mr Appel will check to see if the sign that designates our area is still posted in Eagan.

(2) Mr Lundin talked about the VA Hospital's Polytrauma center. There will be a small Christmas party on Thursday, December 21st from 1430 to 1600 for six in-patients. Mr Lundin will talk with MAJ Rasmussen, our combat stress nurse, and the head trauma nurse at the VAMC to see what we can do. Some suggestions would be gift certificates to book stores or just a simple visit to thank them for their service. Action needed: Mr Lundin get further information and disseminate to Chapter members.

(3) Mr Appel suggested two other community activities worth thinking about – Special Olympics and the Veterans Home. In the past, our Chapter has provided the Color Guard for the Special Olympics and it was well received. On a couple of other occasions, the Chapter has assisted with wrapping Christmas presents and handed them out at the Veterans Home to veterans who otherwise may not have anyone to visit them. Action needed: Mr Appel will contact both of those organizations. If there is anything we can do for the Vets Home in the next week or so, he will pass that on to Chapter members.

Minutes from the 14 December 2006 Star of the North Chapter Meeting (continued)

c. Membership: The members agreed that our activities and meetings need to attract more participation by the National Guard and out-state Warrant Officers. Action needed: Mr Robinson and Mr Fridlund will contact the membership to determine what locations/times would be more conducive for them to participate in and encourage them to attend our functions. Mr Clayton suggested that teleconferences also may be an avenue to get involvement.

c. Bank authorizations. The banking account signature cards need to be updated to reflect the new Treasurer, Mr Lundin. Action needed: Mr Lundin and Mr Danberry need to set up an appointment with the bank.

d. Mr Danberry swore in Mr Billy Robinson as the new Chapter President and Mr Lyle Fridlund as the Vice President. Mr Howard Lundin accepted the position as Treasurer. Ms Bergren-Kienlen was held over as secretary until Mr Brian Cahoon can assume the duties.

10. Conclusion: At 1237 hours, a motion was made by Mr Appel to adjourn and it was seconded by Mr Shepard. The next meeting will be held at 1130 hours on Wednesday, 17 January, outside of the Blue Devil Conference Room, 506 Roeder Circle, Fort Snelling, MN.

Respectfully submitted,

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FRANCES BERGREN-KIENLEN
Secretary