

STAR OF THE NORTH CHAPTER

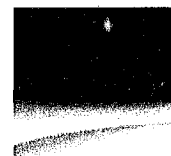
United States Army Warrant Officers Association



MINUTES MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING

21 October 2013

Fort Snelling Officers Club



1. The meeting was brought to order by Tina Podratz, Pro-term President at 1817 hours at the Fort Snelling Officers Club, 395 HWY 5 & Post Road, St. Paul, MN 55111

2. The following members/guests were in attendance:

CW3 Tina Podratz	Pro-Temp President
CW5R Howard Lundin	Vice President
WO1 Jacqueline Cornwell	Secretary
CW4 Brent Jensen	Treasurer
CW5 Peter Panos	Member
CW4R Don Nesheim	Member
CW3 Erik Homme	Member
CW3 Keith Schweitzer	Member
CW2R David Nelson	Member
CW2 David Bendickson	Member
CW2 Jeremy Myers	Member
CW2 Michael Begley	Member-Fort McCoy Chapter
WO1 Jessica Campbell	Member
CW4 Robert Gunderson	Guest
CW4 Eugene Taylor	Guest

The following members were representative by proxy:

CW5R Frances BergrenKienlen	Member
CW4R Chad Sigler	Member
CW4 Marie Festler	Member
CW2 Glenn Feitl	Member

3. WO1 Cornwell is Secretary for the meeting.

a. Mr. Lundin confirmed that a quorum was available to conduct business based on the number of members present or represented by proxy.

b. Pledge of Allegiance was conducted and Ms. Podratz welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

c. Ms. Podratz nominated Ms. Cornwell as Secretary. Mr. Myers second. Motion passed.

d. Ms. Cornwell reviewed minutes from the September 2013 Chapter Meeting. Mr. Lundin made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Begley second. Motion passed.

4. Mr. Jensen presented the treasurer's Report. No report at this time

a. Mr. Jensen requested information on if timeline to approve application approved and if we met the timeline. Mr. Lundin will check with National on status so we can establish account with bank or credit union. Submission of our application was during the Annual Meeting so indicated may be delays due to the timeline.

b. Mr. Jensen requested guidelines for establishing an account with a bank or credit union. Mr. Panos indicated he would speak with Mrs. Thingvold (Spouse of COL Thingvold) who works at Hi-Way Credit Union to get information on establishing an account with them. Mr. Begley asked if they waves fees. Mr. Lundin indicated that they have no charge/monthly fees for opening an account.

5. Ms. Podratz presented the Reports of Officers. No report at this time

a. Mr. Lundin discussed the 41st Annual Meeting in regards to the study groups that will be Conducted and the meeting of the members discussions. At least two (2) issues will be discussed:

1. Open Regular Membership due to Army Warrant Officer have full memberships however if associated by By-Laws (i.e. Navy, Marines) you cannot vote or hold officer. Study groups will be discussing if this is appropriate or can we change this.

2. Past President's council conducted the Annual meeting in conjunction with AUSA (in D.C.) due to bigger representatives and more influence. Is this to constrained or can we still have our professional development.

6. Ms. Podratz presented the Committee Reports. No reports at this time

7. Ms. Podratz presented Unfinished Business:

a. Goals of chapter, how we are going to define ourselves and Going forward. Do we want to have a combination of both professional development and community involvement? Below are ideas for the members to review and determine the course of action at the next meeting that we would like to proceed with.

1. Mr. Begley recommended we do a 30/70 split on time in regards to professional development and community involvement. Mr. Begley's idea for community involvement was to assist at the VA during Christmas and professional development of master resiliency training due to the fact that he is qualified and legally we can teach it here over the course of a year and get all seven (7) steps completed.

2. Mr. Nesheim recommended Section of Road (Adopt a Highway)

3. Additional ideas that were put on the table were pancake breakfast to help raise funds for a family in need. This family could be civilian, military, a retired warrant officer or even someone who was affected by the government shutdown. Within the Chapter right now we do not have the funds established to purchase items to proceed with this event. This idea should be tabled for later use once the Chapter is more established and has an account open.

4. Mr. Lundin reestablished the implications that if we do a commitment are we going to be there. We have to determine as a Chapter exactly what community involvements we can handle and make an impact in. We do not want to do a poor job at an event just to do an event.

8. Ms. Podratz asked for New Business:

a. Mr. Lundin identified that a lot of retired Warrant officers in the state look for information on individual health care or administration updates. Because of the dramatic changes that are occurring it would be worthwhile to have a newsletter with the updated information to send out.

b. Ms. Cornwell volunteered to conduct a quarterly newsletter. Mr. Lundin agree with the recommendation. Ms. Podratz second. Motion passed.

1. Topic number one (1) of the newsletter: Mr. Lundin asked, If you receive medical care from the VA, how has it changed in regards to reimbursement? Believe if you're over 50% disability that you don't pay. Need to establish the correct interpretations of the policy. Ms. Cornwell will review the policy, update the newsletter and provide the information.

2. Topic number two (2) of the newsletter: Mr. Begley recommends that any big change in the warrant officer or military community has to be addressed. Mr. Panos agreed and says if one of our goals/values is to assist other officers we need to look at issues that affect both the retired and active community. As a group we need to monitor news and updates and get that information sent to Ms. Cornwell for the newsletter.

3. Topic number three (3) of the newsletter: Mr. Lundin indicates that MN is one of few states that taxes retired pay. We have some retired members that are moving to South Dakota or North Dakota so that they do not get taxed. This is an issue and we need to get it fixed. How can we address this? Do we use the process of letter writing, in person officer visits with congressman? What is the best and most successful way to try and make a change?

4. Topic number four (4) of the newsletter: How does legislation work? Mr. Panos indicates that reserve guys deal with federal government, we as Minnesota National Guardsman work without our State. How do we help both within our state and national? What makes us more legit or gives us a voice.

c. Ms. Podratz asked what do we want to do at our next meeting for professional development, building our numbers for membership and recommendations for topics for a possible guest speaker.

1. Mr. Panos asked if we have any Retired Marine Warrant Officers in the State? Mr. Begley volunteered to stop in and talk to an in service recruiter on 22 October 2013. He will email Mr. Lundin the information. Mr. Panos recommended we get them involved due to Marines run the Toys for Tots. With Christmas right around the corner can be a community involvement project to get involved in.

2. Mr. Bendickson recommended MG(R) Shellito as a guest speaker. As the Commissioner for State VA and the individual who established the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. Ms. Podratz volunteered to check to see if MG(R) Shellito is available to speak at our next meeting.

3. Mr. Begley recommended we invite the Fort McCoy members to boost our membership.


4. Mr. Panos and Ms. Podratz discussed Minnesota National Guard Warrant Officer Professional Development weekend. It is held in August of each year, it will be held on August 16-17 of 2014 and all warrant officers of the Minnesota National Guard are required to attend. Last year NAGUS spoke about membership and this upcoming year, we are going to speak about our membership to the Star of The North Chapter. This is the biggest event for Warrant Officers in one spot from the MN National Guard. Invite everyone from the Chapter to come to alumni dinner.


5. Final topic to finalize at the next meeting is our Social/dinner. Do we want to have this in April and do we want to have the spouses involved. Mr. Lundin made a motion to have the dates locked down by the next meeting. Mr. Schweitzer seconds the motion. Motion passed.

9. Next Chapter meeting will be held at the Ft Snelling Officers Club on 18 November 2013 at 1800 if MG(R) Shellito is available, otherwise will be held in Saint Cloud/Camp Ripley area. Future meetings will also be held on the third Monday of the month, with the exception of April, however, location may change. Scheduled date for the remainder of the year is 16 December 2013.

10. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1925 by Ms. Podratz, seconded by Mr. Schweitzer and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


JACQUELINE A. CORNWELL
Secretary


TINA L. PODRATZ
Pro-Temp Chapter President