

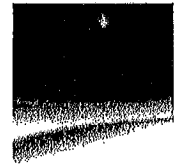
# STAR OF THE NORTH CHAPTER

## United States Army Warrant Officers Association



### MINUTES MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING

25 April 2014



University B, Best Western Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN

1. The meeting was brought to order by Tina Podratz, Pro-Term President at 1808 hours at the Best Western Kelly Inn, University B, St. Cloud, MN.
2. The following members/guests were in attendance:

CW3 Tina Podratz	Pro-Term President
CW5R Howard Lundin	Vice President
CW4 Brent Jensen	Treasurer
WO1 Jacqueline Cornwell	Secretary
CW5 Peter Panos	Member
CW4R Don Nesheim	Member
CW3 Keith Schweitzer	Member
CW4 Marie Festler	Member
CW4 Robert Koroll	Guest
CW3 Brett Setterlund	Guest
CW4 Kevin Jensen	Guest
CW2 Daniel Davidson	Guest

The following members were representative by proxy:

CW4 Robert Gunderson	Member
CW2R David Nelson	Member
CW3 Erik Homme	Member
CW2 Jeremy Myers	Member
CW2 Michael Begley	Member
CW4R Chad Sigler	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 reviewed minutes from February and March 2014 Chapter Meetings. Mr. Nesheim made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Jensen second. Motion passed.

4. Mr. Jensen presented the treasurer's Report.

a. No additional deposits or withdrawals since 16 March 2014. Balance of accounts as of 24 April 2014; Checking Account \$542.18 and Savings Account \$5.00. See attached financial statement.

b. Motion was made by Mr. Lundin to accept the treasurer's report. Mr. Nesheim second. Motion passed.

5. Ms. Podratz presented the Announcements.

a. Guest speaker, Mike Surface, from Hi-Way Federal Credit Union from Fort Snelling Branch Office discussed programs for Soldiers in regards to financial wellness. Hi-Way Federal Credit Union is a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Company. Mr. Lundin asked about possible corporate sponsorship and will follow up with before 19 May 2014 meeting.

b. Guest speaker, Mr. Brett Setterlund, State Officer conference committee member, discussed why warrant officers should become members of NAGUS. Informed of reduction of 1000 National Guard positions which in-turn could affect fulltime staff (technician/AGR). NAGUS is currently working to ensure that the National Guard continues to get paid for 4 MUTAs. Below are the 4 major points from the Statement for the Record-National Guard Association of the United States Legislative Director Pete Duffy, Colonel (Retired), for the November 13, 2013, 2013 Hearing of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

(1) The Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC) recommends to attain pay parity with the active forces by cutting weekend drill pay in half by equating one full drill day with one day of "regular military compensation." The QRMC claims this would "ensure equitable pay for similar service" with the active component. This reduction of pay would also reduce the number of retirement points earned from four to two for a drill weekend and in turn the retirements pay benefit.

(2) Unlike the active forces, drilling National Guard members work a 12-day "work week" when a MUTA 4 drill weekend occurs between full-time 40-hour-plus work weeks. They are not compensated for the time and expenses for travel to drills, physical training, medical readiness, family care and performing extensive unit administrative responsibilities.

(3) Comparing the daily pay rate for active and Guard days actually served service is instructive in assessing whether the QRMC actually honors its equitable pay for similar service mantra. In error, the QRMC ignores the fact that active duty forces in stateside assignments annually receive 365 days of pay which includes full pay and allowances for 143 down days that must take into account 104 idle weekend days (52 X 2); 30 days paid leave; and 9 paid holidays. This equates to 365 days of pay for only 222 days served. Doing the math of dividing 365 by 222 yields an active

duty daily pay rate of 1.64 days of pay for one day of service. This represents more than one third of the year in down time for which they are paid.

(4) A just and more comprehensive recommendation from the QRMC would have been to keep the current drill pay structure and increase lagging benefits for the Reserve Components to "ensure equitable pay for similar service." NGAUS respectfully asks the Commission to reject the drill recommendations of the QRMC.

c. Ms. Podratz handed out flyer for [www.eKnowledge.com/USAWOA](http://www.eKnowledge.com/USAWOA), which provides a 90% discount on SAT and ACT Test Prep. With eKnowledge they believe every student should have access to higher education.

d. Ms. Podratz requested nominations for President and Vice President. Ms. Podratz is deploying in June 2014, with this upcoming movement, requested interested parties prior to the end of her one year term. Nominations received from members will be contacted by Ms. Podratz to inquire on interest prior to submission for ballot.

#### 7. Ms. Podratz presented Unfinished Business.

a. How can we increase membership in the Chapter? Was asked that everyone please come up with a couple of ideas of how we can build interest and membership. One remaining idea was to continue with community service events. Asking other warrant officers to join us in the community to give back, by providing this we are providing additional avenues and getting involved that may appeal to other warrant officers. This also builds our community involvement in general. Will discuss more ideas on membership at the May 2014 meeting.

b. How do we go about establishing additional funds? Was asked to come up with ideas for fundraisers and events for future meetings or events. Event idea brought up during the meeting was to have a Golf Event during the 15-17<sup>th</sup> August timeframe. Fundraising ideas discussed were coins from QuarterMaster.com (spinner coin), mugs, and camel back water bottles. We need to make a decision on fundraising ideas by next meeting, 19 May 2014, in order to be able to provide items for Warrant Officer Candidates and for golfing outings & events.

#### 8. Ms. Podratz asked for New Business:

a. Due to upcoming events, school, and scheduling was requested that Mr. Lundin take on the role of newsletter editor. Ms. Cornwell provided all folders and research documentation.

b. Mr. Lundin was asked to present a briefing on what has the Association done for us and the history of the Warrant Officer Association. Specifically speaking to Warrant Officers and the Associations key role in mentorship and professional development. This would be an excellent topic to discuss at professional development for the Warrant Officer Candidate Course.

c. What can we do for distinguished honor graduates and warrant officers of the year within the state. Could we look at awarding them a lifetime membership? How much would this cost when we look at the number of classes that graduate throughout any given year. Would this be

something we look at working with the Association or just as a chapter? This subject is tabled until next chapter meeting on 19 May 2014.

d. Jamie Houdek, CW2, was injured in a farm accident in November 2013. A motion was made by Mr. Lundin to send a check for \$50. Mr. Nesheim second. An amendment was made by Mr. Panos to send a check or item valued at no more than \$50. Mr. Panos volunteered to check with the Houdek family on items they need. All approved the amendment. Motion passed.

e. Warrant Officer Candidate School has BBQ event on 13 July 2014. How can we as a chapter assist with either food or support for the event. Feedback is required from CW3 Schweitzer-WOCS Commander and Course Manager by 19 May 2014 chapter meeting.

f. VA offers dental insurance. Mr. Lundin gave everyone hand out in regards to the potential benefit.

9. Next Chapter meeting will be held at the Fort Snelling Officers Club on 19 May 2014 at 1800. Future meetings are listed below.

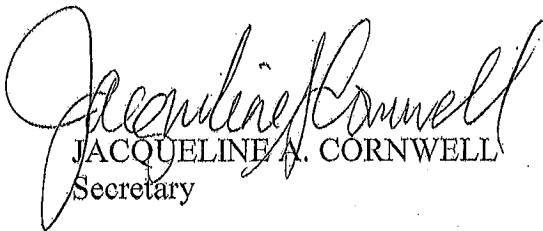
a. Monday, June 16th, 2014-Fort Snelling Officers Club-1800

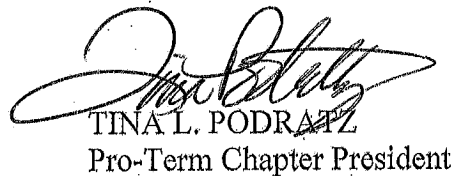
b. Monday, July 21st, 2014-Fort Snelling Officers Club-1800

c. Friday, August 15th, 2014-Camp Ripley, MN (Exact Location and Time TBD). Event will include golf outing and dinner. Mr. Jensen and Mr. Koroll volunteered to check golf locations. Ms. Festler volunteered to check on the Hanger for dinner accommodations. All information in regards to golf location and dinner will be discussed for final decisions at 19 May 2014 chapter meeting.

10. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1926 by Ms. Podratz, seconded by Mr. Nesheim and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JACQUELINE A. CORNWELL  
Secretary

  
TINA L. PODRATZ  
Pro-Term Chapter President