

# STAR OF THE NORTH CHAPTER

## United States Army Warrant Officers Association



### MINUTES MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING

25 January 2016

American Legion Post #435 in Richfield, Minnesota



1. The meeting was brought to order by Ms. Tina Podratz, President at 18:00 hours at the American Legion Post #435 in Richfield, Minnesota. Ms. Podratz led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance and confirmed that a quorum was available to conduct business. Mr. Nesheim led the group in a prayer.

2. The following members/guests were in attendance:

CW4 Tina Podratz	President
CW2 David Bendickson	Vice President
CW2 Jessica Campbell	Secretary
CW4 Brent Jensen	Treasurer
CW5R Marilyn Anderson	Member
CW4R Barbara Fici	Member
CW4 Robert Gunderson	Member
CW4R Donald Nesheim	Member
CW2 Michael Begley	Member
CW2R David Nelson	Member

12 additional members were represented by proxy.

3. Chapter Secretary's Report:

a. The minutes from the October, November and December meetings were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Neshiem and seconded by Mr. Begley to approve the minutes as written. No one being opposed, the minutes were approved.

4. Chapter Treasurer's Report:

- a. Balance in checking/savings accounts as of 25 January 2016 Financial Statement: \$752.18
- b. Motion was made by Mr. Neshiem and seconded by Mr. Nelson to accept the November, December, and January treasurer's report. Motion carried and approved.

5. Announcements:

- a. None.

## 6. Reports of Officers:

- a. Ms. Campbell provided a chapter membership update: 43 members, four new members, two losses, and nine non-affiliated members.
- b. The group discussed ideas for promoting membership. Ms. Campbell suggested updating and adding to the group's Facebook page. Mr. Bendickson stated he would talk with CW4 Knutson and see about getting the word out to NG Warrant Officers.

## 7. Unfinished Business:

- a. Ms. Podratz brought up the idea of having the April Chapter meeting at the 2016 National Guard Association of Minnesota State Conference. She suggested we have our meeting at 1800 on 22 April 2016 followed by an open house where Warrant Officers can meet chapter members and get more information about membership. Mr. Jensen was going to check with the 1/34<sup>th</sup> ABCT and see if the chapter can share a hospitality room with their organization for the open house.
- b. The group discussed possible fundraising ideas. Ms. Anderson agreed to contact Mr. Fridlund and follow-up on the bean toss boards. She's going to look into whether we can get one set before April 2016. Ms. Podratz mentioned the idea of a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary coin to sell at events or give to new chapter members at their first meeting.
- c. The group briefly discussed hosting a community/veterans park clean-up followed by a family BBQ event in June. That month seems to be the most promising in terms of weather and availability.
- d. Ms. Anderson and Mr. Begley provided more information about how to volunteer with the Ronald McDonald House and serve meals. Further information is required and Ms. Anderson and Mr. Bendickson offered to research it.
- e. Ms. Podratz proposed to the group that we have a member drive in the Spring of 2016. There is a possibility this will coincide with the NGAMN Officer Convention (Tentatively 23-24 April 2016). Mr. Lundin suggested that the chapter purchase a 1-year membership to CW4R Robert Dettmer, Minnesota State Representative. A motion was made by Mr. Lundin and seconded by Mr. Neshiem to purchase a membership for Rep. Robert Dettmer. Motion carried and approved.

## 8. New Business:

- a. The annual WOCS ruck march will be held July 17, 2016 at Camp Ripley Training Center. The 10K march will be followed by a lunch/BBQ at 11:00 and it was suggested that the group attend and help serve the candidates meals.
- b. The group discussed having a Retirement Services Officer (RSO) come and speak at one of the upcoming chapter meetings. Mr. Bendickson volunteered to guest speak at the February

meeting. He will present the discussions and findings at the recent Army Warrant Officer Solarium.

- c. Mr. Nelson mentioned the idea of having a quarterly social or a social aspect to some of our spring events.
- d. Mr. Jensen brought up the possibility of applying for grant money through Tee It Up for Troops. The chapter would have to demonstrate continued support of a veteran's based or current service member organization. Mr. Nesheim agreed to inquire with the Eden Prairie Yellow Ribbon Community about volunteer opportunities.

9. Next Chapter meetings/events will be:

- a. Monday, February 22, 2016 – American Legion Post #435 – 1800-1900.
- b. Monday, March 21, 2016 – American Legion Post #435 – 1800-1900.
- c. Monday, April 22, 2016 – American Legion Post #435 – 1800-1900.
- d. Monday, May 16, 2016 – American Legion Post #435 – 1800-1900.

10. There being no additional business at 19:18, a motion was made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Begley and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*S/ Jessica Campbell*  
JESSICA L. CAMPBELL  
Chapter Secretary

*S/ Tina Podratz*  
TINA L. PODRATZ  
Chapter President