

Veterans Network Committee of Northern Illinois
Minutes for Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, February 26, 2025

CALL TO ORDER 1800

ROLL CALL **Present:** Kristine Ozyuk, Tom Zavadsky, Butch Kribbs, Craig Graham, Dana Fanslow, Doug Katz
Excused: Aaron Stain, Dana Fanslow

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Items to be included in the Consent Agenda
 - a. Treasurer's Report for January 25, 2025 to February 21, 2025
Motion to approve Treasurer's Report for January 25, 2025, to February 21, 2025.
Motion: Katz **Second:** Ozyuk
Voice Vote: Aye: Ozyuk, Zavadsky, Graham, Katz
Nay: None
Absent: Fanslow, Stain
MOTION PASSES
 - b. Minutes from January 29, 2025, Regular Board Meeting
Motion to approve the minutes from the January 29, 2025, Regular Board meeting.
Motion: Ozyuk **Second:** Kribbs
All in Favor: Aye
MOTION PASSES
2. Consent Agenda Approval
Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Motion: Kribbs **Second:** Graham
All in Favor: Aye
MOTION PASSES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Treasurer
 - a. Fanslow has been away due to personal/family reasons and will reach out to perspective new treasurer in the upcoming weeks.
 - b. Fanslow has been working with the accounting firm, Porte Brown to complete the 2024 taxes. These should be completed within the week.
 - i. Cost to file: VNC account \$1,000 and VNC Honor Flight account \$1,500. This is already an approved expense.
2. Budget
 - a. Fanslow will present this at the March meeting.

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Vets for Vets Committee
 - a. Board packet includes statement from Stain about the event and breakdown of event.
 - b. Flag Cost
 - i. Board has decided to keep this expense as a Vets for Vets disc golf event cost.
 - c. Kribbs Reimbursement
 - i. Kribbs donated the Space Force flag to the VNC Vets for Vets event.
 - d. Treasurer's Report
 - i. Board decided to keep this event in the Main account moving forward.
2. Honor Flight Committee
 - a. Annual Summit
 - i. Fanslow and Stain went to DC February 13-16 for the annual National Honor Flight Summit.
 1. Things learnt
 - a. The Navy Shipyard can start to be added back into our itinerary.
 - b. Discussion of places to apply for grants from our personal communities
 - c. New food lunch vendor options

- d. A new organization that can assist with getting higher ranking officials to come out honor our Veterans & for speakers
- e. Korean Embassy will come out to give awards and metals to Korean War Veterans
- f. Getting a possible motorcycle escort from DCA to our first stop
- g. Who to get in touch with at the Air & Space Museum to get group tours
- h. Possibly getting a reenactor to come visit at some point
- i. Getting the Vietnam Memorial group to come out an honor those who served, they will also pre-etch names on the walls beforehand, so if its bad weather they will always leave with a good etching. Also, it give people time to just feel the emotions at the wall instead of worrying about getting an etching.
- j. Ideas how to adjust our Veteran application
- k. Ideas how to make the mail call go smoother
- l. Ideas how to honor those who pass before the trip but on our waitlist
- m. Different swag ideas for our trip
- n. Budgeting format ideas

b. 2025 Trip

i. Confirmed

1. Dates: Thursday, August 21- Sunday, August 24
2. Airline: Southwest Airlines, 90 seats, \$31,341.45
 - a. 8/21 depart MKE 9:10 am arrive DCA 12 pm
 - b. 8/24 depart DCA 9 am arrive MKE 10 am
3. Green Passes: We were granted 30 green passes for Southwest Airlines!
4. Hotel: Sheraton Pentagon 50 rooms, estimated cost \$18,150; this is a \$3 per night increase per room
5. DC Buses: Dillan's estimated cost \$9,013; after the trip additional gas expenses will be charged
6. Tour Guides: Bill & Rosemary Bozo- will stay at the hotel with us this year

ii. In the Works

1. Hotel meals: They are working on trying to lock in pricing similar to what we paid last year, unfortunately food prices

have greatly increased, Fanslow is hoping to have a locked in price soon to better estimate the additional cost.

2. Trip Leaders: Fanslow and Stain are working on securing our leaders for the 2025 trip.
3. Trip Participants: The 2025 Honor Flight Veterans should be starting to receive calls by the end of March.
4. Amazon Wishlist: Fanslow is working on creating an Amazon Wishlist for the Honor Flight to cover items needed during the trip, planning, pre-meeting, welcome home, and reunion.

iii. Unable

1. The National Guard Museum is out once again this year, as they will be in MKE for a convention. We moved our flight up a week because of Labor Day, hopefully we can add this back in for 2026.

3. Flag Program Committee

- a. Zavadsky updated the board that there will be 3 flag raisings in Rockford in April, one is a 1.5 year request. We will then move forward in 2025 with Crystal Lake only.

4. Field of the Fallen Committee

- a. New Service Flags- We are in the process of looking into the purchasing new Show Service flags before the Field in May. Kribbs and Katz will be looking for quotes for the 10 service flags.
- b. Katz is discussing with the Chamber of Commerce members different partnerships for donations, volunteers, etc.

5. Membership Committee

- a. Ozyuk stated that there are no new members as of 2025.

6. Storage & Trailer Committee

- a. Monthly workday
 - i. We will vote in March meeting on a workday as board looks at personal schedules.

7. Fundraising Committee

- a. Need to find a Fundraising chairperson.
- b. Charity Maina
 - i. Board suggestions to make sure that we state very clearly the proceeds go 100% to Honor Flight.

Motion to approve moving forward with another Charity Maina event.

Motion: Ozyuk

Second: Graham

All in Favor: Aye

MOTION PASSES

NEW BUSINESS

1. Donation- Jim Hill \$100

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

The next Meeting is on March 26, 2025 @ 6 pm

ADJOURNMENT 1837