

**MEMORIAL RIFLE SQUAD
OFFICERS AND SQUAD LEADERS MEETING
SATURDAY JANUARY 12, 2019
APPLE VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: 0945 hours

INVOCATION: Richard Geis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ken Gibson

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: Commander Kirchoffner

Commander –	Dan Kirchoffner	Present
Vice Commander-	Sandy Kleinke	Not Present
Adjutant -	Harry Braaten	Present
Finance Officer-	Bill Lee	Present
Quartermaster-	Rich Ashbury	Not Present
Ordinance Officer-	Howard Tellin	Present
Historian-	Jim Jore	Present
Trustee-	Richard Geis	Present
Trustee-	Mike Pluta	Present
Trustee-	Bob Nelson	Present
Web Site Co-ord.	Ken Tibesar	Present
Officer of Day-	Ken Gibson	Present
Medical Officer-	Rich Zech	Not Present
Judge Advocate		

ROLL CALL OF SQUAD LEADERS: Commander Kirchoffner

Monday Squad -	Mike Rose	Present
Tuesday Squad-	Dan Fisher	Present
Wednesday Squad-	Mike Hanzal	Present
Thursday Squad-	Ray Frisvold	Present
Friday Squad-	George Weiss	Not Present
Saturday Squad-	Lee Aragon	Present

HONORED GUEST;

Ame Callahan – Fort Snelling National Cemetery
John Knapp- Fort Snelling National Cemetery

85 Memorial Rifle Squad members were present.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA;

Motion to accept by Jim Jore,
Seconded by Ray Frisvold.
Motion Carried.

MINUTES FROM SEPT 8, 2018 OFFICER/SQUAD LEADERS MEETING.

Minutes approved after a 30 day posting.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Vice Commander – Sandy Kleinke – Not Present, No Report

Adjutant – Harry Braaten

Approx. 230 “Thank You” letters have been sent out from Jan.1, 2018 to Dec. 31, 2018. Working with Finance Officer – Bill Lee – we can get the thank you’s out in 1 -2 weeks , very max. 3 weeks., where it, in the past has taken 3 – 4 months.

Motion to accept
Seconded
Motion carried

Finance Officer – Bill Lee

An expense account worksheet was passed out for all to look at, It is approx.. \$430.00 to out fit a new recruit.

An end of the year financial report was also passed out for discussion and then recollected.

January 1, 2018 bank checking account balance = \$38,087.55
December 31, 2018 bank checking account balance = \$41,872.26.

Motion to accept by Allan Johnson
Seconded by Ken Gibson
Motion carried.

Ordinance Officer – Howard Tellin

We have had a pretty good year. There are chambers brushes on back order.

Air from shop is equal to 110lbs. Can we get a restrictor put on our compressor???

Motion to accept by Ken Gibson
Seconded by Wayne Bauer
Motion carried.

Quartermaster – Rich Ashbury – Not Present

Gary Klein – Assistant QM giving report

There was some trouble with the new charge card, but that seems to be taken care of at this time.

Scarfs for all were approved by the Commander, but still waiting for order to be completed.

Motion to accept by Jim Jore

Seconded by Dave Fleming

Motion carried.

Questioned was asked about getting ammo, one squad was short and didn't have any. Gary mentioned that he checks all squad lockers weekly.

Historian – Jim Jore

2016 -2017 there were 2440 funerals

2018 dropped down to 2355 funerals, re: less WWII veterans.

Question on the calendar, should we be recording the number of names read off at the Flag Pole ceremony at the beginning of each month???

Should we add to our ceremony count?

Discussion followed;

Ame Callahan recommended that we count each name read off as 1 veterans ceremony, ex.; if 10 names are read off, that would mean 10 funerals services.

Motion to accept this procedure made by Bob Nelson.

Seconded by Mike Rose.

Motion carried.

FYI, all veterans, as of Nov. 11, 2017, all veterans are able to shop at My Exchange.com – website, you do have to go thru Veterans Verfiy procedure.

Officer of the Day – Ken Gibson

Only remark is Thank you for all doing a great job.

Trustees – Mike Pluta

Everything is very well organize and in order, Bill Lee is doing an outstanding job.

Motion to accept made by Rich Geis

Seconded by Joe Collova

Motion carried.

Medical Officer – Rich Zech – No Report - Not Present

Assist. Gerry Ballot – Not Present

Web Site Coordinator – Ken Tibesar

Discussion about a Business card look alike, info about the website. This is found on top of Tuesday's locker, can have available to pass out to potential members or somebody who would be interested in learning or getting information about the Memorial Rifle Squad. (WHO WE ARE....)

A page on website has information about veterans benefits.

Another page has the daily schedules; problem of distribution is being looked into. (There is a small dot in the bottom right corner of page that is for members only and will get you into daily schedules.

Fort Snelling National Cemetery – Comments - John Knapp

At the cemetery level they are working on getting the schedule onto one site, instead of 3 to 30 sites.

The cemetery now has a public site, similar to MRS for the next of kin, to get a notice out to the general public if the family so request.

Be patient with Admin. To go forward with what the MRS has setup, as well trying to protect the privacy of the next of kin.

The MRS website can archive schedules instead of using 3 ring binder, Discussion, -- KEEP PAPER COPY IN 3 RING BINDER...

Commander – Dan Kirchoffner

Had several strokes since November, Mike Pluta and Dan Fisher were of great help during this time.

"I MISS MY BUDDIES", THANK YOU ALL FOR DOING WHAT YOU DO".

SQUAD LEADERS:

Monday – Mike Rose

Monday squad is in good shape.

Tuesday – Dan Fisher

Tuesday Squad is at full strength with 25 members.

Mike Brand, past member service, did not know about until that day looking over schedule. We have to make sure we are aware of our members.

Sec. of Veterans Administration, Robert Wilke was a guest of the Tuesday squad and watched a Military Honors service and was very impressed. (Tuesday squad made points, in Veterans Admin eyes...)

Wednesday – Mike Hanzal

There are two assistants

26 members on the squad and an aver of 20 per Wednesday.

Thursday – Ray Frisvold

There are 25 members on the squad and an aver of 19
Per Thursday.

Friday – George Weiss – Not Present

Mike Pluta giving report
Friday squad has 27 members with an aver of 20 per Friday.
Last member to past away was Ted Nezemk.

Saturday – Lee Aragon

Saturday squad was imitated in Oct.2018; Saturday squad is
scheduled the first Saturday of each month or as needed by FSNC.

The squad has been fortunate to be able to fill all MRS positions
because of a combination of;

Tuesday Squad members = 11

Friday squad members = 5

New squad members = 6

Grateful to VA and MRS to be able to provide these services.

Motion to accept Squad Leaders reports made by Ken Gibson

Seconded by Dave Fleming

Motion carried.

At this point the Agenda was turned over to the Adjutant (Harry Braaten)

The addition of the proposed By-Law;

TERM OF OFFICE:

Discussion followed.

The Officers and Squad Leaders approved the proposal at their Sept. 8,
2018 meeting; also John Knapp (FSNC) was present and gave his approval.

There is nothing in the current By-Laws, or Constitution that states
the length for term of office for any Officer. By passing this Proposed By-Law, this
will bring continuity into the leadership of the MRS. Past Commanders have
mentioned that it takes 4-6 months to get to know the procedures as well as to get
to know the FSNC Administration.

A comment – “if is not broken, don’t fix it”. It is broken.

Bob Seldon – Place the Commander and Vice Commander in the same year
and all other Officers in the next years.

Motion made.

Amendment to motion by Bob Seldon.

Vote for commander and Vice Commander in the odd years and place all remaining
Officers in then even years.

The proposed By-Law will read as Follows:

Article IV – Meetings

Section 4 All ballots for the annual election of Officers will be cast in person. No absentee ballots permitted.

a). TERM OF OFFICE:

1). Officers elected by the membership shall serve a term of two (2) years. The term of office shall begin at the end of the annual meeting held in January and will continue until his or her successor has been elected. An elected Officer shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive two-year terms.

2). The elected Officers in the odd years (starting in 2019) shall be for:

Commander
Vice Commander

3). The election in the even years (starting in 2020) shall be for;

Finance Officer
Ordinance Officer
Quartermaster
Judge Advocate
Chaplain
Trustee for a 3-year term

4). Review of Officers

A review of the Officers shall be called by the Commander, or Squad Leaders, or a Quorum of 1/3 of the membership, as deemed necessary (at any time of the year) for any Officer not performing his/her duties.

Motion made by Bob Seldon

Seconded by Bill Lee

Motion to accept the Proposed By-Law addition carried.

Recognition – Mike Pluta

Valued GOLD TEAM for MRS members.

Plaques for members of Memorial Rifle Squad that have 25 + years of service include the following:

Richard Ashbury
Andy Urness
Ray Frisvold
Charles Kolath
Robert Pellow
George Weiss

Thank you for your support of the MRS.

40th Anniversary Committee Status – Richard Geis

This will be a program that will recognize the 40th Anniversary Of the Memorial Rifle Squad.

Sept. 15, 2019

1:00pm to 5:00pm

Richfield Veterans Park Shelter

For members, Family, and friends.

This will be a catered event.

(NO ALOCHOLIC BEVERAGES WILL BE ALLOWED).

Music provided by Johnny Holliday

A Challenge coin, pin, and a pendant were developed and passed out to the Squad Leaders to be passed out to their squads.

No medallion will be put on the stone by the squad room that is being developed for the 50th anniversary.

John Knapp – FSNC

From Ame, the FSNC Administration, and myself we would like to say a BIG Thank You for what you do, the commitment and the way of life. No other outfit is like the MRS, others have tried.

As of June 1, 2018, The MRS has provided 75,000 Military Honors, but may now have to go back and re calculate that number because of the Flag Pole Honors, that will get added to MRS count.

The outward image that the MRS provides to the public and FSNC Is very special and unique. There is not a dry eye in any service that MRS preforms.

The FSNC Administration looks to the MRS as being a critical part to the operation of Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Responsibility comes to all as we try to maintain the highest level of intrigue. The Administration asks humbly that you go back and look at your charter and remember” Why “the MRS is there everyday.

On behalf of Administration, please keep doing what you are doing and remember our relationship.

THANK YOU...

Bob Nelson thanked the Amin for all their help.

Bob also had a question for Mr. Knapp;

Is shelter 5 going to get revamped, rock?????

It is on the docket of items for discussion at Admin.

Another item, can the Parking spot for the bus be looked at??

It will be discussed by Admin.

TOPIC OF STACKING – Stephan Landgraf

Discussion about stacking the daily schedule.

Any decision that meets the approval by the membership HAS TO BE ACROSS THE BOARD.

Ame Callahan mentioned the Admin process,

Mon – Fri open schedule, The Family calls, if 1:00 is available, have to give to family. If MRS available 9 – 9:15 – 9:30 – 9:45 etc. Admin can do, BUT again, ALL HAVE TO BE IN AGREEMENT.

January and February are the slowest months.

Discussion followed;

Dave Fleming comment – We have been doing this for a long time, nothing is wrong with the system right now. KEEP IT AS IT IS.

Do as the family requested.

Squad leaders to bring back to squads for discussion and to bring up at next Squad Leaders/Officers meeting.

Mike Rose – “We are here to serve the Veteran and the family”.

5 minute break

Commander Kirchoffner;

To bring Jim Hoey in as an Honary Member of the Memorial Rifle Squad

All members approved. Ceremony to held at a later date.

Up-date on the By-Laws – Harry Braaten

There was a sign up sheet put on the squad room bulletin board for a committee to look at the By-Laws. Nobody signed up, so I took upon myself to rewrite and update the changes that have been passed in the past, but have not been entered into the Bylaws, such as; the office of the Chief Medical Officer, the Judge Advocate, and the names of members that were approved to be moved from charter members to Co-Founders.

Update By-Laws with the new addition – TERM OF OFFICE –

Discussion followed.

Do we need to rewrite/update and post for 15 days????

Dan Fisher made a motion that Harry Braaten(Adjutant) to rewrite/update MRS By-Laws.

Seconded by Bill Lee

Motion carried

Bob Nelson asked if all members would receive new By-Laws. YES.

New Business;

Bill Lee lead discussion about adding another Squad Leader/Officer meeting to the calendar. Possibility in February or March, as June comes around, we are half way thru the year.

Discussion followed.

Dan Fisher mentioned that during Rich Geis command there was a third meeting. All agreed this would be a good idea.

Bill Lee made a motion to add another Squad leader/Officer meeting To the schedule.

Seconded by Bob Seldon.

Motion carried.

Next Meeting venue

This was brought up at the Sept. Squad leaders/Officer meeting. Would like to go back to alternating venues, between Apple Valley American Legion and Roseville American Legion or any other venue that would like to be considered. A motion was made and seconded. Motion carried. Roseville American Legion January 11, 2020. (This is reserved).

Election of Officers;

Members were asked for any nominations from the floor for any Officer position. No nominations were made.

On the Ballot:

Commander – Mike Pluta and Mike Zerr
Vice Commander – Richard Geis
Finance Officer – Bill Lee
Quartermaster – Rich Ashbury
Ordinance Officer – Howard Tellin
Trustee 3 year term – Bob Nelson
Judge Advocate
Chaplain

RESULTS OF THE ELECTION:

COMMANDER – MIKE PLUTA 50 VOTES

- Mike Zerr – 35 votes

VICE COMMANDER – RICHARD GEIS

FINANCE OFFICER – BILL LEE

QUARtermaster – RICH ASHBURY

ORDINANCE OFFICER – HOWARD TELLIN

TRUSTEE 3 YEAR – BOB NELSON

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TRUSTEE 2 YEAR – JACK WALLACE (write in votes)

TRUSTEE 1 YEAR – BOB SELDON (volunteer)

CHAPLAIN – ALAN KRUEGER

JOHN KNAPP FSNC GIVE THE SWEARING IN OF THE OFFICERS.

RECOGNITION FOR DAN KIRCHOFFNER AS OUTGOING COMMANDER.

Squad leaders for 2019:

Monday -	Mike Rose
Tuesday -	Dan Fisher
Wednesday -	Mike Hanzal
Thursday -	Ray Frisvold
Friday -	George Weiss
Saturday -	Lee Aragon

Benediction

Salute to colors

Adjourned 12:15pm

Respectfully submitted

Harry Braaten

Adjutant MRS

Not official until posted for 30 days.

Fort Snelling National Cemetery
Memorial Rifle Squad
Deceased members of 2018

Robert O'Neill (2000-2016)	5/3/2018	Army	Thursday
Lester Fournier (1987-1987)	5/28/2018	Navy	Friday
Donald Menier (2013-2018)	6/7/2018	Army	Monday
Michael Brand (2006-2008)	6/26/2018	Navy	Tuesday
Ted Nemzek (1998-2018)	9/5/2018	Army	Friday
Tom Pedersen (2005-2016)	10/25/2018	Navy	Thursday

IMPORTANT DATES TO PUT ON THE CALENDAR FOR 2019

TO ALL PERSONEL OF MRS

FEB. 16 Saturday Squad leaders, Officers, Meeting 10:00 AM

APR 12 Sunday Installation Luncheon Noon

May 27 Monday Memorial Day 10:00

June 15 Saturday Squad Leader, Officers, meeting 10:00AM

September 15 Sunday 40th Anniversary Picnic 1:00-5:00

September 21 Saturday Squad Leader Meeting 10:00

December 7th Saturday Pearl Harbor Day recognition 10:00AM

January 11,2020 Election Meeting Roseville Legion 9:00-10:00 start

Officers leaders if you cannot attend a Leadership meeting, please assign a Representative on your behalf.

