



**Fort Snelling Memorial Rifle Squad
Annual Meeting
January 14, 2023
Chanhasen American Legion, Post 580**

1. Call to Order – Commander Selden, 10:00
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Terry Winters
3. Invocation – Chaplain Ricky Youngmark
4. Quorum – 68 attendees, representing 58% of total MRS membership.
5. Welcome from Commander of Chanhasen American Legion – Glenn Anderson.
6. Comments from Assistant Director of Fort Snelling National Cemetery – Marcus Syverson.
 - a. New Executive Director, incoming Deputy Director, Assistant Director.
 - b. Busiest year so far, 5400 burials, 5% over prior year, 77% cremations.
 - c. Number of Veterans buried declining – 2,340 in 2021, 2,270 in 2022.
7. Memorial for deceased members who died in 2022:
 - a. Kenneth Everson, Tuesday squad, joined in 2017.
 - b. Robert Volt, Thursday squad, joined in 2022.
 - c. Raymond Frisvold, Thursday squad, joined in 1979.
 - d. Charlie Korlath, Friday squad, joined in 1987.
 - e. Dennis Crist, Saturday squad, joined in 2019.
8. Memorial for deceased MRS members – Chaplain Alan Krueger.
9. Report of Officers
 - a. Vice Commander – Ernie Denzer - solid recognition of MRS staff.
 - b. Treasurer and Trustee report – Bob Nelson (Trustee) – handout of comprehensive treasurer report. Discussed the increase of online donations.
 - c. Adjutant – Dan Goedken – 128 letters sent in 2022 to diversity of donors. Rosters have been updated. Minutes of former meetings posted on website.

- d. Quartermaster – Bill Lee – adequate supply of pants, shirts, Adequate supply of most items. Bugles have vulnerable wiring, caution recommended. Old uniforms can be discarded. MRS needs to retain overcoat/raincoats.
- e. Ordinance – Paul Pokorny – regular armor maintenance has been preserved.
- f. Website – Ken Tibesar – pictures are being updated on website, noting increase in website-based donations.
- g. Membership – Jerry Kosel – maximizing immediate replies to website inquiries, discussed advertising monthly in Legionnaire magazine.
- h. Historian - position presently open, discussed importance of historian role, Commander Selden recognized Jim Jore's strong contributions to years of MRS history.

10. Roll Call / Squad Leaders –

- a. Monday – Mike Rose, returning from medical leave, holding steady at 20/21 regular members.
- b. Tuesday – Dan Fisher, 15-20 active members, 2 new members stayed only briefly, Todd Lioning new member.
- c. Wednesday – Mike Hansel – 22 members, 18 active, 4 on medical leave, added 2 new members – Dennis DeLong and David Gary.
- d. Thursday – Dave Fleming – 19 active members, averaging 15-17 weekly, recruitment of new members currently needed.
- e. Friday – Mike Pluta – 22 members active, two new members – John Lacina and Roger Bilderback, also recognized John Barnes for crafting memorial wall details.

11. Commander report – Bob Selden –

- a. Decreasing number services due to declining WWII veterans, most services start at 9:30-10:00.
- b. Fund raising planned for new cemetery Carillon.
 - i. The new Carillon is a Post 580 and not a direct MRS project.
- c. Building situation discussed – remodeling or new building planned for 2028/29. Strategic funding planning for new MRS space underway, requiring veteran organization support and congressional political influence. MRS parking limitations and bathroom access also important for future MRS space. New admin building also being considered.
- d. Commanders advisory board consisting of past commanders is being considered, to be discussed going forward.

- e. Annual banquet and installation of officers - location voted on returning to the Lost Spur. Returning to Mancini's also considered.
 - f. Annual meeting planned – consideration of returning to 1776 in Apple Valley, or Chanhassen AL, or Roseville. Decision was to return to Post 1776 in Apple Valley in January 2024.
12. Election of Officers – Since only one candidate was running for each position, motions were made and seconded to elect each officer by a voice vote. Motions carried and each officer was elected by acclamations.
- a. Commander – Ernie Denzer
 - b. Vice-Commander – Dick Middleton
 - c. Three Year Trustee – Joe Star
13. New Commander comments – Ernie Denzer.
- a. Valued support for appointed staff positions.
 - b. Praise for squad leaders, and all MRS members.
 - c. Highest priority to honor the veterans, families.
 - d. Most MRS documents have moved onto the website.
 - i. MRS Constitution and By-Laws are at <http://www.memorialriflesquad.org/history>
 - ii. Members not using computers may request a printed copy of an MRS document from the web through their Squad Leader, the MRS Adjutant or Commander.
14. Swearing in of new 2023 MRS officers – Marcus Syverson
15. Benediction - Chaplain Alan Krueger.
16. Officer of the Day - Terry Winters, Salute.
17. Meeting Adjourned - 11:15.

MRS Minutes, Respectfully Submitted 1/24/23
Dan Goedken,
Adjutant 2023