

Fort Snelling National Cemetery Memorial Rifle Squad Annual Meeting

MINUTES

January 6, 2024

10 am - Call to Order - Ernie Denzer, Commander

Confirmation of a Quorum of the Membership – Dan Goedken, Adjutant

Invocation - Ricky Youngmark, Chaplain

Pledge -- Officer of the Day

Welcome Guests – FSNC Executive Director Dr Carl Houth. And Deputy Director Marshal Murphy, who offered welcoming comments to MRS members. As well, future MRS building update, continued coordination of scheduled services, and invitation for additional FSNC volunteers.

Officers Report

- Vice Commander, Dick Middleton, successful completed fundraising for carrilon, now awaiting final documentation. Proposed by-law changes, to be discussed.
- Treasure, Jim Fostad, stable and steady flow of MRS funding.
- Trustees, Joe Starr, last review of books substantiated good documentation, with another review pending.
- Adjutant, Dan Goedken, current on all correspondence with MRS donors, meeting minutes, and working on updating M-F roster.
- Quartermaster, Bill Lee, sufficient supply of most uniform items. Inform squad leader of your equipment needs and fill out form.
- Ordnance, Paul Pokorny, have some new cleaning supplies in ordnance room.
- Website, Ken Tibestar, regular updates made to the website related to daily schedules, benefits link.
- Medical, Tom Mullon, re-affirmation of MRS safety and risk. Make medical supply requests known. Provided bus updates, blankets and B/P equipment.

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- Membership, Jerry Kosel, 18 potential recruits, noting very positive recent media recruiting. Send all inquiries to the website.

Award – Commander Ernie Denzer presented Jim Jore with the Historian Emeritus award for his years of tireless historian dedication and productivity.

MRS Squad Leader Reports

- Monday, Mike Rose, 17-19 active members.
- Tuesday, Dan Fisher, 23-25 active members.
- Wednesday, Mike Hansel, 26 total, 18-20 active members.
- Thursday, Dave Fleming, 24 total, 16-18 active members.
- Friday, Jack Wallace, 26 on roster, 20-21 active members.

Summary of the Past Year – Commander Ernie Denzer

- Recognition of many achievements over the past year
- Reminder that formally certified MRS volunteers with VAMC will ensure proper medical follow-up in the event of volunteer health problems.
- Gratitude to 1776 AL post for today's MRS annual event.
- Continue to work with FSNC leadership on collaboration of services.
- Recognition that the pending MRS building construction timeline appears to be moved up.
- Significant contribution this past year from the Brotherhood of Streetcar Racers, and legacy of MRS contributions.
- Chain-of-Command with FSNC and VAMC should continue, to ensure timely and orderly communications.

Old Business

1. Support for FSNC Memorial Day Events
 - a. Proposal for annual rotation of MRS volunteerism for the main Monday morning FSNC event. For instance, Monday squad in 2024, Tuesday

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squad in 2025, etc. Current tendency for mostly the same volunteers every year, lacking rotation. Rotation motion voted down.

- b. Proposal for volunteerism at the Sunday morning & Monday afternoon events. Commander will solicit volunteers.

New Business - Each by-law change requires a Motion, a Second, Discussion and a Vote

1. Proposal of American Legion 580 in Chanhassen for the 2025 General Meeting. Voted and approved.
2. Proposal of Lost Spur in Egan for the 2025 Installation of Officers Event. Voted and approved.

3. MRS By-Law and Constitution Changes

- a. Article IV; Section 2 Meetings. Proposal to delete quorum requirement in by-laws. Proposal approved.
- b. Article III – Duties of Officers. Proposal to authorize Commander to take exceptional MRS action in rare circumstances. Proposal approved.
- c. Article VIII, Section 1; Membership Eligibility. Proposal that all MRS volunteers are properly vetted by the MVAMC. Proposal approved.
- d. Constitution Article IV Membership. Add a New Section 2 Squad leader, officers and members of a squad are permitted to recruit, admit, and dismiss volunteers based upon the Squad Leader's recommendation. Replacement/modified proposal that MRS recommendation is made to the MVAMC for dismissal. Proposal tabled for further tweaking and discussion at 2025 annual meeting.

Unanimous Voice Vote for, and swearing in of, two Elected Staff Officers and a Trustee.

1. Finance Officer, Jim Folstad opted to not run in 2024. Position remains open, pending interim volunteerism and Commander collaboration with out-going officer to cover interim responsibilities.
2. Ordinance Officer, Paul Pokorny voted in for another two-year term.

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3. Quartermaster, Bill Lee, voted in for another two-year term.
4. Three Year Trustee (2024-2027), Jack Wallace, voted in for another term.

The Appointed Staff Officers were reappointed for another year:

Adjutant; Dan Goedken

Chaplin; Ricky Youngmark

Medical Officer; Tom Mullon

Web Master; Ken Tibesar

Historian; Terri Winter

Salute to the Flag – Dan Goedken, Adjutant

Benediction – Ricky Youngmark, Chaplain

Adjourn

Lunch

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Dan Goedken, Adjutant