2026-03-14
MRS Leadership Meeting
Date: 2026-03-14 09:01:38

Location: Ft Snelling National Cemetery MRS Squad Room
Participants:
Commander-Dick Middleton
Vice Commander-Jay Peterson
Adjutant-Teresa Hammarback
Historian-Mikki Van Emmerik
Recruiter-Dan Lawrence
Medical-Mark Monroe
Web Site-Ken Tibesar
Chaplain-Dan Posten
Officer of the Day- Dr. Bruce Legan
Finance-Jay Peterson (for Dennis DeLong)
Quartermaster-Bill Lee
Ordnance-Paul Pokorny
Trustee-Jack Wallace (not present)
Squad Leaders and/or their representatives (not otherwise named above)-Dan Fisher, David Gary, Bob Peterson, Dave Flemming, Ernie Denzer, Rick Zech, Dick Kelso

Opening Ceremony

- The meeting began with prayers (Dan Posten and David Gary) and the Pledge of Allegiance (OD-Dr. Bruce Legan).

Squad Leaders' Reports:
Monday Squad:

- Has 22 active members.
- One member is on long-term medical leave (George Gonzalez),
- and one snowbird will return in May.
- Lost three members this year: two to retirement (Mike Zier,
- Darrell Buellger) and one due to travel distance.

- Mike Rose is currently undergoing radiation treatment.

Tuesday Squad:

- Has 23 total members, with 15-18 active daily.
- A new retired Army member, Ron Sieczkowski, has joined the squad.

Wednesday Squad:

- Has a full roster of 25 members.
- Dan Goedkin stepped down from his adjutant position due to medical issues; Teresa H.has taken over.

Thursday Squad:

- Has 23 members on the roster, with an average of 18 attending.
- One snowbird member, Dan Tetro, is expected to return soon.

Friday Squad:

- Has 21 members, with about 18-19 present weekly.
- Could use 3-4 new volunteers, particularly those who are not
- snowbirds.
- Lost a longtime member, Ken Gibson, in December.
- A suggestion was made to improve communication about
- members who retire or pass away.

Appointed Staff

Adjutant's Report:

- Recording Technology: The squad is now using a "Plaud" device to record meetings and generate AI transcripts.

Historian's Report:

- An updated plaque is needed as 11 names are missing.
- A list of deceased members was read.
- Deaths of current or former members should be reported to the historian, Mikki Van Emmerik, via email (M-I-K-K-I dot V-A-N-E-M-M-E-R-I-K at Gmail dot com).
- An email will be sent to squad leaders to inform them of losses.
- A video presentation honoring lost members is planned for the
- installation officers' meeting.

Recruitment Officer's Report:

• There are currently five prospective members.
• One prospective member is hesitant because his wife is buried at the location.
• An information table will be set up at the flag atrium to recruit new members, featuring new advertisement boards and a video loop.
• A question was raised about setting up an MRS recruiting table at the

Memorial Weekend event; Speaker 1 will follow up.
• A request was made to create an MRS recruitment poster (e.g., letter-sized or 18x12) for placement in posts.

Medical Officer's Report:

- AED Check: Squads were reminded to check the AED battery in the bus every morning.

Web Site Master:

- Website: The website is up to date. Squad leaders must inform Teresa of any roster changes to maintain accuracy.
- Newsletter: It was suggested to post a printed copy of the biweekly newsletter on the bulletin board for members without computer access.

Chaplain's Report:

- It is an honor to serve as chaplain
- Please contact with anything needed via squad leaders

Officer of the Day:

- Mission completed

Elected Staff

Finance Officer:

- As of February 28th, the account balance was $128,304.45.
- The organization is $26,000 ahead financially compared to last year.
- Detailed monthly reports are posted on the bulletin board.

Quartermaster:

- Supplies are plentiful, including uniforms.
- Members can use a form or note for requests.

Ordnance:

- Distribution of Spent Shells:
    - Problem: Due to high demand from families and the inability to produce more polished shells, the current supply is running out.
    - Solution: The practice of giving three polished shells will be discontinued. Instead, families will receive the actual spent shells from the ceremony, collected and placed in a blue presentation bag. Subject to squad preferences.
    - Implementation: Squad leaders are responsible for deciding on and implementing a procedure for collecting and distributing the shells (e.g., post-service handover or immediate handover to the

lead car driver).

Trustee:

- Noted to be Jack Wallace

Vice Commander:

- Provided introductory information about himself.
    - Air Force Veteran ’85-91 (Desert Shield/Desert Storm veteran)
    - Commander of AL Post 1776 in Apple Valley
    - Past President of Apple Valley Yellow Ribbon (8 yrs)
    - Vice Commander of DAV Chapter 40 in Apple Valley.

Commander:

- Welcome new MRS leaders-Jay Peterson (VC) and Dr. Bruce Legan (OD)
- 2025 Objectives read and announced at annual meeting
- 2026 Objectives:
    - Achieve our mission
    - Complete commander’s guide for organizational legacy
    - Initiate and complete guides for quartermaster, ordnance and adjutant positions
    - Improve MRS financials through additional donations
    - Initiate new savings account for future bus replacement
    - Further develop relationships with VA, FSNC, Mn V4V organizations
    - Control time of leadership meetings
    - Attend at least one meeting with each squad during their service day
    - Challenges: membership, new facility, aging buses
- Meeting Protocol: emphasized keeping meetings on schedule. It was requested that any new business debate exceeding ten minutes be met with a motion to vote or table the discussion.
- Commander’s Guide: A comprehensive “Commander’s Guide” with 21 elements has been created to support future commanders. It includes a timeline of activities, contact lists, and procedures. The guide will be given to the incoming commander, Jay Peterson, in January.
- Leadership Activities: outlined recent engagements, including meetings with the Veterans Association and funeral homes, and set objectives for 2026, such as addressing membership, facility, and bus challenges.
- Leadership Transition: will officially resign at the election meeting on January 10th.
- Accounting Changes: The organization has shifted to standard accounting procedures, which has been commended by the VA.
- Recent Funds: Received $618 from the Minnesota Veterans Organization and secured a $3,000 annual contribution.
- Bus Fundraising:
  o A new holding account for bus donations has been opened,

starting with a $100 donation. Fundraising is needed as the current buses are aging (22 and 13 years old) and repair costs are rising.
o The previous belief of a $50,000 annual fundraising limit was confirmed to be false.
o A committee will be formed to lead the new bus project and create fundraising materials for distribution in June to organizations like the American Legion and VFW. A suggestion was made to ask posts for $2,000 donations from gambling funds.
o A picture of a potential new bus will be available before the June meeting to aid fundraising efforts.

- **Challenge Coin**s: An example of the proposed coin was distributed to members present. A motion (So moved by Ernie Denzer and seconded by Dan Posten) was passed to purchase at least 300 new, undated challenge coins for continuous distribution. The cost will be ten dollars or less per coin.

New Procedures and Discussions:

- Cybersecurity Info for Veterans: Handouts from the American Legion
- about cyber scams targeting veterans were distributed, along with VA
- business cards for patient experience and ombudsman contacts.
- Upcoming Events
- Installation Meeting: Scheduled for April 12th at 10 a.m. at The Lost Spur. Sign-up sheets have been distributed. Current guests list: Marshall, Marcus, Rachel, Gregg P. Mn V4V, Glenn A AML 580
- Memorial Day Ceremony (May 25th):
    - Commander Dick Middleton will be the keynote speaker at the FSNC event.
    - Jay Peterson will lead the rifle squad activities. A full squad (minimum
    - seven rifles) and all service flags including POW/MIA are requested.
    - 1,000 chairs will be set up, and increased media presence is Expected in celebration of 250 years.
- Election Meeting: Scheduled for January 10th. At the AL 580.

Actionable Items:

☐ Squad leaders to inform Teresa H. of any roster changes.
☐ Inform the historian (Mikki Van Emmerik) of any deaths of current or former members.
☐ Check the AED battery in the bus every morning.
☐ Post a printed copy of the biweekly newsletter on the bulletin board.
☐ Squad leaders to decide on and implement a procedure for distributing spent shells.
☐ Teresa H. to document the roles of the ordinance officer, quartermaster, and adjutant by December for the Commander's Guide.

☐ Dick M. to provide a picture of a potential new bus before the June meeting.
☐ Dick M. to send an email soliciting volunteers for the new bus planning committee.
☐ Dick M. to submit the Memorial Day speech by May 1st.
☐ Dick M. to inquire about setting up an MRS recruiting table for Memorial Weekend.
☐ The quartermaster is authorized to purchase a minimum of 300 challenge coins.
☐ Dick M. to investigate warranty options for a new bus.
☐ A committee will be formed to create and distribute materials in June for bus fundraising.
☐ Sign-up sheets for Memorial Day activities will be posted by mid-April.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa Hammarback, Adjutant (Acting)