 **ND Cares Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**February 9, 2023**

Attendees: Shelly Sizer, LTC Ann Willoughby, Brian Watters, Michelle Panos. (All virtual)

Absent: Lonnie Wangen, Pam Sagness, BG Jackie Huber, David Becker, Joyal Meyer, Dr. Weintraub

**1. Opening.** Chairman Shelly Sizer briefly opened the meeting.

**2. Minutes.** Minutes from the January 12, 2023 meeting were accepted as written.

**3. New Business**

* **Executive Committee Updates**
  + **NDNG:** LTC Willoughby reported that State Family Program is entering their busy season. The suicide prevention and the risk reduction program is always looking at building community partners. They'll be involved with the Governor's Challenge on the 22nd of February. ASIST training will be held in Dickinson on the 22nd and 23rd for community partners as well as our soldiers to help someone who is struggling with alcohol or suicide ideation. Other ASIST training will be held in Devils Lake on the April 13-14. Military Outreach will be attending various Military Affairs Committees and interagency meetings. On March 23 is the community resource meeting in Crosby and March 29 will be the Minot Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home event. The Child and Youth Programs is starting their winter activities by sending out activity kits, holding a winter craft and movie night. The teen council will start planning an activity for the Month of the Military Child event. This teaches teens leadership, planning skill, and thinking about how they can help others instead of just being helped. They also plan the Purple Up Boot Camp and help with the event at the capitol. Then there is the Resilience night at the Ninja Academy. April 22 is the event for military kids at the Roosevelt Zoo in Minot. There will be family gardening classes in Bismarck and Devil’s Lake featuring CSU. extension. Guard Your Future is set for March and the Governor’s Ball on March 18. Shelly suggested these events be posted where retirees could see them and possibly participate. Bryan Watters stated the NDDVA has an events calendar that could also be utilized.
  + **NDDVA**: Bryan Watters reported on select pieces of legislation that included adding the Space Force to ND Century Code, naming several memorial bridges, allowing gaming funds from local veterans post to be donated to their state headquarters for administrative operating expenses and paying their VSOs, legislation concerning Fisher House grants, allowing military leave for drill weekends, dependent tuition waivers, the definition of surviving spouse for DAV vehicle license plate purposes, veterans preference for employment for active duty members about to retire, access to death records for military related persons, allowing disabled members from the Guard and Reserve to use the ND Veterans Home, gaming tax revenue going to the Post War Trust Fund where the NDDVA provides grants, and exempting military pay from state income taxes. He also mentioned that the Native American aging Council is proposing a stand down in Spirit Lake and provided contact information to be involved in planning.
  + **Chairman** – Shelly reported that she is gearing up for Minuteman Scholarships and looking for bright young people. She has a couple of CASA conferences coming up in April at Fort Leonard another at Fort Sam Houston which will focus on recruiting into the Guard and for Army medical positions. Michelle will connect Shelly with PIO Bill Prokopyk who is heading up a National Guard task force on recruiting.

**4. Old Business**

* Michelle reported that the number of ND Cares businesses and communities remains the same. The ND League of Cities will have workshops and we’ll see about attending the spring workshop. She is still working on the ND Military Data Book and showed data on various pages. She is still waiting for information from Defense Manpower some sections. The section concerning military dependents that showed national numbers will now show ND numbers. Another change of note is the uptick in hanging as a means of suicide. Lastly a section on reasons to hire veterans, Guard and Reserve members will be added as a positive message. Regarding the Governors Challenge Michelle stated that there is an Implementation Academy in Washington DC in June where our priority area team leaders may attend.

**5. UPCOMING EVENTS** Michelle discusses some of the following:

a.ND 2023 Legislative Calendar of Deadlines

b. ACOVA Meeting: Feb 16-17 Comfort Inn, Bismarck

c. Grand Forks Military Affairs Committee: Feb 15

d. Fargo/Moorhead Military Affairs Committee: Mar 9

e. Devils Lake Military Affairs Committee: Feb 23

f. Minot Military Affairs Committee: Mar 2

g. Williston Military Affairs Committee: Mar 3

h. FirstLink Various Trainings: Feb & March

i. VA S.A.V.E Virtual Training: Feb 16. Contact Tammy Monsebroten for information.

j. Behavioral Health Webinar, Question, Persuade, Refer: February 21, 2023

k. VA CALM Virtual Training: Mar 15 Contact Sarah Kemp-Tabbut for information.

l. NDHHS Ethics of Peer Support: Mar 15, 2023

m. ND Brain Injury Network 2023 Mind Matters Conference: Mar 23-24, 2023, Mandan.

1. **NEXT MEETING DATES**

The next ND Cares Coalition Meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2023 from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm and the  
 next Executive Committee meeting will be April 6, 2023 from 10:30 to Noon.