



NAVAL ENLISTED
RESERVE ASSOCIATION
WINDY CITY CHAPTER



Nov-Dec 2014 Edition
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From The WCC Newsletter Editor

Dec 2014

Shipmates:

The backbone members of Windy City Chapter always strive to get you the “best bang for your buck”. That includes the relocation to a centralized site for meetings that would avoid the exorbitant fee implemented by Park Ridge VFW which would ultimately “break the bank”. The contribution to our new hosts Christmas party and the raffle tickets, will not only purchase goodwill, we might win some money.

It's been over four years now since no rebates from National have ceased; a painful, but necessary belt tightening that was principally the result of the legacy costs of life memberships. Fifty years ago no one expected us to live this long.

One has to wonder if Illinois lawmakers had seen beyond the end of their noses, they might have taken similar action before their state became the financial laughing stock of the U.S. Once, when Indiana's former governor Mitch Daniels was asked what it was like to run the state next to Illinois, he likened it to “living next door to the Simpsons”.

Your Editor

HENCEFORTH, WCC will meet at the Northlake American Legion Post on the 2nd Tuesday of even numbered months. Windy City Chapter is welcome to hold our meetings there every other month, at no cost to the chapter. ***The Post is located in Northlake on the South side of North Ave. (RT 64), West of Mannheim (RT***

12/45) and East of Wolf RD.

Butch, Kathleen, Ed, Paul, Anthony (Lewandowski) and Andy are all both Nera and members of this Post. Ed Whiteside is the Adjutant at the Post and has been for several years.

Editor

See you at WCC's meeting: **@ 2000 Dec 2nd @ our new meeting site the Northlake American Legion Post.**

Mark Your Calendar:

Meetings are conducted at 2000 on the second Tuesdays of even numbered months at the Northlake American Legion Post . *** -2014 Windy City Holiday Party. The event will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at John & Darlene Nickelson's House. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. RSVP by December 20, 2014 to Darlene Nickelson.

Windy City Chapter meeting minutes-10-14-2014

Meeting of the Windy City Chapter convened at 19:58. President, Treasurer, Executive Council and Secretary present. A quorum exists.

List of Attendees:

Butch Michaelson Gene Koelker Paul Smurawski Vicki Koehnke

Dennis Devitt
Andy Anderson
Gene Huie

Alan Koehnke
Verna Koelker

John Nickelson
Larry Monroe

Darlene Nickelson
Steve Devereaux

08/12/2014-correction to meeting notes, it is 100th year of the Reservist not 100th year of NERA. NERA was established in 1956 (only 58 years). Also noted 1 error on member's name. After corrections were noted, now the notes are approved as stated-MX Andy Anderson, 2X-Darlene Nickelson.

Treasurer's Report: Accept the Treasure report as stated-M X John Nickelson, 2 X- Steve Devereaux.

Sunshine Fund: No activity to report.

Correspondence: Gene Koelker received a letter from Cook County Military & Veterans Affairs. Copy of the letter listed below. After Veteran's Day 2014, cards will be issued to all Active Military & Veterans. There are over 225,000 Veterans & Active Military in Cook County. There is an error in the letter, nowhere is it stated about the Reservist. There was a motion on the floor for the Secretary- Vicki Koehnke-Secretary to contact Cook County about the discount for our Reservist. MX-Gene Koelker, 2X- Alan Koehnke. **Listed below is a copy of the letter that Windy City Chapter received from Cook County Military & Veterans department.**

COOK COUNTY MILITARY & VETERANS DISCOUNT PROGRAM

118 N. Clark St. Room 120, Chicago IL 60602 -- (312) 603-6798

cookrecorder.com/militarydiscount



August 27, 2014

Dear Veterans Organizations and Members:

We are writing to inform you about an exciting new program being rolled out by the Cook County Recorder of Deeds and the Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs. After Veterans Day, November 11th 2014, we will begin issuing the **Cook County Military and Veterans Discount Card**. Our goal is to create a network of businesses throughout Cook County that offer discounts and incentives to active duty military and veterans, and encourage businesses to offer these discounts year-round.

We view this opportunity as a "win-win." Veterans and their families can keep more of their hard-earned money, and businesses that honor their service will be recognized and promoted to the nearly 225,000 veterans residing in Cook County. We are writing to not only inform you about this program, but ask that you share this letter with your members and urge them to help make it a success by asking their own favorite businesses to join.

We have made business sign-up and participation easy. Interested businesses can simply visit the program's Internet homepage at www.cookrecorder.com/militarydiscount. There they can find answers to frequently asked questions and also enroll as a participant. Veterans can also receive enrollment information at this website, as well as register for an email alert when the discount card is ready to be issued.

The Cook County Recorder of Deeds and the Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs sincerely thank you for the work you do serving veterans and the community, and for helping us spread the word about this upcoming program.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Yerbrough
Cook County Recorder of Deeds

William A. Browne
Director, Cook County
Department of Veterans Affairs

10/21/2014-Secretary, Vicki Koehnke talked to Cook County Military & Veterans department & all Military serving and have served are included to take part in this program, & that is including Reservist.

Executive Council: No new members to report. Will plan a meeting with the Great Lakes Reservist Chief & NERA Member, Andy Anderson to discuss about NERA having a class room at the Goat Locker for NERA to use.

Old Business:

There are 5 NERA challenge coins for the chapter to do what they want to do with them. There was a motion on the floor, when the meeting is scheduled with Executive Council & Reservist Chief is to bring 2 coins as raffle prizes. MX-Andy Anderson, 2X-Paul Smurski

The final 3 remaining coins, over the next 3 meetings, including 10/14/2014 meeting, during the 50/50 raffle & off the purchased tickets a coin will be raffled off. MX-John Nickelson, 2X-Gene Koelker.

There was also a motion on the floor for the chapter to buy 10 of NERA challenge coins for members to purchase (cost is \$10.00 a coin). MX-Gene Koelker, 2X-Larry Monroe.

New Business:

-Elections are now being turned over to Master At Arms-Steve Devereaux. @ 8:43 pm-open the floor for Elections:
President: Ed Whiteside-MX-Gene Koelker, 2X-Alan Koehnke
Vice President: Andy Anderson-MX-Gene Koelker, 2X-Darlene Nickelson
Treasurer: Gene Koelker-MX-Andy Anderson, 2X-Larry Monroe
Executive Council: Paul Smurawski-MX-Gene Koelker, 2X-Dennis Devitt
Secretary: Vicki Koehnke-MX-Gene Koelker, 2X-Dennis Devitt

Motion to close nominations-MX-Gene Koelker, 2X-Alan Koehnke.

At 8:52 pm, meeting resumes.

New Business continues:

Andy Anderson, the American Legion Hall we are using for our meeting is having a Children's party and thought it will be nice to donate funds to support the Bar area for their event. Motion on the floor to donate \$50.00 to the American Legion Hall-MX-Gene Koelker, 2X-Alan Koehnke.

Andy Anderson also mention the American Legion is having a raffle, each ticket cost \$5.00 a ticket & suggested that the Chapter to purchase some tickets. Motion on the floor to purchase \$100.00 of raffle ticket to help with the American Legion fund raiser-MX-Gene Koelker, 2X-Steve Devereaux.

Good of the Chapter:

-2014 Windy City Holiday Party. The event will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at John & Darlene Nickelson's House. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

-Dennis Devitt won 50/50 raffle and John Nickelson won the first out of 3 challenge coins.

Motion to adjourn @ 21:10 X Andy Anderson, 2X Alan Koehnke.

Navy to buy New "fixer upper"



The [Navy](#) plans to meet the \$12.9 billion cost cap for its new [aircraft carrier](#) by accepting the ship unfinished and spending more money afterward, according to a report by the government's watchdog agency.

The [aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford](#) may be unable to demonstrate its promise to boost aircraft launch and recovery rates before it is delivered to the Navy, according to a Government Accountability Office report released Thursday.

The ship may also require as much as \$988 million more in spending after delivery, according to the GAO.

"In essence, the Navy will have a ship that is less complete than initially planned at ship delivery, but at a greater cost," according to the report.

The Gerald R. Ford is about 80 percent complete and is about to begin shipboard testing, which the GAO considers the most challenging phase of development.

Construction has begun concurrently on the new aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy. The Navy plans to spend \$43 billion on three Ford-class carriers.

Since 2006, cost estimates for the first Ford-class carrier have risen 20 percent. Delivery has been delayed from September 2015 until March 2016.

Once completed, the Navy states that the Ford-class carrier will provide several advantages over its 10 active [Nimitz-class carriers](#).

For example, an electromagnetic field, instead of steam catapult launchers, to propel aircraft off the deck will ease wear and tear on the carrier.

Replacing cables with electromagnetic fields to transport weapons is expected to increase payload capacity by 229 percent, according to the report.

Other changes should improve radar detection, reduce manning and trim long-term costs.

However, the GAO states that the ship will not be able to demonstrate some of its biggest technological advances prior to deployment, under its current test schedule.

"After an investment of at least \$12.9 billion, CVN 78 may not achieve improved operational performance over the

Nimitz class of aircraft carriers as promised for some time to come," the GAO said.

The CVN78 program office has created a \$96 million reserve fund for spending above the \$12.9 billion cap.

However, Naval Sea Systems Command Cost Engineering Office estimates a cost overrun ranging from \$780 million to \$988 million.

The report also criticized the ship's design for not including enough berths if additional personnel are needed, which the GAO views as likely.

The Pentagon disagreed with a GAO recommendation that Congress revise cost caps to more accurately reflect real spending.

"The Department acknowledges that remaining within the cost cap is challenging, but contends that it is achievable," according to a Defense Department memo appended to the report.

The memo did not directly address the timeline and design issues identified by the GAO.

Navy's F-35C Takes Historic Step Forward Following Budgetary Turmoil



An F-35C Lightning II carrier variant Joint Strike Fighter makes an arrested landing aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz.