

**HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS
ANNUAL CONFERENCES 1957-2005**

1957 (October 14, 1957) Veterans Service Building (St. Paul, MN)

- 65 VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1957 – 58: \$715.00
- Balance on hand: \$405.02
- Secretary called attention to the fact that there appeared to be no permanent record of the minutes and records of the Association.
- Motion was made, seconded and passed to recommend to the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs that the annual DVA conference be held either during the last week of April or the first week of May.

1958 (September 22, 1958) Veterans Service Building (St. Paul, MN)

- 68 VSOs registered
- Motion was made, seconded and passed to take hand vote of whether Annual Fall Conference should be continued. Hand vote reflected 100% agreement with continuation.
- Resolution was passed to pursue change in Minnesota Statutes to read “shall” vs “may” appoint a CVSO.

1959 (September 21, 1959) Veterans Service Building (St. Paul, MN)

- Secretary’s report was adopted.
- Report was given on statewide survey regarding salaries of VSOs (55 counties responded, with 43 indicating they had received an increase in salary).

1960 (September 12, 1960) Madden’s Lodge (Brainerd, MN)

- 60 VSOs registered, 22 panel members and guests, 20 spouses
- Approved budget 1960 – 61: \$485.00
- Resolutions were sent to various agencies expressing appreciation for support.

1961 (September 15, 1961) Madden’s Lodge (Brainerd, MN)

- 55 VSOs registered, 24 panel members and guests, 15 spouses
- Approved budget 1961 – 62: \$360.00
- Balance on hand: \$193.77
- Motion was passed to investigate the design and issuing of a VSO decal.
- Poll showed 29 wanting resort setting in 1962, 11 for St. Paul.

1962 (September 13, 1962) Veterans Service Building (St. Paul, MN)

- 72 VSOs registered, 27 panel members and guests
- Approved budget 1962 – 63: \$390.00
- Balance on hand: \$190.76
- Legislative Committee reported no success in changing Minnesota Statutes from “may” to “shall.” They’ll pursue again next year.

1963 (September 17, 1963) Ruttger’s Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 60 VSOs registered, 30 panel members and guests, 12 spouses
- Approved budget 1963 – 64: \$390.00
- Balance on hand: \$318.81
- Legislative Committee recommended that the Association drop attempts to change Minnesota Statutes from “may” to “shall.”
- Motion was passed to return to Ruttger’s in 1964.
- President was directed to appoint a committee of three to draw up and present a “Service Officer Code of Ethics” at the 1964 conference.

1964 (September 15, 1964) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 58 VSOs registered, 39 panel members and guests, 24 spouses
- Approved budget 1964 – 65: \$390.00
- Balance on hand: \$483.59
- Code of Ethics for CVSOs was presented and adopted.
- Show of hands indicated 26 desiring conference outside of St. Paul.

1965 (September 14, 1965) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 67 VSOs registered, 43 panel members and guests, 25 spouses and 2 children
- Approved budget 1965 – 66: \$390.00
- Balance on hand: \$590.21
- Bids for next conference: Sugar Hills @ \$13.00/day; also bids from City of St. Paul and Leamington Hotel (St. Paul, MN)
- Show of hands indicated 42 votes for conference outside of Twin Cities and 6 votes for return to Twin Cities.

1966 (September 7, 1966) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 60 VSOs registered, 48 panel members and guests, 25 spouses
- Approved budget 1966 – 67: \$390.00
- Balance on hand: \$912.21
- Six resolutions expressing thanks for support were adopted.
- Three bids were received for 1967 conference. They were: Kahler Hotel (Rochester), Germain Hotel (St. Cloud), and Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood).
- Secret ballot was cast reflecting: 35 for Ruttger's, 10 for Germain Hotel, and 1 for Kahler Hotel.

1967 (September 11, 1967) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 70 VSOs registered, 35 panel members and guests, 27 spouses
- Approved budget 1967 – 68: \$420.00
- Balance on hand: \$1,093.85
- Motion was passed to allow for "honorary" CVSO status upon retirement.
- Bids for 1968 conference: Fair Hills (Detroit Lakes) @ \$12.50/day and Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood) @ \$14.00/day.
- Motion was made and seconded to accept Fair Hills bid. (Hand vote: 18 yes, 22 no) Motion failed.
- Motion was made and seconded to accept Ruttger's bid. (Hand vote: 22 yes, 22 no) Motion failed.
- Secret ballot on 1968 conference: 28 for Ruttger's, 24 for Fair Hills, 2 blank.

1968 (September 18, 1968) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 78 VSOs registered, 48 panel members and guests, 28 spouses
- Approved budget 1968 – 69: \$840.00
- Balance on hand: \$839.57
- Commissioner of Veterans Affairs asked for CVSOs assistance in defeating possible effort to put DVA under Department of Health and Welfare.
- Dues were increased from \$5.00 to \$15.00 for VSOs, with assistants and honorary members remaining at \$5.00.
- Bids for 1969 conference: Lowry Hotel (St. Paul), Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood), Shingwauk Village (Aitkin), and Fair Hills (Detroit Lakes). Executive Board had recommended Ruttger's Lodge. Ruttger's bid was \$15.00/day and Fair Hills bid was \$13.50/day.
- Vote on site of 1969 conference was: 58 for Fair Hills and 12 for Ruttgers.
- Committee was appointed to look into establishing a National Association of VSOs.

1969 (September 8, 1969) Fair Hills Resort (Detroit Lakes, MN)

- 75 VSOs registered, 35 panel members and guests, 25 spouses
- Approved budget 1969 – 70: \$1,040.00
- Balance on hand: \$877.92
- Committee still working on establishing National Association.
- Motion was approved directing President to appoint a Public Relations Chair.

- Bids for 1970 conference: Lutsen Resort (\$16.50/day), Fair Hills (\$14.50/day), and Ruttger's (\$15.00/day).
- Voting on conference sites: first ballot was a tie between Fair Hills and Lutsen's, with Ruttger's receiving the least votes. Second ballot was counted and Lutsen's was awarded the 1970 conference.

1970 (September 16, 1970) Lutsen Resort (Lutsen, MN)

- 66 VSOs registered, 40 panel members and guests, 30 spouses
- Approved budget 1970 – 71: \$1,390.00
- Balance on hand: \$1,531.83
- \$300.00 was approved for a 3-person committee to attend a National Association organizational committee meeting in Lincoln, NE.
- Bids for 1971 conference: Ruttger's (\$16.50/day), Madden's (\$19.00/day), and Holiday Inn, St. Paul (\$18.00/day).
- Ruttger's was awarded the 1971 conference.

1971 (September 13, 1971) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 75 VSOs registered, 52 panel members and guests, 40 spouses
- Approved budget 1971 – 72: \$1,400.00
- Balance on hand: \$1,626.19
- Committee still working on establishing a National Association
- Resolution adopted to pursue change in Minnesota Statute from "may" to "shall" have a CVSO.

1972 (September 11, 1972) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 64 VSOs registered, 14 assistant VSOs, 60 panel members and guests, 40 spouses
- Approved budget 1972 – 73: \$2,490.00
- Balance on hand: \$1,331.57
- No success legislatively in changing "may" to "shall."
- Commissioner requests support of Association for passage of Vietnam Bonus which will be on November ballot.
- Attempts are being made to set up an organizational meeting for National Association, 17 states have been contacted.

1973 (September 10, 1973) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 55 VSOs registered, 16 assistant VSOs, 22 panel members and guests, 36 spouses
- Approved budget 1973 – 74: \$2,175.00
- Balance on hand: \$1,318.32
- Commissioner reported a 10% increase in food allowance for subsistence program.
- Motion was approved to appoint a committee to work with the DVA to improve their assistance allowance.

1974 (September 9, 1974) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 64 VSOs registered, 15 assistant VSOs, 47 panel members and guests, 32 spouses
- Approved budget 1974 – 75: \$2,175.00
- Balance on hand: \$1,482.48
- Resolution adopted to restate "may" vs. "shall" position and pursue legislative change.
- Commissioner reported 135,000 Vietnam Bonuses paid to date.

1975 (September 15, 1975) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 65 VSOs registered, 19 assistant VSOs, 64 panel members and guests, 27 spouses
- Approved budget 1975 – 76: \$2,250.00
- Balance on hand: \$1,780.97
- Motion approved to continue efforts to change "may" to "shall."
- Proposal to increase annual dues to \$40.00 was defeated by secret ballot (vote was: 53 no and 15 yes).
- Motion passed for the Executive Board to contact the Minneapolis VAMC to attempt to secure 15 to 20 parking spots specifically for CVSOs.

1976 (September 13, 1976) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 66 VSOs registered, 16 assistant VSOs, 58 panel members and guests, 36 spouses
- Approved budget 1976 – 77: \$1,600.00
- Balance on hand: \$2,234.54
- Motion passed to increase Association travel reimbursement from 10 cents/mile to 15 cents/mile.
- Legislative Committee suggested "friendly persuasion" to get Department of Veterans Affairs to onkce again provide Bronze Star markers.

1977 (September 12, 1977) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 64 VSOs registered, 17 assistant VSOs, 55 panel members and guests, 39 spouses
- Approved budget 1977 – 78: \$1,700.00
- Balance on hand: \$2,415.22
- Resolution passed to pursue change from "may" to "shall" provide CVSO.
- Legislative Committee reported DVA budget was approved with \$26,000.00 in funding for Bronze Star marker program for the biennium.

1978 (September 11, 1978) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 67 VSOs registered, 14 assistant VSOs, 73 panel members and guests, 37 spouses
- Approved budget 1978 – 79: \$2,800.00
- Balance on hand: \$1,527.25
- Minnesota Statute amended to read "shall" provide CVSO vs. "may."
- Motion passed to direct letter to various legislators opposing move of Insurance activity from Fort Snelling to Philadelphia.

1979 (September 10, 1979) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 69 VSOs registered, 9 assistant VSOs, 60 panel members and guests, 42 spouses
- Approved budget 1979 – 80: \$3,000.00
- Balance on hand: \$1,851.06
- Mileage reimbursement for Association travel increased from 15 cents/mile to 19 cents/mile.
- Social Hour Committee reported that refreshments ran \$280.65 and \$140.00 was received from various veteran's organizations.

1980 (September 8, 1980) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 67 VSOs registered, 13 assistant VSOs, 63 panel members and guests, 42 spouses
- Approved budget 1980 – 81: \$2,500.00
- Balance on hand: \$1,978.58
- Motion passed for new Association President to establish a committee to put together a better fair booth for Minnesota State Fair.
- Motion passed to raise dues for assistant VSOs to \$25.00 (Same as VSOs).

1981 (September 14, 1981) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 71 VSOs registered, 11 assistant VSOs, 60 panel members and guests, 39 spouses
- Approved budget 1981 – 82: \$3,200.00
- Balance on hand: \$1,050.65
- Mileage reimbursement increased from 19 cents/mile to 21 cents/mile for Association travel.
- Dues were increased from \$25.00 to \$30.00.
- Resolution was presented to allow only one vote per county. Resolution failed. Essentially it was an effort to remove voting privileges afforded assistant VSOs.

1982 (September 13, 1982) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 88 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered, 64 panel members and guests, 24 spouses
- Approved budget 1982 – 83: \$3,200.00
- Balance on hand: \$1,127.64
- Cost of social hour was \$133.71
- Bids for 1983 conference: Ruttger's (\$48.50/day) and Cragun's (\$62.33/day). Ruttger's was awarded 1983 conference.
- Pictures were taken of CVSOs for fair booth.

1983 (September 12, 1983) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 92 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered, 38 panel members and guests, 30 spouses
- Approved budget 1983 – 84: \$3,200.00
- Balance on hand: \$2,024.41
- Fair Booth Chair reported that there were 485 total contacts this year.
- Coffee for breaks at conference was \$121.80.
- Bids for 1984 conference: Ruttger's (\$50.50/day) and Grandview Lodge (\$51.95/day). Ruttger's was awarded 1984 conference.
- Motion was passed to present plaques vs. the "embarrassing" framed certificates which are currently being presented by the Association.

1984 (September 10, 1984) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 80 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1984 – 85: \$3,200.00
- Balance on hand: \$2,162.45
- Fair Booth Chair reported that there were 622 contacts from 47 various counties.
- Resolution was adopted to support the Disabled Veterans Wilderness Retreat.
- The establishment of an official "certification" program was discussed.

1985 (September 9, 1985) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 87 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1985 – 86: \$3,700.00
- Balance on hand: \$2,935.39
- Dues are increased to \$35.00.
- Comparable worth was discussed extensively.
- Poll was conducted and delivered to the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs regarding the desire to see reinstatement of the Bronze Star markers. Results were: 67 yes and 7 no.

1986 (September 7, 1986) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 96 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1986 – 87: \$3,700.00
- Balance on hand: \$6,979.21
- Resolution adopted to pursue Minnesota Statute establishing "Certification Program" for VSOs.
- The VAMC means test received a significant amount of discussion.
- Motion for a four day conference was defeated.
- Motion passed to explore formation of a National Association.

1987 (September 13, 1987) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 92 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1987 – 88: \$4,000.00
- Balance on hand: \$7,613.80
- Veterans Awareness Day (2/18/1988) was announced.
- Social hour cost \$324.49 total.
- Minnesota Statutes were changed to provide for certification of VSOs.

- Resolution was adopted calling for Governor to immediately return Homes to DVA.

1988 (September 11, 1988) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 106 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1988 – 89: \$4,850.00
- Balance on hand: \$5,062.26
- It was reported that Veterans Awareness Day was extremely successful with over 10,000 veterans and dependents at the State Capitol.
- Computer Advisory Committee was established.
- Association went on record endorsing the National Association.
- Dues increases were approved: \$50.00 in 1989, \$60.00 in 1990, and \$70.00 in 1991.

1989 (September 10, 1989) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 93 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1989 – 90: \$5,200.00
- Balance on hand: \$6,153.61
- First ground laying meeting for National Association is to be September 25 and 26, 1989.
- President announced that the Social Hours have been moved to Cabin #620 due to the excessive expenses for the past years.
- Social Hour Committee presents \$325.31 to Association in surplus donations over expenses.
- Bylaws are amended to have dues due by January 31st of each year and calling for the election of Alternate District Representatives.

1990 (September 9, 1990) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 103 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1990 – 91: \$7,800.00
- Balance on hand: \$10,089.27
- Motion calling for a four day conference was defeated.
- Minnesota Association of CVSOs officially joins the National Association of CVSOs.
- Registration increases: \$30.00 in 1992 and \$50.00 in 1993.
- Motion passed to send Association correspondence to all "dues paying members." Previously correspondence was sent to VSOs only and not member assistant VSOs.
- Net cost of Social Hours was \$13.40.

1991 (September 8, 1991) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 105 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1991 – 92: \$9,350.00
- Balance on hand: \$5,749.31
- Social Hour cost is a net surplus to Association of \$14.15.
- Association joins Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) as affiliate member.
- It was reported that a study of the VSO system is currently being conducted by the Minnesota State Auditor as mandated by the state legislature.

1992 (September 14, 1992) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 103 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1992 – 93: \$12,400.00
- Balance on hand: \$13,270.00
- Auditor's study of CVSO system was huge success.
- First raffle by Association was very successful.
- Bylaws were amended to ensure retention of no less than \$10,000 in reserve as well as to establish a budgetary process to be followed.
- Fair booth survey results show that the majority of the membership want to retain the booth with almost the same number indicating that they don't wish to be in charge.

1993 (September 15, 1993) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 105 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1993 – 94: \$12,475.00
- Balance on hand:
- Much discussion about a Commission on Reform Efficiency (CORE) report and its possible impact on CVSOs in Minnesota with recommendations to eliminate the Department of Veterans Affairs as a separate entity and place it under the Welfare Department and consolidate CVSOs into Welfare.
- CVS0 Education and Grant Bill became state law.
- Public Relations Committee combined with Fair Booth Committee.
- Bylaws amended to ensure gender neutrality in wording.

1994 (September 14, 1994) Ruttger's Lodge (Deerwood, MN)

- 103 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1994 – 95: \$12,500.00
- Balance on hand:
- Location of fall conference in 1995 will be Grandview Lodge in Nisswa.
- Bylaws amended to stop MACVSO payment of individual county National Association (NACVSO) dues.
- Association dues increased by \$20.00.
- Recent mass purchase of VIMS computer program.
- All members of MACVSO (except Kanabec County) enrolled as members of Minnesota Senior Federation.

1995 (September 13, 1995) Grandview Lodge (Nisswa, MN)

- 104 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1995 – 96: \$12,790.00
- Balance on hand:
- Resolutions proposing payment of individual county dues for NACVSO by the Association by increasing MACVSO annual dues and a proposal for MACVSO to submit a bid to host the NACVSO 1998 or 1999 convention were both defeated by hand vote.

1996 (September 11, 1996) Grandview Lodge (Nisswa, MN)

- 106 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1996 – 97: \$12,930.00
- Balance on hand:
- Resolution passed to support payment of a Persian Gulf War Bonus for Minnesota.
- MN DVA presented Education Committee with draft of a handbook for service officers.
- State Fair booth moved from Education Building to 4-H Building.

1997 (September 10, 1997) Grandview Lodge (Nisswa, MN)

- 107 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1997 – 98: \$13,050.00
- Persian Gulf War Bonus passed by legislature.
- Motion made and carried that the paid delegate to any future NACVSO conferences/conventions be required to provide a minimum of one hour training to all Association members at the fall conference.

1998 (September 16, 1998) Grandview Lodge (Nisswa, MN)

- 105 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1998 – 99: \$12,810.00
- Balance on hand: \$30,042.79
- Resolution passed to allow \$2500 per year spent on presenters, speakers, educational materials or publications starting in 1999.
- Public Relations Committee eliminated from committee structure.
- Minnesota Veterans Home – Fergus Falls dedicated 11/8/1997. First resident checked in on 3/04/1998.

1999 (September 15, 1999) Grandview Lodge (Nisswa, MN)

- 107 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 1999 – 2000: \$12,790.00
- Balance on hand:
- Bylaws amended to state the Nominating Committee will report to the membership all names considered by the Nominating Committee for each elected office.
- Education Committee provided copy of "Merck Manual of Medical Information" to each Association member.
- Association discontinued paying individual county membership dues to Minnesota Senior Federation.
- Picture boards for Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Fargo and Sioux Falls VAMCs made by Minnesota Veterans Home – Hastings. Association also purchased a portable picture board for State Fair and fall conference.
- Brainerd CBOC opened September 1, 1999 and Maplewood CBOC opened August 15, 1999.

2000 (September 13, 2000) Grandview Lodge (Nisswa, MN)

- 105 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered
- Approved budget 2000 – 01: \$12,790.00
- Balance on hand: \$25,450.20
- Proposal at state legislature to eliminate Veterans Preference.
- Proposal was made to change from annual written certification test to an interactive computer style of testing. Proposal was rejected by Certification Committee.

2001 (September 12, 2001) Grandview Lodge (Nisswa, MN)

- 100 VSOs and assistant VSOs registered (number estimated due to events of 9/11/01)
- Approved budget 2001 – 02: \$12,910.00
- Balance on hand: \$20,387.94
- \$1500 authorized to purchase picture board to be placed at MN Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Web site for Association established at www.macvso.com.
- Resolution passed in support of NorthStar Corridor commuter rail line.

2002 (September 11, 2002) Grandview Lodge (Nisswa, MN)

- X
- Approved budget 2002 – 03: \$13,010.00
- Balance on hand: \$20,228.49
- Resolution passed in support of state legislation requiring that military discharge documents stored in MN are classified and protected as private data under MN law.
- Resolution passed supporting reinstatement of Subd. 4 of MS 197.60 allowing county boards to levy an annual tax above and beyond all taxing limitations to defray costs of salaries and expenses of VSOs.

2003 (September 11, 2003) Grandview Lodge (Nisswa, MN)

- X
- Approved budget 2003 – 04: \$12,910.00
- Balance on hand: \$21,254.09
- Education and Training Committee developed a CVSO picture directory.
- Protection of DD 214/DD 215 bill was passed by legislature effective 1/1/04. Many VSOs will become deputy recorders for separation documents.
- Concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA compensation an issue at national level.
- Association purchased new banner for State Fair booth.
- Pope and Stevens Counties consolidated CVSO services.

2004 (September 15, 2004) Grandview Lodge (Nisswa, MN)

- X
- Approved budget 2004 – 05: \$12,410.00
- Balance on hand: \$21,997.43
- Resolution passed supporting closure of Big Island Veterans Camp and disposal of property with proceeds placed in an irrevocable trust to use for betterment of all MN veterans and their families.
- Transportation van drivers now required to have a volunteer driver physical examination at the VAMCs.
- WWII Memorial received bonding in House and Senate bills.

2005 (September 14, 2005) Grandview Lodge (Nisswa, MN)

- x
- Approved budget 2005 – 06:
- Balance on hand:
- Motion passed to direct President to establish committee to explore possibility of Association submitting bid to NACVSO to host 2010 conference in Twin Cities area.
-