

PVREA Report of November 2, 2011 Meeting

President Guy Roggenkamp called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

After welcoming the attendees, we all rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Guy then called all the veterans to come to the front of the room to be introduced for our annual salute to veterans meeting. There were 29 members present and ten honored guests.

Guy had the PVREA Statement of Purpose read aloud, followed by the introduction of each officer.

Guy then shared remarks from Rebecca Smith at NSEA about the success of the Fall Conference held at the Nebraska Nature Center in Alda in October. She was very pleased with the turnout and the help provided by PVREA members.

Guy introduced our guest speaker, Nancy Klimek, who spoke on the “Past, Present, and Future of the Nebraska Veteran’s Home” which is here in Grand Island. Originally, it was called the Soldiers and Sailors Home in 1887. The home was awarded to Grand Island because it was the first to donate 640 acres for it, which was three miles north of town at that time.

Abe Lincoln promoted the idea that our post Civil War government should take care of our soldiers. Many were addicted to heroin, as opiates were used extensively as painkillers. There were few medical treatments available. Many veterans were referred to as the “walking wounded.” Another interesting fact was that Grand Island built a dedicated rail line from the home to town, as there were many brothels downtown!

There will be a 125-year celebration in the year 2012 at the home. The motto there is “live life to the fullest with meaning and purpose every day.” Nancy Klimek is obviously very proud of working there for many years. She invited us all to the Veteran’s Day parade on November 9.

Guy thanked the refreshment committee. The latest checkbook balance is \$2733.13. The next meeting is February 1, 2012. Door prizes were given to each attendee.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Dahlstrom, PVREA Secretary**