

Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting

September 18, 2025 – 1:00 PM | Bismarck, ND

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kohfman at 1:00 PM.

Review of Previous Minutes

No official minutes from the last meeting were available. The Council conducted a “what do you remember” session, during which the minutes from meetings prior to the last were read. Topics discussed included membership dues, the rotation of the Council President (which follows an alphabetical order based on veterans organizations), and financial matters.

Old Business

No old business was reported or discussed during this session.

New Business

Legislative Report

Jim Nelson presented the legislative report, noting that approximately 99% of veteran-related bills had successfully passed.

Legislative Shark Bill

The Council discussed the Legislative Shark Bill. Veterans organizations worked diligently and ultimately succeeded in defeating the revised version of the bill. The revision process involved about 17 lobbyists, none of whom were from North Dakota.

Veterans Bridges Initiative

- In 2023, there were three bridges dedicated to veterans.
- By 2027, the number is projected to reach approximately twelve bridges.
- Currently, eight bridges are under development.

Upcoming Events

A tribute to the Guadalcanal campaign is scheduled for the week of October 13, 2025, in Carrington.

Bridge Account

- The Bridge Account currently holds approximately \$2,000.
- Cost per bridge for a set of signs is estimated between \$500 and \$600.
- Donations for the Bridge Account may be directed to Lonnie's office.

Additional Mentions

- Joel Heidecamp and Michael Bell were mentioned during discussions.

State Historical Presentation

Shirley Allgerson from the State Historical Society gave a presentation regarding the Military Gallery. The gallery currently has approximately \$61 million in funding but requires an additional \$78 million to meet its goals.

Fundraising for Military Gallery

Darrel Dorgan was introduced to discuss fundraising initiatives for the Military Gallery. The VFW will initiate a challenge to other veterans organizations to contribute \$5,000 annually for the next five years.

Good of the Order

The meeting concluded with an open forum, allowing attendees to share updates and comments around the room.