

December 4, 2014
Draft NDVCC MINUTES

OPENING:

President Gary Maddock called the meeting of the NDVCC to order at 1:06 PM on December 4, 2014 at the Comfort Inn in Bismarck.

The pledge of allegiance was recited by all followed by a moment of silence for our troops in harm's way.

Roll call was taken with Don Weible, David Johnson and Dave Rice present from the American Legion; Keith Peterson, Gary Maddock, Murray Strom and Lyle Schuchard from the AMVETS; Rod Olin, Joe Hall representing Warren Tobin, and Tom Saddler from the DAV; Neil Prochnow, Dale Ronning and Wayne Paulson from the VFW; and Russ Stabler from the Vietnam Veterans with Dan Stenvold and Larry Young excused. Also present was Jerry Meske, US Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service. Commissioner Lonnie Wangen and ACOVA member Ron Otto attend the first portion of the meeting

The agenda was approved by Rod Olin, second by Russ Stabler, motion passed.

The September 18th minutes were handed out and approved by a motion from Dale Ronning and seconded by Russ Stabler, motion passed.

The finance report was given with a balance of \$15,440.31 and approved by a motion from Russ Stabler and seconded by Keith Peterson, motion passed.

Old Business:

The Veteran's Coordinating Council Brochure was reviewed. Murray Strom moved to print 2,500 brochures and 1,000 inserts, Russ Stabler second, motion passed.

President Maddock reminded VCC Members are a "Group of One" and that we speak as one. We review, discuss and vote on issues together and deliver THAT message together.

New Business:

The VCC will host a four hour social for our ND Legislators from 5:30-9:30 at the Ramkota Courtyard in Bismarck on Tuesday, January 13th, 2015. Keith Peterson moved we spend up to \$6,000 on the social, Russ Stabler second, motion passed. ACOVA members are invited to attend. The AMVETS Honor Guard will donate \$500 for the Legislative Social. (Schuchard)

All members who wish to testify on bills supported by the VCC should fill out a Lobbyist Registration Form (SFN 11106) and send to Sec/Treas Dave Rice who will consolidate our forms and pay the Lobbyist Registration Fees from our VCC Treasury.

We are still looking for a Legislative Director for the VCC. Contact President Gary Maddock if you have any recommendations.

Speakers:

AMVETS Department Commander Keith Peterson discussed the "Veterans with Disabilities Adaptive Recreation Program" and Annie's House at the Bottineau Winter Park. See www.skiBWP.com for more information. Encourage disabled veterans in your community to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!

Legislative Bills:

Items for the ND Department of Veteran's Affairs Budget:

Stand Down Events \$20,000

Funding for NDDVA Vans \$15,000

Agent Orange Funding \$50,000

Post War Trust Fund \$1,750,000

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Dogs \$50,000

National Service Officers \$300,000 (\$50,000/yr for each organization with NSO's)

Veteran's Education Training – amount to be determined

Motion by Dave Johnson, Second by Russ Stabler to go to appropriations and try to include the above items as part of the NDDVA Budget, motion passed unanimously.

Allow Disabled Veterans surviving spouse to retain one license plate (2013 HB 1205), motion to approve by Tom Saddler, second by Russ Stabler, motion passed unanimously.

Change Free Tuition for Dependents to a reduction based on the veteran's disability for those over 50%; example a dependent of a veteran with a 70% disability would receive a 70% tuition reduction, motion to approve by David Johnson, second by Keith Peterson, motion passed unanimously. (Reference 2013 HB 1219)

Provide a ND Income Tax Exemption for Military Retirement Pay (2013 HB 1254), motion to approve by Russ Stabler, second by David Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

Provide the option of having Patriotic License Plates (2013 HB 1323), motion to approve by Dave Rice, second by Rod Olin, motion passed unanimously.

Remove "Un-remarried" from property tax exemption language placed in 2011 HB 1217, motion to approve by Wayne Paulson, second by Dale Ronning, motion passed unanimously.

Change legislation to allow the interest earning on the 410 clearing account be retained in the Post War Trust Fund and be available to the ACOVA for the benefit of veterans, motion to approve by Dale Ronning, second by Russ Stabler, motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: The next VCC meeting will be held at 3:00pm, Tuesday, January 13th, 2015 at the RamKota in Bismarck prior to our Legislative Social. (Specific reservations pending)

With no other business to come before the meeting, Russ Stabler moved to adjourn, second by Wayne Paulson, motion passed. Closing ceremonies were observed and we adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Submitted by
Dave Rice, NDVCC Secretary/Treasurer