

NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL
Lewis & Clark Hotel, Mandan, North Dakota
January 13, 1984

The meeting was called to order by President Milt Kane.

Those in attendance were:

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| Milton Kane | Dennis Thomson, AMVETS |
| John Meyer | Gayle Syverson, AMVETS |
| Mike Vandrovec | Bill Stepp, VFW Dept. Cmdr. |
| Neil Fricke | Bob Hanson, VVA Rep. |
| Greg Seurer | Harold Schuh, Pres. ND Service Officer Assn. |
| Charles Code, Commandant, ND Veterans Home | Lloyd Zander, Dept. of Vets. Affairs |

All members present were involved in a discussion on what format or procedure to follow during this meeting. It was agreed that we are not a legislative or policy making body. That we should get all of the facts, as correct as possible, so that if and when asked, this group would be a good source of information.

Because of potentially greater cost, membership in Veterans Home was discussed first. Also discussed was possibilities on utilization of the Air Force Hospital in Minot.

Discussion was held on what shall constitute honorable discharge or completion of tour of service. Mr. Code, Commandant of the Veterans Home, opened discussion by talking about physically/mentally disabled veterans in the Veterans Home. Although the law says the Home shall care for "all" veterans, the home is not in a position to care for mentally disabled veterans for example. Also discussed was possible discrimination suits if we "prioritized" admissions.

Bill Stepp suggested we break in three separate groups: 10:20 a.m.

1. Definition of veteran
2. Veterans Home study group
3. Veterans Aid Loan and other administrative effects group

I. Definition of a Veteran:

37-01-40. A veteran is defined as a person who served in the United States Military Service for 24 months of continuous active duty. A veteran also includes those who were separated by reason of disability or who were discharged close to the end of their obligated service term (10 U.S.C. 1171), for reason of hardship or having met their service obligation. All such persons must have received a honorable discharge.

Certain benefits may be limited to a period of service dates for veterans. The following dates and terms shall be applicable to all acts of the State relating to such benefits as determined by statute.

#7. Veteran war/conflict (included).

II. Veterans Home Legislation:

This committee feels that the ND Veterans Home should be made available to all honorably discharged veterans, including peacetime, of the state that meet the residency requirements. At the present time, usage is less than .3 of one percent. (?) It was pointed out that because of many private pension plans, the use of the veterans home, percentage wise, would become even less.

Because projected use was so minimal, this committee, which included the Commandant of the Veterans Home, felt that the Home would not be filled to overflowing. They also felt no addition would have to be added to the Veterans Home.

III. Veterans Aid and Administrative Committee:

Opening Veterans Aid Loan eligibility to peacetime veterans would have an initial surge, then level off. It was felt by the committee that no further monies for the program would have to be appropriated at this time. The committee cautioned however, that if demand dictates, we may have to ask for appropriations in the future.

The committee decided because of the magnitude of this assignment, we should take some additional time to analyze the laws now in existence, to digest the things that were discussed and schedule another meeting in the very near future. The committee was concerned that in making changes in the existing laws we could stand to lose as well as gain. Great care must be exercised.

There was some discussion of veterans preference laws. Also the committee discussed deleting areas in the laws that referred to Indian Wars and the Spanish American War.

The group will be asked for input by the Legislative Study Committee Monday, February 13, 1984, at 9:00 a.m. in the Harvest Room of the Capitol. We felt it best that only one representative of each veterans group be involved in this to avoid the appearance of force rather than requested input. Chairman Kane was selected as the spokesman for the group.

The next Coordinating Council Study committee meeting will be held Saturday, February 4, 1984, at 10:00 a.m. in the VFW Club at Jamestown, North Dakota.

The meeting was adjourned.