

NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL
Veterans of Foreign Wars Clubrooms, Jamestown, North Dakota
February 26, 1985

The meeting was called to order by President Greg Seurer. Those in attendance were asked to identify themselves and their connection with the Coordinating Council.

AMERICAN LEGION

Howard V. Erickson, Dept. Cmdr.
Vern Useldinger, Dept. Adj.
Milt Kane, Council Rep.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Art Streed, Dept. Cmdr.
Harold Carnahan, Council Rep.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Elwyn Rhodes, Dept. Cmdr.
Greg Seurer, Council Rep.

AMVETS

Dennis Thomson, Dept. Cmdr.
Elmer Ekern, Dept. Adj.
Bill Hill, Council Rep.

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Julius Wedman, President, County Veterans Service Officers Ass'n.
Joe Appert, President, Vietnam Veterans of America
W.M. Williamson, State Director, Veterans Employment & Training
Lloyd F. Zander, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs
James Welder, Commandant, Veterans Home
Floyd Henderson, Veterans of World War I, Inc.
LeRoy Lamb, Executive Director
Chuck Barstad, VFW Service Officer
Jack Hilleboe, Chairman, ND Administrative Committee

OTHERS

Harry Moore, member, ND Veterans Coordinating Council
Gayle Syverson, Chairman, Legislative Committee
Ted Will, member, Legislative Committee
Leo Swenson, member, Legislative Committee
Bernie Wagner, Chairman, Subcommittee on Veterans Home
Ed Remmick, member, ND Admin. Committee on Veterans Affairs
Joe Novak, member, ND Admin. Committee on Veterans Affairs
Waldemar Johnson, member, ND Admin. Committee on Veterans Affairs
Chuck Godke, member, ND Admin. Committee on Veterans Affairs
Frank Gathman, VA Center Director
John Meyer, Secretary, County Veterans Service Officers Ass'n.
Bob Arnold, LVER, Jamestown
Cathy Halgunseth, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Acting Secretary

Al Rhodes moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting. Dennis Thomson seconded and the motion passed.

In Ken McGaughey's absence, Vern Useldinger will act as Treasurer and present the treasurer's report as prepared by Ken. It is as follows:

<u>Balance on hand - Last Council meeting</u>		
Passbook Savings - First National Bank & Trust	\$946.16	
Checking Account - First National Bank & Trust	<u>978.95</u>	\$1925.11
<u>Receipts</u>		
VFW Dues	\$337.50	
Interest on Savings	<u>12.49</u>	349.99
<u>Disbursements</u>		
Postmaster, Fargo	\$ 20.00	
Cathy Halgunseth, Secretarial assistance	25.00	
Secretary of State, Lobby Fees	80.00	
ND Motor Carriers Assoc., Legislative pamphlets	<u>30.00</u>	155.00
		<u>\$2120.10</u>
Balance, Checking Account, February 26, 1985	\$1161.45	
Balance, Savings Account, February 26, 1985	<u>958.65</u>	
Net Worth 2/26/85		\$2120.10

Vern made the motion that payment for the following bills be made: Certificates of Appreciation - 100 for \$35.00 + tax, coffee and rolls at the Council meeting - \$12.00, new Council letterhead, and the secretary's fee - \$25.00. Harry Moore seconded and it passed.

Gayle Syverson gave an update on the bills that are before the Legislature. S.B. 2112 and S.B. 2119 have both passed the Senate by votes of 53-0 and 28-25 respectively. Gayle pointed out that action must be taken now to ensure S.B. 2119 (Memorial Day Bill) passage into law. Every department Commander should contact every Post and encourage those who support the bill to send a letter or sign a petition and send it to the Legislators. S.B. 2089 has passed the Senate 53-0 with the amendment included and the appropriate language deleted. S.B. 2160 had been defeated 28-25 but was brought back and has passed the Senate 33-17. It received a do pass 13-1 and Senator Nething contributed in the bill's passage. S.B. 1231 received a do not pass 15-0 and was defeated on the floor 24-74. S.B. 2120 was also defeated 12-38. Discussion followed on the reasons why this bill to move the Commissioner's Office was not passed. A lack of communication seemed to be the biggest problem. The Administrative Committee would like to be notified on what course the Coordinating Council is taking on Legislative bills. This would enable the Committee to be better able to testify at hearings. It was suggested that the Coordinating Council would have to work on becoming a more organized entity in the future. Bill Williamson complimented Gayle on the good job he has done with the bills this session. Gayle wondered if there will enough travel funds available for Lee Lamb to continue being in Bismarck for the Legislative Session. This was addressed by Lloyd when he gave his report on the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Gayle mentioned that the National Guard had been invited to appear before the Coordinating Council and report on their bills. Gayle said there has been only one meeting with the National Guard concerning legislation. House Bill 1515 provides for the transfer of \$6 million out of the Sinking Fund to establish a Tuition Fund in the National Guard. There would be matching Federal dollars for this project. Gayle asked what direction the Coordinating Council wants the Legislative Committee to take on this bill, if any. Howard Erickson made the motion that the Legislative Committee neither support nor oppose the National Guard on this piece of legislation. It was seconded by Al Rhodes and passed.

Lloyd stated the the appropriation bill for the Department of Veterans Affairs had passed in the House 93-0. Lloyd assured the Council that there will be enough money in the budget for Lee to continue going to Bismarck. From October through February, Lee has spent \$2,238.60 in travel. Lloyd also mentioned that every time the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs met, it cost approximately \$1,000.00. The Subcommittee will be meeting March 26 to set up guidelines for the hiring of a new Commissioner. There will be another meeting for naming the new Commissioner.

Lee Lamb introduced Mr. Bill Carey and Mr. Phil Carufel from the All Veterans Centennial Memorial Association. This group is making plans for a memorial on the Capitol Grounds to be dedicated to all veterans and to be finished in time for North Dakota's Centennial, 1989. The Memorial will be designed so it can be expanded to include names of those who died in action. They wanted input on the Memorial from the veterans organizations. Questions and answers followed. It was decided that the memorial concept should be brought before the veterans organization's membership to see if there is support for it. The gentlemen stated there is a Founding Committee forming which would make the final decisions on the Memorial. It will consist of 100 people and they would like the Coordinating Council to be included in the Committee. Discussion followed if the Council should become a founding member. The Council decided to wait until the Summer Reorganizational meeting and have the gentlemen give a more detailed report and make a decision then. A motion was made by Milt Kane to accept the concept and agree to work with the board on the Memorial. It was seconded by Joe Appert and passed.

Bernie Wagner met with the Chairman of the Coordinating Council and the Commanders of the veterans organizations to arrange a date for meeting with the Governor. It will take place March 5, 1985 at 11:30 a.m. Joe Appert brought up the fact that a ceremony will take place earlier that morning to raise a POW/MIA flag on the Capitol Grounds.

Bernie commented that there will be no change on the Administrative Committee unless someone does not want to continue serving until July, 1985. Instructions will be sent to the Commanders of the Veterans Organizations concerning nominations for members on the Committee for the next term starting in July 1985.

Jim Welder spoke on the Veterans Home. The law suit was ruled in favor of the plaintiff. The Home will have to pay the expenses for having Charlie Code, Commandant at the time, and the staff testify plus the cost of legal fees. This money will be taken out of the Veterans Home budget. The Home will now come under the Administrative Practicing Act and will hold public hearings for any change in rules and regulations concerning the Home. Frank Gathman will send a letter for the Veterans Administration in support of the Veterans Home contributing to the Lisbon Fire Department. Without proper fire protection, the Home could lose Federal funding.

There will now be three voting members for the Vietnam Veterans of American on the Coordinating Council. The names and titles will be sent to the Council when they have been named.

Julius Wedman wanted to thank those who had testified against S.B. 1231. This bill was pertaining to the length of term for county veterans service officers.

President Seurer and Executive Director Lamb handed out material they had sent to newspapers in opposition to the proposed cuts in veterans benefits. They urged the members to start getting involved in the fight to save these hard won rights.

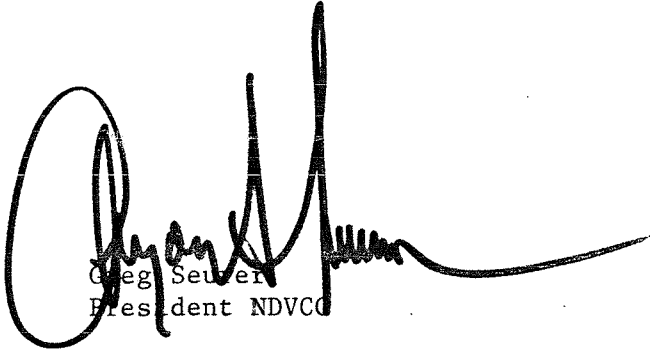
Dean Johnson of the Medical School was not able to attend, so Frank Gathman made the presentation instead. There is a House Conference Resolution 3081, which calls for a feasibility study on the phasing out of the U.N.D. Medical School. There was discussion on showing support for the affiliation between U.N.D. and the Veterans Administration Hospital. Howard Erickson made the motion that the Coordinating Council reiterate its support for the affiliation and direct the Legislative Committee to work with Dean Johnson and the Veterans Administration on this. Al Rhodes seconded and it passed.

Chuck Godke confirmed that the John Moses Hospital in Minot will definitely be built. Chuck and Joe Novak are on the committee overseeing the progress of the proposed Minot Nursing Home. A resolution calling for the transfer of property at the Minot Air Force Base to the Veterans Administration and to the city of Minot is being considered. Some of this land will be set aside for veterans use such as a 276 bed domiciliary care unit. The Veterans Administration will fund 65% of a project like this. Chuck stated that a facility is really needed in the western part of the state. Howard Erickson made the motion to thank Chuck and Joe for their work and to have them continue on the committee which should now include Jim Welder. More members could be added at the summer reorganizational meeting in addition to a representative from the VA. Elmer Ekern seconded and it passed.

Bernie Wagner introduced Wally Johnson as a new member on the Administrative Committee and will serve of the subcommittee on Veterans Affairs.

The next meeting will be the summer reorganizational meeting in July. Milt Kane will look into the dates available for the meeting to be held at Devils Lake and report back to President Seurer.

A motion by Howard Erickson to adjourn was made with Al Rhodes seconding. It carried and the meeting ended at approximately 4:00 p.m.



Greg Seurer
President NDVCC