



North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council

GREGORY A. SEURER, President
DENNIS THOMSON, Vice President

P.O. BOX 1261
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
58107

ROBERT HANNAH,
Secretary-Treasurer

JOINT MEETING

NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL
NORTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
Camp Grafton, Devils Lake, North Dakota
July 15 & 16, 1985

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

AMERICAN LEGION

Earl Redlin, Dept. Cdr.
Vern Useldinger, Dept. Adj.
Bill Williamson, Rep.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Harold Carnahan, Dept. Cdr.
Ken McGaughey, Dept. Adj.
Kent Anderson, Sr. Cdr.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Lawrence Walstad, Dept. Cdr.
Bob Hannah, Dept. Adj.
Greg Seurer, N.S.O.

AMVETS

Elmer Ekern, Dept. Cdr.
Dennis Thomson, Past Cdr.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Joe Appert, State President

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Slavko Vasiljevic, Dept. Cdr., ND American Ex-POW's Org.
Chuck Barstad, VFW Service Officer
Gayle Syverson, Chairman, Legislative Committee
Julius Wedman, President, County Veterans Service Officers Assn.
LeRoy Lamb, Acting Executive Director

OTHERS

Brunelle Cole, ND American Ex-POW's Org.
Bill Hill, AMVETS
John Meyer, Secretary, County Veterans Service Officers Assn.
Lloyd Halverson, DAV
Frank Gathman, VA Center Director

AMERICAN LEGION

HOWARD ERICKSON, Dept. Cmdr.
VERN USELDINGER, Dept. Adj.
MILTON KANE, Council Rep.

MEMBERS AT LARGE

FLOYD HENDERSON, Veterans of World War I
JULIUS WEDMAN, County Veterans Service Officers
JOE APPERT, Vietnam Veterans of America
LLOYD ZANDER, Comr. Vet Affairs
W.M. "BILL" WILLIAMSON, Dir. Vet. Emp. & Trng.
JACK HILLEBOE, Chm. N. Dak. Admin. Comm.
JIM WELDER, Commandant, Veterans Home
CHARLES BARSTAD, VFW Service Officer
GREG SEURER, DAV Service Officer
CHARLES MacLAUGHLIN, Amer. Leg. Svce. Ofcr.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

ARTHUR STREED, Dept. Cmdr.
KENNETH McGAUGHEY, Dept. Adj.
HAROLD CARNAHAN, Council Rep.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

ELWYN RHODES, Dept. Cmdr.
ROBERT HANNAH, Dept. Adj.
GREG SEURER, Council Rep.

AMVETS

DENNIS THOMSON, Dept. Cmdr.
ELMER EKERN, Dept. Adj.
BILL HILL, Council Rep.

Dr. David Engstrom, VA Hospital, Chief of Staff
Cathy Halgunseth, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Recording Secretary
Marlys Schuler, guest

The Coordinating Council meet with the North Dakota Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs for a joint meeting. Mr. Tom Eppler, Coors Area Sales Manager, spoke on the Coors Memorial Veterans Scholarship Fund and how the money would be divided among schools in this area. Chuck Godke gave a presentation on the status of the Minot Air Force Hospital. A gift from the Coordinating Council was presented to Marlys Schuler in recognition of her work for the Council. The joint meeting ended and the individual committees met on their own.

Vern Useldinger moved to dispense with the reading of the last meeting's minutes and to approve them as written. Harold Carnahan seconded and the motion passed.

Ken McGaughey gave the Treasurer's report.

Balance on Hand - Last Council Meeting	\$2120.10
Passbook Savings - First National Bank & Trust	\$958.65
Checking Account - First National Bank & Trust	\$1161.45

Receipts

V.V.A. Dues	\$150.00
Interest on Savings	\$12.71
Total Receipts	\$162.71

Disbursements

V.F.W. Club - Jamestown, coffee	\$12.00
Cathy Halgunseth, Secretarial Assistance	\$25.00
Postmaster, Fargo	\$22.00
The Pierce Co.	\$36.40
Lee Lamb, Gifts for Marlys & Bill	\$172.80
Total Disbursements	\$268.20

Balance, Checking Account, July 15, 1985	\$1043.25
Balance, Savings Account, July 15, 1985	\$983.77
	\$2027.02

Joe Appert made the motion to accept the report and Larry Walstad seconded. It passed.

The amount of dues for each organization is as follows:

American Legion - \$337.50
Veterans of Foreign Wars - \$225.00
Disabled American Veterans - \$187.50
AMVETS - \$187.50
Vietnam Veterans of America - \$150.00

A motion by Vern Useldinger was made to approve the purchase of new letter-head and envelopes for the Council. Harold Carnahan seconded and the motion carried.

Slavko Vasiljevic requested that the N.D. American Ex-POW's Org. be given membership on the Coordinating Council. Bob Hannah moved to admit the Ex-POW's Org. to the Coordinating Council for resource and counsel. The motion was amended to provide that the by-laws be changed to include the N.D. American Ex-POW's Org. as honorary members of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council for resource and counsel. Earl Redlin seconded and the motion passed as amended.

Mr. Frank Gathman and Dr. David Engstrom were next on the agenda. Mr Gathman handed out a letter that was written by the Dean of the Medical School for Senator Mark Andrews to the Chief Medical Director of the Veterans Administration. It dealt with the distribution of funds based on the number of resident positions assigned to a VA Hospital. Since the VA Hospital in Fargo has only 24-26 residents at a time, funds will be cut. Harold Carnahan moved that a letter from the Coordinating Council to the State Board of Higher Education in support of the Medical School Affiliation be written. Bob Hannah seconded and it passed. It was decided that the letter be addressed to Dr. John Richard of the Board. Dr. Engstrom brought before the Council the idea of having a dinner to honor the affiliation. A motion was made by Bill Williamson to have a committee work with the 9th District of Minnesota recognizing the affiliation. Joe Appert seconded. Discussion followed. The motion was amended that the committee have Milt Kane, ND Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, Greg Seurer, and Vern Useldinger as its core members. The amendment was approved and the motion passed.

Bill Williamson brought up the need for the Council to have three subcommittees formed to carry out the duties of the Coordinating Council as written in the Constitution. These duties are (A) legislative concerns, (B) programs for all veterans in the State of North Dakota, and (C) publicity. The service organizations would appoint their members of the Council to serve on the subcommittees. The subcommittee for program would help with the plan to honor the Medical School affiliation.

President Seurer called on Gayle Syverson to give his report. Gayle spoke on Bill 2341, concerning the Post War Trust Fund. As of July 12, 1985, the balance as passed by the Legislature has not been transferred. Gayle strongly urged the members start planning programs to show the Legislature what the funds will be used for or the Legislature may appropriate the money elsewhere. Talk centered on using the money to help build the Hospital in Minot or making the Veterans Home and Department of Veterans Affairs non-dependent on General Fund monies. It was decided that the subcommittee on legislative concerns deal with this matter.

Vern Useldinger pointed out that Chuck Godke would like to know the wishes of the Council in regards to the Minot Air Force Hospital. Bob Hannah moved that the study committee continue their work on behalf of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council and to reiterate the Council's position in pursuing the Minot property. The committee will consist of Chuck Godke, Joe Novak and Bill Williamson. Joe Appert seconded and it passed. Larry

Walstad moved to include Frank Gathman as an ex-officio member to the study committee. Bob Hannah seconded and the motion carried.

President Seurer introduced Ron Klewin of the North Dakota State Approving Agency as the next speaker. Ron talked of the Agency's duties and gave his new address: North Dakota State Approving Agency, Student Union Building, Bismarck Junior College, Bismarck, ND 58501. Tele: 224-5478. He also spoke on the new G.I. Bill and its benefits. Kent Anderson moved that a resolution in support of the continuation of the benefits under the new G.I. Bill concerning the on-the-job training and apprenticeship for veterans be made by the Coordinating Council. Vern Useldinger seconded and it passed.

John Meyer, County Veterans Service Officers Assn., reported on a matter he felt was of concern to the Council. Mr. Lew Buzzell, Ward County V.S.O., is retiring and will be through January 1, 1986. The Ward County Commissioners are thinking of not appointing anyone to take his place. John mentioned a report done by a consulting firm that recommended to the Cass County Commissioners that the Cass C.V.S.O. be merged with the welfare office. At this point it was recommended that the ND Commissioner of Veterans Affairs and the Administrative Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs join in the discussion. Many members stressed the serious precedent that could be set if Ward and Cass Counties were left without Service Officers. It was decided that Commissioner Kane will look into the matter and get the facts before any action is taken. The legislative subcommittee will look into changing the law in regards to the appointment of County Service Officers. In essence the law could be worded as "Service Officers shall be appointed in every county to meet the needs of the veterans in that county."

Vern Useldinger gave a report on a proposed State Veterans Cemetery. A letter from L. Spielman, State Historical Board, stated that 977 acres of the Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park in Mandan could be set aside for a memorial cemetery for North Dakota veterans. The state would have to maintain the cemetery and the members felt that funds would not be available for this endeavor so the matter was not pursued.

Curt Twete, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, and Gordon LaMont, Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Veterans Home, brought the Coordinating Council up-to-date on matters concerning the subcommittees at this time.

President Seurer opened the nominations for the election of officer's to the Coordinating Council. Vern Useldinger nominated Dennis Thomson for President. Bob Hannah seconded and the nomination of Dennis Thomson, AMVETS, as President passed.

Nominated for Vice-President was Joe Appert by Ken McGaughey. Bill Williamson seconded and the nomination of Joe Appert, VVA, passed.

Bob Hannah nominated Ken McGaughey to remain as Treasurer. Larry Walstad seconded, but Ken declined the nomination. Bob nominated Elmer Ekern as Treasurer. Earl Redlin seconded and the nomination of Elmer Ekern, AMVETS, as Council Treasurer passed.

Nominations for Secretary was opened. Bob Hannah submitted Bill Hill's name, but Mr. Hill was only filling in for the AMVETS Dept. Adj. - Elwood Wendt. Bob nominated Elwood Wendt and Bill Williamson seconded. The nomination of Elwood Wendt as Secretary passed.

Greg Seurer stepped down as President of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council and Dennis Thomson took over the duties as President.

A motion was made by Vern Useldinger to reimburse the recording Secretary for her expenses. Joe Appert seconded. Greg Seurer amended the motion to add the monetary amount of \$75.00. The amended motion carried.

Harold Carnahan moved that the ND Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, Milt Kane, be appointed as Executive Director of the Coordinating Council. Vern Useldinger seconded and the motion carried.

President Thomson asked for the names of the members who will make up the subcommittees of the Council. Those committees will meet at the next Council meeting and select their chairman. The subcommittees are as follows:

(A) Legislative Concerns

Kent Anderson, VFW
Bob Hannah, DAV
Joe Appert, VVA
Dennis Thomson, AMVETS
Earl Redl n, AL

(B) Programs

Harold Carnahan, VFW
Greg Seurer, DAV
Elmer Ekern, AMVETS
Bill Williamson, AL

(C) Publicity

Ken McGaughey, VFW
Larry Walstad, DAV
Elwood Wendt, AMVETS
Vern Useldinger, AL

Vern Useldinger will check with Harry Moore to see if he would remain as Publicity Chairman for the Coordinating Council. President Thomson reported that Gayle Syverson would like to remain as Chairman of the Legislative Study committee if it was the Coordinating Council wishes. It was agreed that Gayle stay in that capacity.

Questions arose as to when the veterans organizations conventions were and President Thomson asked the various members for the dates.

Disabled American Veterans - May 1, 2, 3, 1986 - Grand Forks
Veterans of Foreign Wars - June 6, 7, 8, 1986 - Fargo
AMVETS - June 27, 28, 29, 1986 - West Fargo
American Legion - June 21, 22, 23, 24, 1986 - Williston
World War I - May 2, 3, 1986 - Fargo
Vietnam Veterans of American - no set date as of yet

Greg Seurer moved that the next Coordinating Council meeting take place at the VA Hospital, Fargo, November 18 & 19, 1985. The meeting will start on Monday at 1:00 and end Tuesday at noon. Larry Walstad seconded and the motion passed.

A motion by Greg to adjourn the meeting was made with Bill Williamson seconding. It carried.