

NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL
Veterans Administration Hospital, Fargo, North Dakota
November 18 and 19, 1985

The Council meeting was called to order by President Dennis Thomson.
Those in attendance were:

American Legion

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Harold Carnahan, Dept. Cmdr.
Kent Anderson, Sr. Vice-Cmdr.
Ken McGaughey, Adj./QM

Disabled American Veterans

Larry Walstad, Dept. Cmdr.
Greg Seurer, N.S.O.
Bob Hannah, Dept. Adj.

AMVETS

Elmer Ekern, Dept. Cmdr.
Elwood Wendt, Dept. Adj.
Dennis Thomson, Past Cmdr.

Vietnam Veterans of America

Joe Appert, State President
Jim Swenson
Bob Evans, State Secretary

Members at Large

Slavko Vasiljevic, Dept. Cmdr., American Ex-POW's, Dept. of N.D.
Chuck Barstad, VFW Service Officer
Milton Kane, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, Executive Director
Leo Swenson, Director of Veterans Employment and Training
Jim Welder, Commandant, Veterans Home
Harry Moore, Publicity Chairman
Floyd Henderson, Veterans of World War I
David Schmidt, American Legion Service Officer

Others

Loyd Halverson, DAV
John Meyer, Sec., County Veterans Service Officers Assn.
Milt Sletten, Vice-Pres, County Veterans Service Officers Assn.
Don Doyle, Voluntary Service, VA Hospital
Frank Gathman, VA Center Director
Dr. David Engstrom, Chief of Staff, VA Hospital
Dennis Mock, Veterans Representative, Job Service
Burt Sorenson, Engineering Service, VA Hospital
Cathy Halgunseth, DVA, Recording Secretary

Ken McGaughey moved to accept the minutes of the July 15 & 16, 1985
Council meeting. Vern seconded and it passed.

Elmer Ekern presented the Treasurer's report to the members:

Report by Elmer M. Ekern, Treasurer, North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council

Balance on hand July 15, 1985		\$2027.02
Passbook Savings- First National Bank & Trust	983.77	
Checking Account- First National Bank & Trust	<u>1043.25</u>	
Receipts		
Dues		
American Legion	337.50	
VFW	225.00	
DAV	187.50	
AMVETS	187.50	
VVA	150.00	
Interest on Savings	<u>13.02</u>	
Total Receipts		1100.52
Disbursements		
7/16 176 Kathy Halgunseth, Secretarial	75.00	
7/30 177 Lee Lamb, Postage	20.11	
8/24 178 Carol's Printing Services, Bismarck 250 letterheads	<u>26.00</u>	
Total Disbursements		(121.11)
Balance Savings	996.79	
Balance Checking	<u>2009.64</u>	
Total Balance November 18, 1985		\$3006.43

The above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Elmer M. Ekern, Treasurer
North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council

Ken moved to accept the report as presented. Vern seconded and the motion carried. Ken pointed out that the account has a VFW EIN (Employer Identification Number). Bill suggested an account be opened in the Coordinating Council's name and to get their own EIN, and that a balance of \$500 be kept in the account in non-legislative years and \$2,000-\$3,000 in legislative years. Joe Appert made the motion to transfer money into a Savings Account or Certificate of Deposit as seen fit by the President and Executive Director and to maintain a balance of \$1,000 in the account. Earl Redlin seconded with the motion passing.

President Thomson related that the resolution regarding Chapter 30, Title 38 U.S. Code for Veterans' Benefits to Include Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training has been sent to Senators Andrews and Burdick and Representative Dorgan. He has received favorable replies from all three.

Bob Hannah moved to accept the change in the By-Laws admitting the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Department of North Dakota as honorary members. Harold Carnahan seconded and it passed.

Before the three Council committees met, Milt asked if anyone wanted the legislative committee to be aware of any certain matter. Greg would like to see each veterans organization's state newspaper report the voting record of the North Dakota Senators and Representative in matters concerning veterans benefits. North Dakota Century Code 37-14-18 regarding the appointment of Veterans Service Officers was mentioned, changing "may appoint" to "shall appoint" and also the idea of having one Service Officer handling two or more counties.

Dean Tom Johnson of the UND Medical School spoke before the Council. He talked on the relationship the Medical School has with the VA Hospital. He stated that the Fargo VA may become the prototype of the rural VA Hospital and there would be a December 7 meeting dealing with this subject. Bob Hannah nominated Vern to represent the Council at this forum. Vern declined. Bill moved that Joe Appert be the Council's representative voicing the concerns of the veteran in regards to the VA meeting their health care needs. Earl seconded and it carried.

Leo Swenson talked on unemployment among veterans in North Dakota, training opportunities for veterans and veterans preference. Mr. Swenson told the Council that the appointment of Wayne Tanous to the Governor's Employment and Training Forum will be expiring December 31, 1985. Mr. Tanous would be willing to continue to serve if he is reappointed. Leo suggested that President Thomson write a letter submitting three names from which the appointment could be made. Those names could be Wayne Tanous, Joe Novak and Jack Armstrong along with a biographical outline on each. Joe Appert made that suggestion into a motion and Vern seconded. The motion passed. Leo would like Milt Kane and himself to meet with the Governor to clarify the duties of the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs and the Director of Veterans Employment and Training.

Because of numerous handouts, Ken moved that at the next meeting, tables be provided for the members. Bill seconded and it unanimously passed.

Since no further business was scheduled for the day, Vern moved to adjourn the meeting and Greg seconded. The motion carried.

TUESDAY

President Thomson called the meeting to order. He asked the Council committees for their reports.

On Legislative Concerns, Earl named the following: (1) change the wording in Chapter 37-15, Veterans Home, from "prisoners of war" to "ex-prisoners of war" (2) to allow the Veterans Home to include nursing care along with domiciliary care (3) to change the words in N.D.C.C. Chapter 37-14-18 from "may appoint" to "shall appoint" in regards to Veterans Service Officers (4) moving the office of the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs to Bismarck (5) to indicate to the Legislature that there is a definite need for the Trust Fund monies and (6) if the Coordinating Council should pursue changing Memorial Day back to the 30th. It was agreed that the veterans organizations should submit a resolution dealing with Memorial Day instead of the Council taking action. Discussion opened up on the Commissioner's office. Bob made the point that the law must be rewritten before any move can be made. A motion was made by Bill that the Council will again seek legislation to move the Department of Veterans Affairs exclusive of the Claims Division, this be effective with the 1987 Legislature. An emergency clause be attached for the move to happen either January 1987 or July 1987. Harold seconded. The motion was defeated.

Bill gave the report on the Program Committee. He spoke on the MED-VET program available to veterans and the issue of POW-MIA's. He also talked about the All Veterans Memorial and that the Council should take an interest in it.

The Publicity committee workings were presented by Vern. The committee decided Harry Moore should be redesignated as Publicity Director. The committee will work with Harry to coordinate publicity.

Jim Welder, Commandant of the Veterans Home expressed his appreciation to Harold Carnahan and the VFW for collecting funds to buy a larger van for the Home's use. He mentioned some studies that the Administrative Committee Subcommittee on the Veterans Home would like done.

Milt Kane, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, gave the office's new location - 15 Broadway, 6th Floor. He spoke on the new format in the Service Officers Conference and upcoming training sessions. He also mentioned the changes happening in the Department's loan program.

The Service Officer Association report was given by Milt Sletten for Al Rotering. The Association would like to see the law relating to the appointment of Veterans Service Officers reworded.

Bill stated there has not been much progress on the Minot Hospital. The property hasn't been properly disposed yet so no action can be taken.

Open for discussion was a letter from Mr. Bill Carey regarding the All Veterans Memorial. Earl Redlin moved that the Coordinating Council give moral and financial support and to encourage all veterans organizations to support the Memorial financially. Harold seconded and it passed.

President Thomson brought up the point of yearly verification of the veterans organizations to the Council. Each organization will verify their membership at the first annual Coordinating Council meeting. The President will prepare a form for the organizations to use in giving the information outlined in Article III of the By-Laws. Greg made this a motion with Bob seconding. The motion carried.

Lloyd Halverson brought the members up-to-date on the deer hunt at Camp Grafton, November 18-21 as much as he could so far. There were 35 disabled veterans planning to participate. Should there be a hunt next year, Lloyd would like the Council to set guidelines for eligibility and study some ways to help improve organizing the event.

Larry moved to bring the motion made by Bill regarding the office of the Commissioner back on the floor. Harold seconded and it was reintroduced. The motion will read, "The Council will reiterate its position on establishment of a Bismarck office of the Department of Veterans Affairs, effective July 1, 1987, and that we recommend temporary manning of this office during the year 1986-87 with an individual from the present staff of the Department of Veterans Affairs. In staffing the Bismarck office, we recommend no resulting reduction of the claims staffing levels in the Fargo office. The Veterans Coordinating Council legislative committee will be directed to draft proposed legislation transferring the office of the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs to Bismarck, July 1, 1987, with no reduction in claims staffing if the Fargo office. Harold Carnahan seconded. Bill amended his motion, "that the Executive Director prepare the resolution and send it to the Department Commanders to present at their conventions". Harold seconded the amendment and the motion then passed.

Bob Hannah moved to reimburse the recording secretary \$75.00. Larry seconded and it passed.

Harold moved for the next meeting to be held March 10 & 11, 1986, Jamestown, Holiday Inn. Bob Evans seconded and it passed. Ken moved to adjourn the meeting, Bill seconded and it carried.