



North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council

DENNIS THOMSON, President
 JOE APPERT, Vice President
 MILT KANE, Executive Director

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ELWOOD (WOODY) WENDT, Secretary
 ELMER EKERN, Treasurer

VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING

Hub Motel Rugby, N.D.
 July 28, 1986 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Joe Appert, President presiding. All member organizations and honorary members present, as were members of the Administrative Committee.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as mailed out. Treasurer's report accepted and approved. Treasurer Elmer Ekern requested an audit committee be formed and audit the books. The audit committee consisted of Ray Stelmachuk, VFW; Vern Useldinger, A.L.; Terry Richardson, AMVETS; Vic Haas, DAV; and Daryl Kuhnhehn, V.V.A.

Paul Aaberg, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Veterans Affairs, reviewed the budget request for the Department for the 1987-89 Biennium. The budget request will be in the amount of \$382,773.00.

Charles Godke, Chairman of the Sub-Committee for the Veterans Home, reported a new Social Worker had been added to the staff at the Home, Jim Meyers on August 2. There would be a fair at the Veterans Home and that if the foundation is implemented the funds would be a supplement to the Veterans Home operation. The budget for the 1987-89 Biennium was approved by the Sub-Committee for \$2,253,849.

Both Chairmen requested support for the total budget request so that no services would have to be cut or reduced.

Chairman Godke then reported on the John Moses Hospital complex in Minot stating that the Air Force would be out of the hospital in April 1989. No decision had been made as to who would then take over the existing structure.

A letter was then brought forward by Daryl Kuhnhehn from the city of Lincoln, located near Bismarck, offering to donate land for construction of a Veterans

VIETNAM VETERANS of AMERICA JOE APPERT, State President

AMERICAN LEGION

EARL REDLIN, Dept. Cmdr.
 VERN USELDINGER, Dept. Adj.
 BILL WILLIAMSON, Council Rep.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

LAWRENCE WALSTAD, Dept. Cmdr.
 ROBERT HANNAH, Dept. Adj.
 GREG SEURER, Council Rep.

MEMBERS AT LARGE

FLOYD HENDERSON, Veterans of World War I
 ALVIN ROTERING, County Veterans Service Officers
 MILT KANE, Comr. Vet. Affairs
 LEO SWENSON, Dir. Vet. Emp. & Tng.
 BERNIE WAGNER, Chm. ND Admin. Comm.
 JIM WELDER, Commandant, Veterans Home
 CHARLES BARSTAD, VFW Service Officer
 GREG SEURER, DAV Service Officer
 CHARLES MacLAUGHLIN, Am. Legion Svce. Ofcr.
 HARRY MOORE, Publicity Chairman
 SLAVKO VASILJEVIC, ND American EX-POW's Org.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

HAROLD CARNAHAN, Dept. Cmdr.
 KENNETH MCGAUGHEY, Dept. Adj.
 KENT ANDERSON, Council Rep.

AMVETS

ELMER EKERN, Dept. Cmdr.
 ELWOOD WENDT, Dept. Adj.
 DENNIS THOMSON, Council Rep.

Home facility if one should be built in the future. The letter was accepted. No decision was made by the Council.

The By-Laws Committee chaired by Kent Anderson, Department Commander VFW, reported their report would be submitted under New Business.

Colonel Randish of the N.D. National Guard reported on new developments of the Guard within the state - new barracks at Camp Grafton and new training site at Camp Grafton South. He stated the Guard would now be fully deployed within 30 days. He also extended a welcome to use the military facilities for veterans functions.

Dr. David Engstrom reported on the VA Medical Center/Regional Office Center at Fargo. He said the new facility will run in excess of \$20 million when completed. The new surgical area should be completed in about 1 month and that the new nursing home complex was still "on hold".

Leo Swenson reported on several concerns of Veteran Employment. A H.R. Bill now before Congress makes it illegal for employers to discriminate against guardsmen seeking employment. He said it looks good so far and the veterans organizations were supporting the Bill.

The N.D. Mental Health Association represented by Myrt Armstrong and her assistant requested support from the veterans organizations to maintain the state crisis line costing \$1,500 per month and education programs dealing with teenage suicide prevention and other stress related programs.

Wayne Terry gave some additional information on the Veterans Home mentioning a tank had been procured through the National Guard for placement on the Home grounds.

Bob Hanson, State Treasurer, reported on the need to earmark a secondary use for the Post War Trust Fund and suggested several ideas. He asked for an advisory committee to be formed to work out some details

Last item for the day was the request for approval of the change in By-Laws by the committee. Changes were approved as read and will be mailed out with the minutes.

CALLED TO ORDER

8:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 29th.

Organization members appointed to the advisory committee were Neil Fricke, VFW; George Neigum, A.L.; Bill Williamson, DAV; David Erbstoessor, AMVETS; Daryl Kuhnhehn, VVA; Bob Evans, President Coordinating Council; Jim Welder, N.D. Veterans Home; and Milt Kane, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

The Legislative Committee was appointed: Neil Fricke, VFW; Leo Swenson, A.L.; Al Rhodes, DAV; Gayle Severson, AMVETS; Daryl Kuhnhehn, VVA. Also serving are Milt Kane, DVA; Jim Welder, N.D. Veterans Home; and Bernie Wagner, Administrative Committee.

Time and place was set for the next meeting, September 15th, Comfort Inn, Bismarck at 9:00 a.m. Another meeting could be called in November if business warrants.

Good of the Order

Earl Redlin spoke of a quirk in the Social Security law referring to a write up in the June Legion News. Those born between 1917 to 1921 receive lower benefits than those born earlier, in some cases more than 22% less. He urged people to bring this to the attention of their Congressional Delegation.

Conventional Dates for 1987

Disabled American Veterans - April 30, May 1 & 2 - Dickinson
Ex-POW's - May 16 & 17 - Minot
World War I - no dates yet - Bismarck
Veterans of Foreign Wars - June 5, 6, 7 - Minot
American Legion - June 20 thru June 23, Fargo
AMVETS - June 26 thru June 28 - Valley City
Vietnam Veterans of America - July 19, 20, 21 - Minot

A tour of San Haven took place. Upon return Jim Welder was appointed Spokesman for the John Moses Hospital issue and the San Haven issue as it pertains to possible veteran home expansion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.