



North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council

15 NORTH BROADWAY
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
58072

JEROME BERG, President
EARL REDLIN, Vice President

MILTON W. KANE, Secretary
RAYMOND STELMACHUK, Treasurer

VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL

MINUTES

COMFORT INN, BISMARCK, ND

March 24, 1988

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**BARNES COUNTY
VSO - EMA**

North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council was called to order at 1:00 p.m., March 24, 1988, at the Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND.

The October 1987 Minutes were approved by voice vote.

The Treasurers report was passed out and approved and filed as a part of these minutes.

The Administrative Committee reported to the Council relating their activities in regular session one day prior to the Council Meeting.

Chairman Wagner introduced Charles Godke, chairman of the Veterans Home Sub Committee for their report. Report included awards program, budgeting problems, foundation progress, expansion and remodeling among other comments. Requested support of the Council in the budget process. Jim Welder mentioned a new copier bought by the West Fargo VFW and the VFW Commanders project of the communications throughout the home. Jim presented a fact finding program regarding nursing home facilities around the state. The hospitals at Williston, Mandan, Jamestown and Valley City were looked at along with looking into expansion of the Veterans Home. Jim issued a detailed pamphlet put together by his staff. This is on file with the Council records. Remodeling other facilities is a real problem of Federal square foot requirements. If Federal standards are not met, Federal monies would not be available. A survey of State Veteran population showed the largest amount of veteran population is concentrating in the East and Central part of the State.

Earl Redlin motioned to instruct the Home Administration to apply for a Certificate of need for a 38 bed nursing home, second by Bob Hannah. Much discussion. Vote unanimous in favor.

Dick States reported on activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Requested support of budget. Also requested support for legislation to change Veterans Aid Loans from two years to four years.

AMERICAN LEGION

AARON "MOODY" DALKE, Dept. Cndr.
VERN USELDINGER, Dept. Adj.
EARL REDLIN, Council Rep.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

WILLIAM J. DISHER, Dept. Cndr.
ROBERT HANNAH, Dept. Adj.
VICTOR C. HASS, Council Rep.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

JEROME BERG, Dept. Cndr.
RAYMOND STELMACHUK, Dept. Adj.
JAMES GORMAN, Council Rep.

AMVETS

JOE O'BRIEN, Dept. Cndr.
ELMER M. EKERN, Dept. Adj.
DAVID ERNSTOESSER, Council Rep.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

TOM RAINSBERRY, State Pres.
ROBERT EVANS, State Sec'y.
DARYL KUHNHINN, Council Rep.

MEMBERS AT LARGE

FLOYD HENDERSON, Veterans of World War I
MILTON SLETTEN, Pres. ND C.V.S.O. Assn.
MILTON W. KANE, Comr. Veterans Affairs
LEO SWENSON, Dir. Vet. Exp. & Trng.
GREGORY A. SEURER, MAV Nat'l Svcs. Ofcr.

BERNARD A. WAGNER, Chm. ND Admn. Comm.
JAMES WELDER, Commandant, Veterans Home
CHARLES D. BARSTAD, VFW Service Officer
DAVID M. SCHMIDT, Am. Legion Svcs. Ofcr.
CALVIN HALL, AMVETS Nat'l Svcs. Ofcr.

HARRY MOORE, Publicity Chairman
SLAVKO VASILJEVIC, ND American Ex-PW's Org.
M/G A.P. MACDONALD, Adjutant General
DAVID C. ENGSTROM, ND, VA Center Director

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Dave Engstrom, M.D., reported on VA Hospital; federal budget is being cut more all the time. This will cause a tightening of all department expenditures. Travel will be limited for staff. Veteran outpatient service will be available in Bismarck around the first of June. This is a pilot project. Pershing Carlson reported for the POW's and the All Veterans Memorial Project standing in for Bus Leary, President. The project has raised \$156,000 so far on the way to \$300,000. Dedication will not be on Memorial Day of 1989, it will be before or after groundbreaking this summer.

Leo Swenson spoke on veterans employment and the laws covering veterans preference. He suggested we look at changing the law as it defines a veteran. He also spoke on veterans re-employment rights. This information is available at his office. Any serious employment concerns may be directed to his office. Leo asked the Council if they felt the disabled veteran definition should be changed. There was no comment.

Dennis Mock spoke on JTPA for Veterans Training. Mike Dietz spoke on Budget problems and possible cut backs.

Bob Hansen reported on the Trust fund activities and the success of the program to make the money available to the State Lending institutions. Rates and amount of loans are a part of Council records.

Gen. Phil Randish spoke on National Guard concerns and the mobility of the Guard which aids in the readiness capability. The 188 Air Defense unit of Grand Forks is off the ground and growing.

The future of the council secretary was discussed. Lots of talk, no action.

There was a report on the Hall of Fame in Bismarck, this will be discussed at a later date.

The Legislative Committee was formed with a meeting scheduled for April 8, 1988, at the Comfort Inn at 9:00 a.m. The main issue will be to discuss putting the Post War Trust Fund on the ballot for a vote of the people. Several including Ben Meier spoke on this issue.

Bills approved to be paid to the secretary are \$12.00 for doughnuts at the Memorial Stone dedication and \$30.00 for the recorder. Elmer Ekern moved, second by Mr. Gorman, all voting in favor.

Next meeting will be in July, possibly at Camp Grafton.

Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by

Milton W. Kane
Secretary

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April 6, 1988