



North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council

15 NORTH BROADWAY
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
58102

EARL REDLIN, President
O.V. "DUKE" ELLINGSON, Vice President

MILTON W. KANE, Secretary
RAYMOND STELMACHUK, Treasurer

VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL

MINUTES

VETS CLUB, CARRINGTON, ND

September 20, 1988

The veterans Coordinating met at Carrington, North Dakota, Vets Club, September 20, 1988 at 1:00 pm. The meeting opened in usual form with President Earl Redlin presiding.

Roll call: VVA, two representatives present; no one present from County Veterans Service Officer Association; all others present.

Milt Kane was appointed secretary for the meeting by motion of Bill Disher, seconded by James Gorman, carried.

Motion by Vern Useldinger to accept minutes of last meeting, second by Larry Singer, carried.

Treasurer's report by Ray Stelmachuk, \$4,438.34 in checking; two \$25.00 checks postage, Leo Swenson and Milt Kane; VVA dues are due and AMVETS turned in check; \$10.00 bill from VFW Club. Treasurer's report approved and filed for audit.

Bill presented for approximately \$1,800.00 for advertising on Trust Fund. Motion by Duke Ellingson to pay, second by Allen Mathison, approved.

Comments on getting the message out on Measure #4 by President Earl Redlin.

Introduction of American Legion Department President by Commander Mathison. Letter read from AMVETS Auxiliary President.

Again much discussion on advertising material and history of the Trust Fund. Emerson Murry made several comments that special emphasis should be given to the prepared letter and smaller pocket card for distribution prior to October 15, 1988.

AMERICAN LEGION

ALLEN MATHISON, Dept. Cndr.
VERN USELDINGER, Dept. Adj.
EARL REDLIN, Council Rep.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

LARRY SINGER, State Pres.
ROBERT EVANS, State Sec'y.
KENNETH ZENT, Council Rep.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

O.V. "DUKE" ELLINGSON, Dept. Cndr.
ROBERT HANNAH, Dept. Adj.
WILLIAM J. DISHER, Council Rep.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

JAMES GORMAN, Dept. Cndr.
RAYMOND STELMACHUK, Dept. Adj.
OTTO EVENSON, Council Rep.

AMVETS

DAVID ERBSTOESSER, Dept. Cndr.
ELMER H. EKERN, Dept. Adj.
CALVIN R. HALL, Council Rep.

MEMBERS AT LARGE

FLOYD HENDERSON, Veterans of World War I
WALTER ENGET, ND American Ex-POW's Org.
ELWYN M. NICHOLS, Pres. ND CVSO Assn.
DAVID SCHMIDT, Publicity Chairman

BERNARD A. WAGNER, Chm. ND Admin. Comm.
LEO SWENSON, Dir. Vet. Emp. & Tng.
CHARLES D. BARSTAD, VFW Service Officer
JOHN BERGE, American Legion Service Officer
GREGORY A. SEURER, DAV Nat'l Svcs. Ofcr.

M/G A. P. MACDONALD, Adjutant General
DAVID C. ENGSTROM, MD, VA Center Director
MILTON W. KANE, Comm. Veterans Affairs
JAMES WELDER, Commandant, Veterans Home

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Continued discussion on membership mailing list and organizational support including but not limited to newspaper advertising.

Bernard Wagner reported on Veterans Home--113 on rolls. On October 5 Legislative Committee will be at the Veterans Home Foundation Committee Meeting.

Department of Veterans Affairs--increase in claims and loan requests. Reminder that we are facing another tight budget year.

Advertising Agency representative report. What would be involved in the advertising package the Council Approved. Radio 8-10 days prior to election, bumper stickers, cards, news mats, posters. Talked about \$12,000 budget, \$7,500 used for radio ads; \$1,700 for printing materials. Stations recommended American Ag network and Dakota News network and other stations that a larger volume of people listen to more frequently.

Veterans Organizations are finding it hard to raise the money for campaign ads. DAV paid their entire sum. We have raised \$7,749.00 to date, it was felt the rest could be raised with everyone working together. Motion by Duke Ellingson, second by James Gorman to go ahead with \$12,000.00 budget. A unanimous vote was cast by roll call vote. Campaign material passed out. President Earl Redlin reiterated that it would take a lot of work to get the message out to all voters.

Chris Wingire spoke for VA. Going away dinner party for Dr. Engstrom, September 26. VA Budget not good, services will be limited and reduced. Chris elaborated on areas where cuts will be made and monies be shifted to include drugs and patient transfer procedures changed. They are 3.9 million dollars short. Bob Hannah spoke to the need of responding to the cuts.

Elmer Ekern discussed Deer Hunt at Devils Lake, Camp Grafton. Ten applications this year. Tuesday, November 15 and Thursday, November 17 are the days to hunt. Contact Veterans Service Officer, Valley City, for applications by 8:00 am, October 15. Screening committee will meet October 17.

Bob Hansen reported on the success of the investment of the budgeted Trust Fund money.

Leo Swenson reported on the Veterans Employment Representatives changes in duties. Changes not significant, could result in 3 additional veterans employment representatives. He also related to Veterans Employments problems. He spoke to the Employment Council and Governors Employment forum that Joe Appert sits on now.

All Veterans Memorial report. Ground breaking took place last Saturday, Board voted to go ahead and construct. A check for \$100.00 was presented to Milt Kane from the Canadian Veterans Association. Project is \$100,000.00 short. Individual donations down. Vern asked about dedication date, it would seem the dedication would take place in June or July.

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General Randish mentioned that the Guard would support community projects if requested. Bismarck Armory dedication in first part of October. Air Defense unit coming on board October 8. Some Guard Units and individuals will be going to Honduras this winter for a road building project. Units have helped out in other parts of the world. Guard support would be world wide in national emergencies.

Legislative concerns are now limited to two bills. One to allow the Veterans Home to borrow money to build on a Nursing Home and one to extend the Veterans Aid Loan to 4 years rather than the present 2 years. He also related to a bill not allowing military leave for public employees. Advised to watch out for this. Also the possibility of removing the Veterans Preference Law by League of City's.

The issue of the hospital cuts was brought up, several spoke to a solution of response by the Council. It was suggested a letter be put together and sent to our Congressional delegation regarding the cuts. Vern Useldinger motioned this be done and James Gorman second, vote unanimous.

Leo mentioned the Legislative dinner by the Council should not be held because of the conflict of dates. Motion to rescind motion to have dinner was made. Vern Useldinger moved that the Council join with the Legion and National Guard this Biennium. Bill Disher second, passed.

Chris Wingire reported on the progress of the VA Medal of Honor project.

Milt Kane mentioned that on November 3-4-5 at West Acres a veterans booth will be set up for veterans issues.

The letter from a group promoting a petition on POW/MIA issues was referred to the Council. The Council was asked for a suggested response. Larry Singer and others responded. Singer motioned that a letter be sent to the group stating our position of working with the League of Family's as the leading recognized organization. James Gorman seconded the motion, carried.

VVA Convention, July 21-22-23, 1989, Jamestown.

Larry Singer mentioned that Joe Appert had contacted him regarding re-appointment to the Governor's Employment forum and asked how the Council wished to handle this. Vern Useldinger motioned that each organization submit a name to the Secretary to be sent to the Governor for selection to the forum. Larry Singer seconded the motion, carried.

Next meeting Saturday, December 3, 1988, at the AMVETS Club in Bismarck starting at 9:30 am.

Moved to adjourn.

Submitted by

Milton W. Kane
Secretary