



North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council

15 NORTH BROADWAY
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
58072

ORLANDO V. "DUKE" ELLINGSON, PRESIDENT
ELMER H. EKERN, VICE PRESIDENT

HILTON W. KANE, SECRETARY
RAYMOND STELMACHUK, TREASURER

VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL

MINUTES

Camp Grafton, Devils Lake, ND

July 24, 1989

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Earl Redlin.

Pledge to the Flag given.

CSM Arso of Camp Grafton and Major Aukland were introduced. They gave an overview of various functions of Camp Grafton and troop training activities. All troops are now back from Honduras.

Bernard Wagner, Chairman of the Administrative Committee of Veterans Affairs, explained that Committees reorganization. Art Streed and Sue Kime are new members of the Committee. Dick States was re-elected Chairman of the DVA Subcommittee and Chuck Godke was re-elected Chairman of the Veterans Home Subcommittee.

Wayne Swab, Dickinson, Interstate relator and Fred Engler from same firm were present to explain a proposal for extension of Veterans Home.

Leo Swenson and Don Colston were also introduced.

Dick States reported on the DVA meeting and Chuck Godke reported on the Veterans Home meeting. Dick stated the Veterans Needs Analysis was approved by the full committee for funding from Trust Fund Interest money. Godke reported start up cost of the new Nursing home was a problem.

Dues due from Organizations: DAV--\$187.50; AMVETS--\$187.50; LEGION--\$237.50; VFW--\$225.00; & VVA--\$150.00.

AMERICAN LEGION
JAMES O. COATS, Dept. Cdr.
VERN USELDINGSR, Dept. Adj.
EARL REDLIN, Rep.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
LARRY SENGER, State Pres.
DIANE SIEBEL, State Sec.
KENNETH ZENT, Rep

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
LLOYD D. HALVORSON, Dept Cdr.
ROBERT HANNAH, Dept. Adj.
ORLANDO V. "DUKE" ELLINGSON, Rep.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OTTO EVENSON, Dept. Cdr.
RAYMOND STELMACHUK, Dept. Adj.
BERNARD BEACH, Rep.

AMVETS
VIGO J. PEDERSEN, Dept. Cdr.
ELMER H. EKERN, Dept. Adj.
JOSEPH J. O'BRIEN, Rep.

MEMBERS AT LARGE

FLOYD HENDERSON, Veterans of World War I
WALTER ENGST, ND American Ex-POW, Org.
JAMES McDONALD, Pres. ND CVSO Assn.
DAVID SCHMIDT, Publicity Chairman

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

M/G A. P. MACDONALD, Adjutant General
DONALD H. COLSTON, VA Center Director
MILTON W. KANE, Comr. Veterans Affairs
JAMES WELDER, Commandant, Veterans Home

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Chuck Godke reported on the proposed project in Dickinson extending the Veterans Home to Dickinson. Chuck Godke, Joe Novak, Burt Sorenson, Engineer from VA and James Welder inspected three motels--Ivanhoe Motel, \$970,000, several major deficiencies; Interstate Motel, 2.5 million, several deficiencies noted; Hospitality Inn seems to be the best property. An edited film clip was shown. Chuck introduced Joe Novak. Joe explained the background of the project and how it came about. He further explained the possible use of a veterans "Retirement Center". He felt that the Hospitality Inn had strong potential for a retirement Center and nursing care facility. He mentioned the need for a comprehensive Veterans Needs Analysis. He also mentioned a retirement center ties in with the Veterans Home Foundation concept. Both realtors spoke about the facility in Dickinson.

Ellingson motioned approval of the DVA and Veterans Home report, second by Coats, all in favor. Don Colston spoke on the VA Hospital situation budget problems existed when he took over and explained the cutbacks. Don spoke optimistic about the new Secretary of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and noted forward progress. He said limitations on Category "A" patients have been lifted. He spoke of no closing of the Fargo VA. Some cutbacks on duplications could happen in the larger cities but not Fargo. FY 90 will be a catchup year for funding and services. It was noted that there was some delay in pharmacy. This will be monitored.

Leo Swenson spoke on Veterans Employment. Based on staffing the veterans will continue to get service. He spoke about HB 1205 covering absentee voter ballots. He said the time period seems to be adequate as North Dakota has it now. Dennis Mock from ND Job Service spoke about his Department as it related to jobs for veterans.

Milt Kane related to the subject of representation for veterans at Veterans Preference Hearings. The Attorney that showed some interest in the problem from Fargo would help out. His charges would be \$125 per hour.

Keith Kulland reported a possible construction of a War Museum and an all state All Vets MP Parade Group Association and ask cooperation of the Veterans organizations. Kulland asked for a letter of support from the Council. No action taken.

President Redlin gave his overview on accomplishments of the last year. The veterans gained a lot of respect from the people of North Dakota showing in Measure #4 issue.

Election of officers were in order. VVA was short one member. President Larry of VVA appointed Leo Swenson to fulfill the Bylaws criteria.

Duke Ellingson from the DAV was nominated for President by Vern Useldinger, second by Elmer Ekern, vote passed unanimously.

Elmer Ekern from the AMVETS was nominated for Vice-President by Ray Stelmachuk, second by Larry Senger. No further nominations, Elmer was declared elected.

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Ray Stelmachuk was nominated for Treasurer, second by Bob Hannah; Bob Hannah was nominated, second by Ray Stelmachuk. Voice vote, Ray Stelmachuk was elected treasurer.

FURTHER BUSINESS:

Resolution to oppose transfer of Veterans Employment and Training to the Department of Veterans Affairs National was submitted by Larry Senger. Motion by Earl Redlin, second by Vern Useldinger to accept the resolution, passed unanimously.

Motion by Senger, second by Bob Hannah to have the Council Secretary to forward a letter through proper channels relating the action of the veterans groups on this resolution, carried.

Earl Redlin spoke to problem of not including the Women's Auxiliary at our meeting. This would require a change in the bylaws. Several others spoke in favor of this change. This would be an honorary membership, not voting membership. This amendment to the bylaws are to be considered at the next meeting. A Ways and Means Committee was appointed by President Ellingson to work with the establishment of the Veterans Retirement Center. They are as follows: Bob Evans, Jim Coats, Bernard Beach, Kenneth Zent.

Jim Coats brought Keith Kulland Report back to the floor. The Council took no further action and this would be handled by the individual organizations.

1990 CONVENTION DATES

DAV	^{April} March 26-27-28	Bismarck
VEW	June 1-2-3	Bismarck
LEGION	June 16-17-18-19	Grand Forks
AMVETS	June 22-23-24	Beulah
VVA	No Date Scheduled in month of July	
WWI	No Date Scheduled in month of May	Bismarck

Next meeting November 20, 1989, at Carrington starting at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by

Milton W. Kane
Secretary

vio
August 2, 1989