



North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council

15 NORTH BROADWAY
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
58072

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

MILTON W. KANE, Secretary
RAYMOND STELMACHUK, Treasurer

VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL

MINUTES

AMVETS CLUB, BISMARCK, ND

March 17, 1989

The Coordinating Council met in regular session, Friday, March 17, 1989, at the AMVETS Club, Bismarck, ND.

Meeting called to order by Council President Earl Redlin. Pledge to the Flag given.

Milton Kane appointed as secretary. Roll Call--all voting members present, WWI and Ex-POW's not represented.

Minutes of last meeting approved.

Treasurers report submitted and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Color Guard--Bernard Wagner reported he had received a request from the Governor's Office for a color guard the 4th of July, 6:00 a.m. He asked each organization to be represented. More details will follow. Good Morning America will be covering the event.

Department of Veterans Affairs report. Commissioner Kane related the need to consider how the Veterans Preference Law is being used. Veterans are finding it increasingly difficult to gain employment in the public sector because of the interpretation of the existing Veterans Preference Law. The veteran needs to be legally represented but in most cases he cannot afford a legal representation because he or she is not working. Vern Useldinger mentioned an attorney who might wish to offer legal advice. Bob Hannah felt it was the job of the employment people (Job Service) and the Commissioners Office. Bob Hannah moved the Job Service and the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs arrange to represent these people. Second, passed. Leo Swenson said he felt the Veterans Preference Law should be considered for some changes. He specifically mentioned to look over the part of the law that specifies qualifications and also the definition of veteran. President Redlin suggested this be addressed in the future.

ORIGINAL

AMERICAN LEGION

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

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

LARRY SENGER, 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.
JOSEPH O'BRIEN, Council Rep.

MEMBERS AT LARGE

FLOYD HENDERSON, Veterans of World War I
WALTER ENGEL, 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 Svce. Ofcr.

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

Veterans Coordinating Council Minutes--continued
Page Two
March 17, 1989

John Moses Hospital--Chuck Godke reported on what was happening to the John Moses Hospital and grounds. He felt the property should be returned to the veterans the same that it was given, 20 acres of clear ground.

Veterans Home Report--James Welder. 122 on rolls, 102 present. Wayne Terry is in Washington laying the ground work for the Nursing Homes.

VA Hospital Report--Chris Wingire. Don Colston is the new Center Director assuming duties April 13. The name has been changed to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The new Cabinet level Secretary Derwinski has issued orders to stop all further cuts in service, a supplemental budget is being worked out. There were additional cuts in the National Regional Office System, it should have no effect on our local system. POW/MIA day will be held at the VA Hospital. Awarding of the POW medal April 10 at 2:00 p.m. is the program highlight. It was mentioned that in the next 5 years much of the equipment will be outdated and will need replacement. This could cause additional crunch.

Legislative & Employment Report--Leo Swenson. Three new LVR's in the state. Rumor has it that some of the Veterans Employment duties will be transferred to National DVA.

Legislative report--SB 2009 & SB 2096 are still out but seems possible they will go through. SB 2349, extend Veterans Aid Loan payment. SB 2381, Cemetery Bill at Ft. Lincoln, passed. Bill #1498, to inform veteran of responsibility of loan repayment passed. Jim Welder commented on SB 2009 & SB 2096. He explained the cuts that were made. Milt Kane commented on the Department cuts from SB 2009. Looks as though all positions will remain in the budget but other cuts will be made. More information on legislative activities will be made available at the July meeting.

There is a House Concurrent Resolution 3038 regarding maintaining of the State Treasurers Office. There was much discussion on whether to support the Treasurers Office in its present form. Motion to oppose HR 3038 and leave Treasurers Office as is by Joe O'Brien, second by Lloyd Halvorson. Bob Hanson asked for an amendment to oppose any elimination of any elective office. Amendment was withdrawn and reverted back to original motion. Vote all in favor. Motion carried. Leo will write letter to Chairman of the Committee.

Chairman mentioned that a Legislator, Mr. Wald, was interested in having someone from the Council come to Dickinson to look at potential facility to expand the Veterans Home. Joe Novak, Jim Welder, Chuck Godke and Chris Wingire were appointed to a committee to work on this project.

Discussion on date change of the All Veterans Memorial Dedication. Duke Ellingson moved, Elmer Ekern second that no changes be made. Discussion, motion carried.

Veterans Coordinating Council Minutes--continued
Page Three
March 17, 1989

Bob Hannah brought up the short fall in the VA budget and asked that contact be made through the Congressional delegation to the VA indicating our concern.

Bob Hannah moved that the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs contact a Fargo Attorney who had indicated an interest in the Veterans Preference Law to see if he would assist in some way in helping veterans be properly represented at hearings. Lloyd Halvorson seconded, motion carried.

Moved by Joe O'Brien that the State Treasurer invest the Trust Fund money in legal North Dakota lending Institutions which provide the best possible return on the money at the lowest possible risk. Second by Swenson (VVA), passed.

Bill presented for \$25.00 for coffee and cookies provided by AMVETS Club. Group moved for payment. Ray Stelmachuk brought up that a motion had been tabled to give \$1,500 to the All Veterans Memorial project. Ray said we had the money and moved we make this donation to the All Veterans Memorial in the amount of \$1,500. Elmer Ekern seconded, motion carried.

Earl Redlin presented a bill for expenses for legal advise in the amount of \$485.70 from Chuck Gilje. Joe O'Brien moved to pay the bill, second by Ellingson, passed.

The next meeting will be held at Camp Grafton, Monday July 24, starting at 9:00 a.m. Sleeping rooms will be made available for those coming in Sunday night.

No further business, motion for adjournment by Ellingson, second by Stelmachuk.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by

Milton W. Kane
Secretary

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April 21, 1989