



North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council

15 NORTH BROADWAY
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
58072

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

MILTON W. KANE, SECRETARY
RAYMOND STELMACHUK, TREASURER

VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL

MINUTES

Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND

October 9, 1989, 3:00 p.m.

The North Dakota Coordinating Council meeting was held at the Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND, 3:00 p.m., October 9, 1989, President Duke Ellingson presiding.

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and recognition of the POW/MIA's.

Roll Call:	American Legion	Present
	VFW	Present
	AMVETS	Present
	DAV	Present
	VVA	No Regular Council members present, others who were members of the VVA were seated as Council Representatives
	VA Hospital	Not present
	National Guard	Present
	WWI	Not present
	Job Service & Employment Security	Present
	Commissioner & Commandant	Present
	County VSO President	Present
	State Treasurer	Present
	Secretary of State Rep	Present
	Chuck Godke	Present
	Bernard Wagner	Present
	Ron Otto	Present
	Dick States	Present

Minutes of last meeting accepted as mailed.

Treasurer's report

AMERICAN LEGION
JAMES O. COATS, Dept. Cadr.
VERN USELDINGER, 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. Cadr.
ROBERT HANNAH, Dept. Adj.
ORLANDO V. "DUKE" ELLINGSON, Rep.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OTTO EVANSON, Dept. Cadr.
RAYMOND STELMACHUK, Dept. Adj.
BERNARD BEACH, Rep.

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

MEMBERS AT LARGE

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

BERNARD A. WAGNER, Chm. ND Admin. Com.
LEO SWENSON, Dir. Vet. Emp. & Fog.
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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Bernard Wagner reported for the Administrative Committee that met prior to the Council Meeting. Bernie brought the action of the Committee pertaining to Constitutional Measure #1 that will be voted on December 5. A yes vote approves, a No vote means you reject. The Committee strongly recommends a no vote because of the possibility of losing control of veterans concerns by being absorbed into another department. Referral Measures # 3, 4, & 7, dealing with the taxes on fuel, sales, and income tax increases, the Committee recommends strongly a yes vote.

Dick States reported on the DVA Sub Committee. Dick stated the DVA would lose \$35,285 if the tax cut referral goes through. Dick stated the measures are hard to understand. Yes vote means approval of the legislative action. He asked the Council to develop a fact sheet to explain the measures clearly and recommended a yes vote.

A report was made on the Bismarck Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Committee also recommended that the Commissioner be replaced as Recording Secretary for the Council.

County Veterans Service Officers conference will be at Fargo Radisson Hotel November 6, 7, & 8.

Dick mentioned the problem with new Veterans appeals process. He reported on the Veterans Preference Law problems.

Dick re-emphasized the need for a change in the recording secretary.

Chuck Godke reported 93 members at the Home; several applications pending. He talked of encouraging people to promote the Home wherever possible. Several other administrative items were discussed, i.e., work incentives, programs, wage waiver, farm harvest, chicken harvest, TV coverage from Grand Forks. July 1991 would be a possible completion date for the new Nursing Home. Chuck talked about the cutbacks to include staff reductions and salary cut backs that will be necessary if OMB makes the proposed budget cuts. He strongly encouraged the Council to come up with something to encourage a yes vote. \$101,827 will need to be cut from the budget; \$65,852 from Salaries & withholding and residuals; \$30,975 Operating expenses; and \$5,000 out of equipment replacements.

President Ellingson requested representatives be identified. All organizations had 3 members present or seated.

Bob Volen, Secretary of States Office, spoke on the referral measures. Bernie Wagner outlined the differences between the Council and the Administrative Committee.

Bob mentioned how motor fuel tax was split: 37% to Counties & Cities and 63% goes to the State for State roads. Measures are put on ballot as they become received and certified. Constitutional measures come first. Full text of the measure will be distributed to the County and City Auditors. Yes vote in favor, no vote not in favor of taxes. Measure campaigns do not have to have a disclaimer in advertising.

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Law provides that 25 million be set aside for a rainy day. There would be 90 million short in General Funds and 20 million short in Highway funds plus federal matching funds. Higher Ed would be cut by 11 million from payroll plus a tuition raise.

Human Services will be cut by 2.1 million for community base care plus many other areas. Arriving at exact budget figure deficit is very complicated. Much discussion on cuts and the effects of those cuts ensued.

General Macdonald spoke on some activities of the National Guard. He mentioned a Guardsman wishing to go to school could receive some \$20,000 while going to school by belonging to the Guard from drill pay and tuition assistance.

He then explained the progress of the new proposed cemetery to be located near Fort Lincoln, south of Mandan. He mentioned that funds are needed and asked the veterans organizations for assistance. The criteria for burial in the cemetery will be basically the same as in any other National and State Cemetery. It will include National Guardsmen and Reserves and will include spouse and dependent children. The Guard will do all the dirt work. The project will possibly take 3 years to complete. 1990 water line, 1991, grading completed, 1992 completed project if all stays on schedule. Drawings will be furnished when available.

Bob Hanson, State Treasurer, spoke on the Trust fund. He passed out handouts covering his presentation. If the tax measure goes down the amount of the annual transfer could be less. As of this date the dollar amount in the Trust Funds is \$1,200,000. He pointed out that the deposits to the Trust Fund are not poured in concrete and that the Veterans Organizations must maintain a constant vigil on the legislative process. Earl Redlin felt the economy was gaining strength and our situation was showing improvement. Others felt that the legislative action should be supported because the Legislators supported the veterans in the past.

Leo Swenson spoke on Job Training Program and other job related subjects.

The next order of business was to consider the change in the Bylaws to amend the Bylaws to include the President of the Auxiliary Unit of the Veterans Organization who have an Auxiliary to serve as Council and Resource. All members were notified of the proposed change prior to the meeting in accordance with the Bylaws.

Motion by Lloyd Halvorson to approve, second by Joe O'Brien, Motioned carried.

Members of the group questioned the membership of the VVA and asked if their membership was at the strength required by the Bylaws. There being no appointed members of the VVA present, the question remained unanswered.

Motion to have the Secretary contact the Commander and Adjutant informing them to consider their status in accordance with the Bylaws, died for lack of a second.

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President Ellingson requested the Secretary to contact the VVA on the concern of the Council about their attendance.

Motion by Otto that the State Treasurer be requested to provide an information document on the referral measure to the Council President for signature and distribute this fact sheet to the Veterans Organizations. Second by Elmer Ekern, carried unanimously.

Motion by Leo Swenson (seated Representative for the VVA) to oppose Measure #1 and to convey this to the Veterans Organizations. Second by Earl Redlin. Vote all in favor by unanimous vote.

After much discussion, Ray Stelmachuk moved the Council go on record requesting Veterans Organization to inform their membership of the impact the referrals will have on veterans and programs affecting veterans. Second by Elmer, carried unanimously. Discussion followed on how this could be disseminated to their veteran membership. This will be left to the individual organizations through their conferences and bulletins.

Bob Hanson mentioned the POW/MIA Flag was missing at the All Veterans Memorial. This is being replaced.

The Handicapped Deer Hunt will be held at Camp Grafton. Applications can be obtained from the County Veterans Service Officer in Valley City. Call 845-0972.

The Veterans Home foundation is growing very slowly. All organizations are encouraged to help promote this fund.

Nominations were called for, for a full time secretary. Elmer moved that the Secretary/Treasurer be the same and be paid. The Bylaws, as amended, (article 4, Sec 3 and others) to reflect the same. Second by Lloyd Halvorson. Discussion, it was determined the Bylaws change must be voted on at the next meeting in March at which time the change be made. Elmer Ekern is to work on the Bylaws change. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting to be held March 12, 1990, 10:00 a.m., Chieftain, Carrington, ND.

Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by

Milton W. Kane
Secretary

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October 23, 1989