



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 SYELMACHUK, TREASURER

VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL

MINUTES

Chieftain, Carrington, ND

March 12, 1990

The North Dakota Coordinating Council meeting was held at the Chieftain Motor Inn, Carrington, ND, 11:00 a.m., March 12, 1990, 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
	VVA	1 Present
	DAV	Present
	VFW	Present
	AMVETS	Present
	Ex-Pow's	Absent
	County VSO President	Present
	Assn. Publicity Chairman	Present
	Administrative Committee Chairman	Present
	Job Service & Employment Security	Present
	VA Director	Absent (sent letter)
	Commandant Welder	Present
	Commissioner Kane	Present
	VFW Ladies Auxiliary	Present

Treasurer's report \$1,627.23, approved.

AMERICAN LEGION
JAMES O. COATS, Dept. Cndr.
VERN USELDINGER, Dept. Adj.
EARL REDLIN, Rep.

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

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

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OTTO EVENSON, Dept. Cndr.
RAYMOND SYELMACHUK, Dept. Adj.
BERNARD BEACH, Rep.

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

MEMBERS AT LARGE

FLOYD HENDERSON, Veterans of World War I
WALTER ENGERT, ND American Ex-POW, Org.
DENNIS R. BERG, Pres. ND CVSO Assn.
DAVID SCHMIDT, Publicity Chairman

BERNARD A. WAGNER, Chm. ND Admin. Com.
LEO SWENSON, Dir. Vet. Emp. & Trng.
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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Administrative Committee Report. Jim Welder, Commandant of the Veterans Home, reported Foundation meeting next month. Jim also reported on activities of the Veterans Home. Revised schedule on construction project, should start last part of June. Budget cuts eliminated one position and cut salaries of employees of the home. Ongoing recruiting for Veterans Home. \$1.22 cost per mile to run the bus. Will cut the use of the bus, van can run cheaper. Foundation meeting will deal with start up cost of the new addition some \$250,000.00 needed.

Department of Veterans Affairs, Commissioner Kane. Reduction of staff was necessary due to the budget cuts. Changes in the staff duties necessary, training session for the County Veterans Service Officers starting in Bismarck March 13, 1990, and changes in disability structure outlined.

Comments on the Councils response to the move of the Regional Office in Fargo to St. Paul. This is now on hold for at least two years. Letter read from VA Director Don Colston regarding VA concerns.

Gene Kouba appeared and explained the work he had completed on the Needs Survey the Council had previously requested. Dialogue continued on how to obtain money from the Trust Fund to support the needs survey as requested. The Commissioner was instructed to explore this process.

Leo Swenson reported on Disabled Veterans on the various Indian Reservations and the program to identify these people. He mentioned the possible loss of a LVR or DVOP position due to a change in structure.

The next order of Business was to find ways and means to appoint a Secretary of the Council.

The Bylaws Committee was called on for their report. Several changes were suggested dealing with the Secretary position to include changes to allow reimbursement for secretarial expenses and a job description. Elmer moved for adoption of changes. Ray Second, discussion followed on the Secretary/Treasurer position. Joe Novak was asked for his comments on this position as Secretary of the Council. Discussion included what the duties of the secretary should be beyond taking minutes of the meeting and finding a place to meet. Some saw the position as elective by the Council members at the reorganization meeting and hold office for one year. Continuity of the Council was of prime concern. Vote on motion was tabled until after lunch. Meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m. First order of business was a vote on the motion on the floor to adopt the new bylaws as mailed. Passed with one dissenting vote. The changes were made by 2/3 vote in accordance with the Bylaws, therefore the unanimous vote needed on other business did not apply. Affirmative vote carried.

The question came to the floor for the need for a Legislative liaison person. This was tabled until next meeting.

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Col. Larry Dennis presented information on the Veterans Cemetery. Money is a problem. A \$100,000 grant for engineering programs within the state, this will be used for the cemetery construction. The cemetery is located Southwest of the Custer House near the Fort Lincoln National Park area. Plans are being completed and the groundbreaking will be in April 1990. The cemetery will follow the rules that govern national cemeteries. Interments could possibly be made in 1991. More information will be made available as development proceeds. Funds are needed for completion of the cemetery.

Bob Hanson gave a report on the trust fund interest collected. So far this year \$58,000. Money is invested at the highest interest rate possible to still maintain security of the fund. The question of how the cutbacks will affect the fund is still unanswered.

Motion by Coats, second by Evenson, that the Bylaws take effect at the next regular meeting. Approved.

Motion by Elmer Ekern, second by Bob Hannah, to formulate a job description for the legislative liaison officer be drawn up by the annual meeting, passed. Elmer Ekern was to chair this committee and to appoint the members to serve. They were Vern Useldinger, Ray Stelmachuk, Bob Hannah, Larry Senger and Joe Novak.

Dues checks due at July meeting. 50% increase for legislative year.

Mentioned again was made by the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for the need for change of Veterans Preference Law. Too many people feel we have a strong Veterans Preference Law and we do not. Much dialogue followed. The need for change became very apparent. A committee was appointed to serve until the next meeting to recommend necessary changes. Jim Coats to chair a committee made up of Commissioner Kane and Dennis Mock and the Adjutant or a Representative from each organization. They are to meet on call of the chair.

Motion to pay the Motel for Coffee used during meeting passed.

Submitted by

Milton W. Kane
Secretary

vio
May 15, 1990



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ORLANDO V. "DUKE" ELLINGSON, PRESIDENT
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May 18, 1990

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next Coordinating Council Reorganization meeting will be held at Camp Grafton, Devils Lake, Monday, July 23, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Officers Club.

Housing at Camp Grafton will be limited during the month of July. You might wish to make reservations in Devils Lake. If you should desire housing at Camp Grafton, please indicate to me by June 15, 1990.

Milton W. Kane
Department of Veterans Affairs
15 North Broadway, Suite 613
Fargo, ND 58102
Phone--237-8383

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