

The North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council convened July 19th, at 1:00, at the Amvets Club in Bismarck, ND.

The meeting was called to order by Otto Evenson.

**MINUTES:**

A motion was made to skip the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. Second, passed.

The roll call was completed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: Robert Evans**

The beginning balance as of July 30, 1991, was \$2670.62. Total bills submitted was \$1598.26. The current balance is \$1259.86. Ken Evenson had a motion to accept the treasurer's report, second by Dean Eayer, passed.

**Presentation of Bills:**

There was no presentation of bills at the time.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

No communication at the time.

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

**Administrative Committee on Vets Affairs: Bernie Wagner**

The new appointed members of the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs are Sue Kyme, Al Huber, Mike Vandrovec and Skip Wing. *Gerald Balzer*

**ND Veterans Home: Chuck Godke**

There have been some Century Code changes in regards to the Veterans Home. At the time there is complete nursing care at the home. As of Valentine's Day the home is full. There are 38 beds in skilled care, 29 people on the waiting list and the domiciliary has 96 out of 112 beds being used.

There has also been a change in the leave policy. The people are allowed to have a maximum of thirty days a year for leave. Fifteen of the thirty days are at no cost and the other fifteen days are to hold. The Rule change has been accepted.

There is two items of change - Please refer to 37-15-14.1 to read about the Membership contribution for residents of veteran's home -Creation of special funds. Also refer to the handout on 37-15-21 to read about the Commandant accepting gifts, donations, or bequests.

**ND Department of Veterans Affairs: Adrian Crowfeather, Committee Chairperson**

The Department's budget and the Vets Preference Hearing Process were discussed. The Veterans' Aid Loan Program is going strong. The Loan Repayments are looking good. The Veterans' Claim representative's case loads are increasing.

Discussion was held on the Veterans' Transportation Program.

**DAV Chapter #3: Dennis Berg**

The DAV Transportation Program requirements were highlighted. Please refer to the Bis-Man DAV #3 Transportation System Project handout.

**Committee Chairperson: Adrain Crowfeather**

The Legislative Policy for introducing legislation was discussed. Note that changes may be needed in the ND Veterans' Preference Laws.

**Commissioner of Veterans Affairs: Milt Kane**

Great emphasis is placed on being aware of the bills that are out there along with HR-1300. Please refer to the handout from Milt entitled "The VA's Sickbed" by G.V. Montgomery from the Washington Post. The Administrative Committee instructed the chairperson to write a letter to work with the Congressional people and find out what the best plan of action might be.

**Admin. Committee: Bernie Wagner**

The Administrative Committee did authorize \$25,000.00, out of the Post War Trust Fund, to subsidize, if the Transportation System does work out.

There will be a big Veterans Parade in celebration of the Camp Grafton on August 1, at 2:00, at Devils Lake. The Honorary Staff will be Ralf Golgler-Bismarck and Red Cherrey-Fairview.

**Veterans Employment and Training: Leo Swenson**

Discussion was held on the handout entitled "Report to the North Dakota Coordinating Council", which included Veterans' Training, DVOP/LVER, TAP, VRR, and DVET vacancy.

**Bill Williamson:**

Bill visited the three Congressional offices in Bismarck. First visit was to Conrad's office. Please refer to the letter from Kent Conrad to Mr. Crandall. The visit with Dorgan's office went well. The last visit was to Burdick's office. Please refer to the letter written by Bill to Burdick's office. Help is needed badly if the DVET vacancy is to be filled by a veteran. It is a request that each Dept. commander of each veteran organization write a letter to Jeffrey C. Crandall. It is also a request that a copy of each department letter is sent to that national organization.

**US Department of Veterans Affairs: Don Colston**

Don Colston was not present at the meeting. He is transferring to the Bronx in New York. On July 25th, there will be a going away party for him. The job is vacant at the time.

Milt Kane brought up another issue on how the Veterans Preference Law is being abused. A man was not given preference by NDSU for a job. After they had went to court over the ordeal they offered him the job, knowing that this man had already accepted another job offer. They did not agree to extend the offer for one year.

One more thing to be careful of is the percentage of the disability used in Veterans Preference. ND is the only state that has 0% disability, which qualifies a person as a diabled veteran.

**NDVCC: Otto Evenson**

The resolution on the Tuition Waiver to 100% service connected ND veterans was passed by all the department conventions. Please refer to the handout entitled "Resolution". The VFW Resolution was also discussed. This would move the main office from Fargo to Bismarck.

Bill Williamson talked about the Persian Gulf Bonus.

Joe Smith gave a talk explaining the House-Senate reasoning behind the Persian Gulf Bonus.

Recess until 9:00 a.m. at the Legion Club.

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Reconvene at 9:00 a.m. at the Legion Club in Bismarck.

**Committee Report:**

**Legislative Report: Joe Novak**

In dealing with the Persian Gulf Bonus, we had a problem with dispercing information throughout ND to enhance the chance of a particular constitutional measure. The end result was that Measure #2 was passed. At the last meeting, the committee, Joe Smith, Joe Novak, and Leo Swenson, were given the permission to spend up to \$1200.00 to arrange for the print add and the tapes. In some parts of the states it went well, some parts it was not so good, and in yet other parts of the state it was non-existent.

Discussion was also brought up about some issues dealing with the Veterans Preference Law. First of all, the Amvets are once again asking for the support of the same legislation that was introduced last session. This was passed in both the House and the Senate, and the governor vetoed it.

Two versions of the Veterans Preference Laws in ND, which were the ND Civil/State Service and the State Merit System, were also explained and discussed among the council.

Discussion was brought up about having a two-day

workshop dealing with the State Merit System. Adrian Crowfeather and Milt Kane volunteered to set up the workshop.

Joe Novak states that he gets a great concern when ever he sees a law, that deals with the veterans' concern, that is not treated with great respect. There is a part of the law that provides for the appointments and nominations of the Administrative Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The law was read, explained and discussed by the council. He also states problems with the law.

Joe Novak recommends that the council form an Ad Hoc Committee and go visit with the two governor candidates.

A significant interest should be how the Post War Trust Fund is invested. Joe Novak feels that Bob Hanson deserves lots of support. Another suggestion is that the same committee to go talk with the governor candidates, go talk with the treasurer candidates.

Dave Schmidt has a motion to form an Ad Hoc Committee and have one representative from each veterans organization to see the candidates on the issues relating to veterans. A second from James Groven, passed.

#### **Resolution:**

##### **Tuition Waiver:**

Otto Evenson stated the change in the Tuition Waiver. It is felt that the Tuition Waiver Law has to be changed back to the original law. Discussion was held on what route to take to get the law changed back. A motion by Mike Dobmeier to have the Legislative Committee take the responsibility for finding sponsoring support. A second by Dave Schmidt, passed.

##### **Veterans' Bonus:**

Otto Evenson read the SCR 4069. Please refer to the handout entitled "Veterans Bonus Resolution." Dave Schmidt stated that back in the March meeting, the council passed on a motion that they would go along with the concept of the SCR 4069. That original concept made no distinction of only paying for the "in-theater" people. The concept was to pay for both state side and overseas veterans. A motion to follow the National Guard Persian Gulf Bonus was made by Ken Evenson. A second by Dean Bayer, passed.

A motion was made by Dean Bayer to set a cut off date for the Persian Gulf war, for all guardsmen, reserves, and regular service people. A second by Maurer, passed.

**VETS vacancy:**

Ken Evenson made a motion that the NDVCC sends a letter to the Mr. Crandall along with each department commander. A second from Mike Dobmeier, passed. A form letter will be written by Bill Williamson and Leo Swenson.

**VFW Resolution:**

A motion to accept the VFW Resolution was made by Elmer Ekren. A second was made by Dean Bayer, motion failed.

**Veterans Transportation Program:**

**Bob Evans:**

The DAV Chapter from Bismarck/Mandan is going to continue with their chapter project. It is felt that the council should let them go ahead with their program.

The Administrative Committee has given their support for an additional project to the tune of \$25,000.00 per year for a transportation project. A recommendation for the council to continue to move forward for an additional van project. To also fashion the project after the DAV project to keep the expenses to a minimum. Bob Evans made a motion to move forward in the van project. A second was made by Dave Schmidt, passed.

Bernie Wagner clarifies what the Administrative Committee is allocating the \$25,000.00 for. Discussion was held on seeing if the Administrative Committee would consider giving some money towards the purchase of the van.

**ND State Treasurer: Bob Hanson**

It was stated that the best way to make the Postwar Trust Fund safe is to tie up the money. Bob Hanson went over and explained the handout entitled "Veterans' Postwar Trust Fund." Questions were then asked and there was discussion on the handout.

Discussion on a Safety Program was given by Bob Hanson. He is asking if one of the veterans' organizations would sponsor the program.

A motion was made by Ken Evenson that the Legislative Committee inform the legislature we will protect the Postwar Trust Fund. A second by James Groven, passed.

A motion by Dave Schmidt was made to instruct the Legislative Committee to take any action necessary to oppose any attempts to use the Postwar Trust Fund money for payment of the Persian Gulf War bonuses. A second by Mike Dobmeier, passed.

**DV Deer Hunt: Bernie Wagner**

A motion was made by Reiny Weber to go ahead with the DV Deer Hunt at Camp Grafton. A second was made by Ray Atol, passed.

**Contributions:**

A motion was made by Mike Dobmeier to cover both resolutions, to include the understanding that donations not be used for general purposes. A second was made by Ken Evenson, passed.

**Vets Preference:**

**Resolution No. 34:**

Please refer to the handout entitled "A Resolution to strengthen the ND Vets Preference Laws. Elmer Ekren made a motion to accept and consider Resolution 34 under the previous discussion. A second was made by Ken Evenson, passed.

**Resolution No. 33:**

Please refer to the handout entitled "A resolution to allow gaming organizations a voice in scholarship selections". There was discussion held for and against the resolution. A motion was made by Ken Evenson to mandate the Legislative Committee to meet with the Attorney General to clarify the legislation that was passed in regards to scholarships given through gaming. A second was made by Maurer, passed.

**New Business:**

**Elections:**

**President:** A motion was made by Ray Atol that Earl Redlin be the NDVCC President. A second was made by Elmer Ekren, passed.

**Vice President:** A motion was made by James Groven that Mike Dobmeier be the Vice President of the NDVCC. A second was made by Elmer Ekren, passed.

**Secretary/Treasurer:** A motion was made by Elmer Ekren that Bob Evans be the Sec/Treas. of the NDVCC. A second was made by Ken Evenson, passed.

**Legislative Liaison Director:** A motion was made by Ken Evenson that Joe Novak be the LLD. A second was made by James Groven, passed.

Discussion was held on purchasing a Legislative Directory. A motion was made by Ken Evenson to allocate \$200.00 for the purchase of the directory. A second was made by Mike Dobmeier, passed.

The next NDVCC meeting will meet in Mandan, North Dakota, on November 13 and 14, 1992. The time will be at 1:00 p.m. on November 13 and at 9:00 a.m. on November 14. The place of the meetings is not yet decided.

A motion was made by Ken Evenson to adjourn the meeting. A second by was made by Ray Atol, passed.