

11-23-91

The meeting was called to order in the basement of the Valley City American Legion Club by Vice President Earl Redlin in the absence of President Otto Evanson. Earl led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of organizations followed with all organizations being represented. The minutes of the special September meeting were approved as printed in a motion by Ray Stelmachuk, 2nd by Julius Wedman, and the motion carried.

Treasurers report showed a balance of \$2858.12. Opening balance on 08-01-91 was \$2670.62 deposit of \$187.50 by DAV Dept. of ND, leaving the present balance of \$2858.12. Motion by Harry Moore to accept the Treasurers report, 2nd by Julius Wedman, motion carried. Presentation of Bills: Joe Novak for travel and lodging \$97.37, motion by Ken Evenson, 2nd by Harry Moore to pay the bill, motion carried.

Communications: None.

Agency Reports: Bernie Wagner again reported on the annual deer hunt held at Camp Grafton in Devils Lake. Some questions arose about why the scheduling of this hunt is not done sooner in the year. Again the reply is the hunt will be held each year providing the deer population will support a hunt. The deer population survey is not completed until late September of each year. Notification of the next deer hunt will be given to all County VSOs, and the Department Adjutants.

The Administrative Committee acted on a couple of items, one being an incorrect interest repayment and the other a personnel hearing at the Veterans Home. Both were handled by proper procedures. The committees met and discussed ways to obtain the interest monies in the Post War Trust Fund. It was decided by the Attorney Generals office that the only way is obtain permission from the Legislative Assembly. Frank Gathman at this time discussed the Veterans Home/ Nursing Home eligibility requirements. All in attendance were given handouts. The Domiciliary side is operating with 112 beds, 111 beds full. 11 applications approved waiting for space. Waiting list is given priority much like the VA priority. The first patient admitted to the Nursing care unit has taken place on November 1st. Frank urged everyone to help sell the NCU to the veteran community. He thanked all the organizations that come and provide volunteer services and programs at the home.

Milt Kane at this time gave his presentation. A handout was given to each in attendance. He stated that the Department of Veterans Affairs office will be moving about January 31st, February 1st, 1992. The new office will be in the area of 13th Ave. South in Fargo, in a new building which is

handicap accessible, and has plenty of parking. He handed out the 1991 veterans population survey, which showed that North Dakota is showing a decline. Milt discussed the results of the survey on veterans needs. comments were made on the following items: health care, transportation, and knowledge of veterans benefits. Milt suggested that the Coordinating Council seriously look at some sort of transportation program for the veterans of North Dakota. Response to the survey was 55% which is above the national average. He noted that the survey showed very low favorable response to paying a bonus to regular service personnel. Maybe the question was misinterpreted.

Milt noted that he will be attending a meeting with the state agencies and the main item of topic is the veterans preference law. He feels that this law will be attacked during the next legislative session. With hearings being scheduled and the veterans not having the resources to be represented by an attorney. Can P WTF monies be allotted to help pay for legal fees for veterans.

At this time Joe Novak made a presentation on the ND tuition waiver program. A bill in the legislative session this last year introduced by the veterans, which made changes to the existing law by adding the spouse, widow or widower to the eligibility criteria. The bill passed ok. After the session was over we then found that a change was in fact made during the session. The appropriation process allowed for the addition of monies for State schools for capitol improvements. To raise the monies they added a needs test to the veterans tuition waiver program. It's a matter of record that the NDVCC opposes the reduction in the tuition waiver program. To reaffirm the reinstatement of the program to its full intent, that the NDVCC legislative committee take the necessary action to get the program reinstated at the next special legislative session. This motion was offered by Ken Evenson, 2nd by Julius Wedman, passed.

Veterans preference will again be looked at in the upcoming legislative session. There is no veterans preference in the private sector. the only issue that can be considered veterans preference is that those service-persons returning from active duty may qualify for re-hiring in their old job as stated by federal law. The ND veterans preference law has two sides to it in state employment. They are the point add on and the minimum qualification requirement. The majority of state agencies fall under the latter. Central Personnel as stated before is holding a meeting to discuss how this law can be circumvented. He feels that we are in a survival mode. How can we modify the law without taking too many hits. Leo stated that Central is not providing veterans preference as per memorandum, they rate all the non-veterans first, then they look at the veterans and disabled veterans, and then they add them to the register if they have a score that is

equal to or higher than the lowest score of the non-veteran. As Leo stated that is not what the law says. If the passing score for that particular exam is 70, and those veterans have a 70, then they go on that register. If that is a disabled veteran with a 70, he goes to the top. That is not what Central Personnel is doing. In fact they are not really providing a test, they are only rating the overall applicant and then adding on point preference. The only test being given is the aptitude test being given by job service. Congress passed public law 102-25, creates a whole new list of veterans who qualify for veterans preference. There is a transition assistance program in place at Minot AFB for personnel being RIFT from the service. Just received \$55000 for veterans training programs in North Dakota.

OLD BUSINESS: Elmer Ekren then presented the resolutions for changes in the constitution & bylaws for the NDVCC. These were given to all in attendance.

Resolution #1. Motion by Elmer Ekren to accept, 2nd by Ray Stelmachuk, passed.

Resolution #2. Motion by Elmer Ekren to accept, 2nd by Julius Wedman, passed.

Resolution #3. Motion by Elmer Ekren to accept, 2nd by Ray Stelmachuk, passed.

At this time Elmer passed out copies of the changes and all in attendance were given one.

NEW BUSINESS: Harry Moore mentioned that everything is in place for the destruction of the John Moses Hospital in Minot. They are going to build a new job corp building in its place. The extra land is being put aside for future use by the veterans organizations.

Time & place for next meeting. Discussion resulted in March 12, 13, 1992. Location to be in the Bismarck area, starting at 1:00 pm. With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.