

North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes
November 5, 1993

The NDVCC meeting was called to order by President Mike Dobmeier. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed. Roll call of organizations was taken by Bob Evans.

Jim Fugile gave a brief discussion of the proposed Veterans Memorial in Medora. He told of where they are standing at present time with the proposition. He also is giving the different organizations a chance to give some suggestions in designing the memorial. Please also refer to the two handouts given by Jim Fugile.

Jerry Balzer, Executive Director of ND Job Service, updated the group on the different statistics of service rendered to veterans of North Dakota. Jerry gave a brief explanation on the extended program of the compensation act. Handout was given referring to the SMOTCA incident.

Mel LaFontaine, President of NDVSOA, handed out a letter referring to the re-organization of a bid with the veterans service officers concerning the Veterans programs.

Bernie Wagner, concerned veteran, shared some concerns of his with the council. One concern was the number of beds in the Skilled Care Nursing beds in ND and the operation of the Long Term Care Committee. Asked the council to get together and decide where they will stand on the 20 or 60 bed unit in Grafton. His second concern was what the Post-War Trust Fund was to be used for.

Glen Maurer made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. A second was made by Rhiny Weber. The motion was passed.

Dave Schmidt made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Emil Resler seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Lt. Col. Elroy Tomanek, Director for Personnel of the ND National Guard, gave a brief description of the new Adjutant General Bjerke. Gave talk on the downsizing and re-organizing of the different Battalions and organizations of the National Guard within ND. Continued support is needed for the Veterans Cemetery. It is estimated that one million dollars is needed in order to maintain the cemetery. Currently there is approximately \$165,000.00 in the Militia Trust Fund. Questions and answers directed towards Col. Tomanek.

Kathi Gilmore, ND State Treasurer. Please refer to the attached report. Gave a brief discussion on the interest rates.

Leo Swenson. Discussed the resolution that he wrote on diluting VETS. Read a copy of the letter written to Senator Conrad by the Acting Assistant Secretary for VETS. Dave Schmidt made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Don Herrly, motion passed. Leo also gave concerns as to having a Legislative Committee and gave some suggestions as to what the Legislative Committee do. One last suggestion was given to have organization Representatives on council more than one year.

Further discussion was held on forming a Legislative Committee. Job description of the Legislative Committee chairman was discussed amongst the group. Leo Swenson suggested that the council contact Stan Wright of Stanley to be on the Legislative Committee.

Dave Schmidt made a motion to appoint Leo Swenson as Legislative Liaison to direct Legislative Committee members. Legislative Committee members to be at next NDVCC meeting, second by Emil Resler, motion passed.

Dave Schmidt made a motion saying that the expenses of the Legislative Committee chairman will be born by the council, but expenses of individual committee members will be born by that organization as directed. Glen Maurer seconded the motion. The motion was then passed. Further discussion was held on the motion. A list of the Legislative Committee members is to be sent to Leo Swenson.

Dave Schmidt made a motion to deny request to have Bernie Wagner represent NDVCC on the study committee. Emil Resler seconded the motion.

Motion to table was made by Elmer Ekern. Second by Riny Weber. Motion passed.

The meeting was recessed for the evening social and supper.

November 6, 1993

The meeting was reconvened by President Dobmeier.

Rick Ryan, Director of V.E.T.S., talked on Title 38, and the needs and the levels that are needed. Informed the group that there are changes coming down the road that are affected veterans. Some of these may include issues dealing with V.E.T.S. Asked the group to consider two issues. One - supporting the movement until they are fully funded, and the other - people giving input to him on where you want to see the program going and any suggestions so that he knows when he goes to Washington.

Joe Smith offered remarks on past Legislative issues. Further discussion was held on these different issues.

Much discussion was held on the Bonus Bill. Dave Schmidt recommended that the Bonus Bill be kept on agenda for possible payment of additional funds. This issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

CVSO. Talk was held on how changing by-laws to allow them a vote would not be justifiable. They need to be at the meetings to give their input. They felt that beings they have one-to-one basis with the veterans they have more of an idea of what their needs are than veterans organizations do. Many do not agree with that statement. Let them know that there input is appreciated.

Glen Maurer made a motion to send letter to association denying request to be on voting status with the NDVCC. A second by Bob Evans. Motion passed.

Discussion was then held on the request by Bernie Wagner to represent the vets on the Long Term Care committee. Elmer Ekern made a motion to support the Administrative Committee on their action of the request by Bernie Wagner. A second was made by Rhiny Weber. Motion passed.

Emil Resler made a motion to pay any unpaid bills. Gary Maddock seconded the motion. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Rhiny Weber made a motion that the a resolution be drawn up to amend the by-laws so that dues are paid on an equal basis by all voting organizations at an amount set by resolution of the council. A second by Elmer Ekern. Motion passed.

John Mullen, Administrative Committee Chairman, reported on issues dealt by the Administrative Committee. John explained the WWII Commemorative Committee. They are able to expand membership as needed. Ken Evenson and Joe Novak have asked to switch sub-committees. Permission was granted so that Joe will serve on the VA sub-committee and Ken will serve on the Veterans Home sub-committee.

Jim Ziegeler, Veterans Home sub-committee chairman, gave statistics on the different numbers referring to the Veterans Home. Proposals on their priorities. First - 20 bed unit in Lisbon. Second - 60 bed unit in the West. Discussion was then held on the proposals.

Ken Anderson talked on the standards of the different nursing homes. There definitely is a need for more veterans nursing homes. People need to develop a plan for the future veterans nursing home and stand behind it and serve their fellow veterans. Further discussion was held on this issue.

Al Huber, VA Sub-committee chairman, gave a report on the grant program.

Dave Schmidt made a motion to have Mike Dobmeier attend the press conference regarding the western veterans home project. A second by Rhiny Weber. Motion passed.

Bob Evans made a motion to send a letter supporting raising the per diem for nursing homes to congress. Second by Emil Resler. Motion passed.

Next meeting will be held on January 21 and 22, 1994, starting at 1 p.m. on Friday, at the Kelly Inn in Bismarck.

Glen Maurer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Emil Resler. Motion passed.