

MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 1994, MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Mike Dobmeier on January 21, 1994.

GLEN FOGEL - CHIEF MAS

- * Talked on issue of how VA will integrate into National Health Care.
- * 1994-95 VA budget has remained fairly constant.
- * 1995-96 VA budget is question mark.
- * Talk on looking at reassignment of federal employees. This would cut 252,000 federal employees over the next few years.
- * Fargo VA Hospital Status
 - In-Patient activities up 8%
 - Out-Patient activities down 1%
 - Developing new surgery department
 - Dr. Mark Jensen new Chief of Surgery
 - Income verification match
 - Persian Gulf Vets
 - Run 90 registry clients through. Should hve a registry exam.
 - New regional office almost complete. Open early April.
- * Van program is going good.

COLONEL DONAHUE - NATIONAL GUARD

- * Updates
 - Still actively recruiting
 - Something new on the army side
CFP (Contigency Force Pull Units) These are high priority units. They'll be the first to go.
Operational Readiness Evaluation
This is a nearly no notice of inspection of unit. Tells how ready are the people, how well-trained, etc.

COLONEL THILOMONY - NATIONAL GUARD

- * Vets Cemetery
 - Everybody is still strongly supporting the cemetery.
 - Been open 18 months
 - Currently at 184: 134 Full Bodies, 50 cremates
 - \$268,000.00 in Trust Fund
 - \$150,000.00 of that locked up in CD's etc.
- * Bonus Program
 - Started with \$190,000.00
 - Currently at \$145,000.00 paid out
 - 355 have applied
 - Only able to pay 288
 - Program on hold until more is available
 - Registry will be maintained for future reference.

RICK RYAN - V.E.T.S.

- * Suggestion from others is to transfer VETS to Employee & Training Administration. The reaction was shock. Talked on four major reasons for a rewrite:
 1. National Deficit
 2. Current need to update system
 3. Decrease in Wagner & Prizner Funds
 4. Threat of elimination

PAGE 3

GARY HOFFMAN

- * Vets Preference Standards:
 - 5785 vets served by job service
 - Total placement of ineligible 1847 (32%)
 - Vietnam Era 695 (32%)
 - DAV 162 (42%)

- * SMOCTA
 - Updates
 - Please refer to handouts #3
 - Results of efforts
 - Since last report in November
 - Number of eligibles
 - Over 400 potentially eligible vets

- * Discussion held on pamphlets #4 and #5.

JOHN MULLEN - CHAIR ADMINISTRATOR

- * Department of Veterans Affairs & West Home Care Rep. discuss Saturday June 22, 1994
- * Introduced new committee members

ROD BACKMAN - OMB

- * Stated that advisory committee involved with appropriations of earnings of PWFT
 - Suggested to comply with the law.
 - Beings government budget isn't released prior to governors budget message, will work on informing administrative committee what the budget is going to be exclusive of funds on PWFT.

MONTE SKOGSTAD

- * Concerned vet on vets preference or lack of - explained two personal experiences on this issue. Was not hired for a job and thought he should have been hired. Feels vets preference law is of no use as it is now. Feels it should be put on a referendum on the state and put to a vote. Let the people say what they want. Very gracious to job service for their help.

LEO SWENSON - LEGISLATIVE LIASON

- * Remarks given on three priorities in next legislative session

Areas of Real Concern:

1. Vets Preference - Yes, there is a problem.
2. Expanding nursing homes in Lisbon
3. Obtaining veterans home in the west.

DAVE SCHMIDT - AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. ADJUTANT

- * Gave remarks on resolution on dues structure changes
- * Two amendments talked about and proposed
 - One on dues to be paid
By taking out of bylaws can adjust amounts as time goes on. All that has to be done is have a resolution by the committee.
 - One of appointment of committees
Read article 4, section 1
 - Discussion was held on both issues by the members

AL HOUSSAURE - GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

- * Budget of PWF
Feels it is most pressing things today for veterans
- * Remarked on expansion home as well as new home in the west
- * 40 et 8 Resolution
 - Study of long term care needs of veterans
 - Remarks were given on Governor Schaffer's feelings
Hasn't really taken a position yet.
- * Recommended to prioritize two items
 - Expansion of home
 - Home in the westOne topic in 1995 session, one in 1997 session.
- * Discussion was then held on the Lisbon expansion & vets home in west.

PAGE 5

LEO SWENSON SEMINAR

BONUS BILL

- * Discussion was held at large
- * A motion was made by Don Hurley to prioritize and follow three step plan. Ask for money to finish the job from legislature, include all over 7 years, extend deadline. Maddock seconded and motion passed. (Money for publicity and reinstated that active duty people are covered).

Extensive discussion was held on the veterans preference law.

Meeting was adjourned until Saturday, January 22, 1994, at 9:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1994:

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 22, 1994.

Opened up with discussion on priorities

- * Veterans preference
- * Bonus Bill
- * Nursing Homes

Dave Schmidt started discussion on Sec. 34 - 18.1-01

- * Appointment and number of names

Extensive discussion held. Part of paragraph is extaneous verbage causing problems - needs to get rid of.

Talk held on submitting two names per position.

KEN ANDERSON

Thank you to all organizations that helped out with the home.

MILT KANE - COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Gave a few remarks

JIM ZIEGLER - CHAIRMAN VETS HOME SUB COMMITTEE

- * Survey needed for both west and east side of the state to

PAGE 6

· see how people feel about issue of nursing home for vets

- * New homes in west
 - One in Minot Trinity
 - Two in Dickinson
- * Changing priority list
 - West - Grafton
 - 20 Bed Expansion in Lisbon

AL HUBER - CHIEF VETS AFFAIRS SUB COMMITTEE

- * Remarked on the proposals and statistics
- * Next meeting loan process, transportation, and grant money. Also review of the department will be discussed.
- * Vans be on road by March 1, 1994. Any input - please give it.