

NDVCC Minutes: November 17, 1995

Meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm by President Kasimir Schmaltz.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.  
Moment of silence for POW/MIAs.  
Roll call of organizations.

#### **PRESENTERS**

Kathi Gilmore, St. Treasurer: PWTF

Greetings was given to the council. Review of the handout of the veteran's postwar trust fund (handout #1). Stated that she favors the constitutional amendment. She believes it is a safe guard - it will only need to be done once. With an initiated measure, it needs to be done every seven years and you will be faced with the same problem every seven years. Long range plans needs to be taken to protect the funds. A corporation can not directly given money to the NDVCC. Only corporations with pac funds are able to make donations. Discussion was held on decisions of the PWTF - a constitutional amendment or an initiated measure.

Bob Hanson, St. Tax Director

There are many legal concerns with the PWTF. Some cost factors will include: Best \$75,000.00, Polling \$5,000.00, and 20-\$30,000.00 advertising. Feels that people are just furious about the whole issue of what is going on with the PWTF. Stated there is a vietnam veteran, Kent French, who is very upset about this issue and is very willing to get involved and help. We need to also be using the free media. Stated his effort will be on protecting the fund.

Suggestions given to make the people aware of what has been done - tell the people of ND what has been done to the veterans. They need to be informed of the whole situation. The veterans need to get involved in getting this issue solved. This is the time - not later. Find out how the local legislators are voting on the issue. Fact sheets should be developed. The language of the amendment must protect interest. Must raise necessary funds. Further discussion was held.

Gen. Keith Bjerke: ND National Guard

Cemetery is going good and is ready for winter. 259 employees furloughed on Tuesday. Thanks was given to the guards on behalf of the vets home. Lots of gifts are being given to the Lisbon residents on behalf of the guards. Phil Miller is the new cemetery coordination until mid-February. The public has been very good with contributions to the cemetery. It's been a good year, thank you.

Gary Hoffman: ND Job Service

New brochures were handed out and reviewed. Veteran's statistics were reviewed (handout #2). Rick Ryan is looking

forward to going home and is doing good with all things considered. Rick is the federal personnel and Gary is the state personnel. Gary runs the veterans funds training programs in ND. Apologies from Jerry Balzer for not being able to be here. The new council will be in place next week and will be announced by the Governor's office. What the council does is combine job training and employment services. Provides a more efficient and coordinated service delivery to vets and non-veterans.

The Job Training Partnership Act will probably not have enough money to go beyond July 1996. There are also other programs that are diminishing. SMATKA ended in September. Staff has been reduced considerably. Hopefully resolution will be continued or appropriations given. Looking forward to a busy year. Thank you.

Administrative committee dismissed.

Glenn Maurer made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as written. Seconded by Jerome Krejci . Motion carried.

Financial statement for NDVCC reviewed.

Joe Litzinger made a motion to accept the financial statement as read. Second by Suzanne Kime. Motion carried.

Motion made by Joe Litzinger to go forward with the action of the constitutional amendment to protect the PWTF. Second by Glenn Maurer. Motion failed. Roll call vote taken. All voted yea - 11. Nea - 1 (Richard Belling). Discussion held on the issue.

Ray Stelmachuk made a motion to go forward with seeking signatures on petitions to secure a constitutional amendment to protect the PWTF. Richard Belling seconded the motion. Discussion was held on the motion. Motion carried.

Harold Trimmer made a motion to amend the motion that efforts continue upon securing the required signatures. Second by Suzanne Kime. Discussion held. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ray Stelmachuk to let Veterans Preference lie through this legislative session. Second by Earl Redlin. Motion carried.

Elmer Eckern gave an update on what is happening at the regional office. The claims are backing up.

Discussion held on the Grafton/Stanley veterans home. A suggestion was made to make a press release to let the people know that the issue was initiated through a group of concerned veterans not the NDVCC. The NDVCC would not have to take a stand of supporting or not supporting the issue, just let the people know that it is not an issue being addressed by the NDVCC at this time. Further discussion was held.

Joe Litzinger made a motion to table the veterans home issue until Saturday. Second by Glenn Maurer. Motion carried.

Joe Litzinger made a motion to recess the meeting until 8:00 am, Saturday, Nov. 18, 1995.

**Saturday, Nov. 18, 1995 8:00 am**

Legislative director nominees are Leo Swenson and Joe Smith. A stipend of \$2000.00 would be offered for the position.

President Kasimir appointed Arnold Meyer (VFW legislator representative) to contact Leo Swenson on the legislative director position.

Suggestion to bring job description of legislative director up to date and make changes if needed.

Handout given in reference to the veterans license plate. Discussion held on the issue.

AmVets submitted two resolutions to be considered at the March meeting. One resolution is to amend articles 4 section 2 of the NDVCC. The other resolution is to amend article 3 of the VCC bylaws. Amendments were read to the council. Discussion was held on the resolutions.

Discussion held on the veterans home issue.

#### Administrative Committee Report - John Mullen

First motion is to draft a letter to all sponsoring committee members of the initiated measure committee outlining what is opposed in the measure. The administrative committee has been and always will be in favor of a western vets home.

Second motion is to form a committee to draft letters to the sponsoring members of the initiated measure committee authorizing a home in Stanley/Cedar Grove, Grafton. This committee will be authorized to aggressively pursue responses from the sponsoring members and report back to the full committee with progresses.

Discussion was held on the motion presented.

Third motion made to support keeping a CVSO in Cass County.

#### Veterans Affairs Sub-Committee Report - Joe O'Brien

Discussion on loan program to remove \$2000.00 cap but it was decided, in the full committee, to leave the program as is.

The service officers training session in Fargo was well attended and recognition for years of service went to several VSO and their secretaries. Next session will be in early spring at the Comfort Inn in Bismarck.

Claims are being processed as they come in but continued shut down of the government will have an effect on the checks and claims.

Grants for dental/optical/hearing have paid in at around \$130,000 the limit is \$500 per veteran. An estimate is needed by

the veteran before they apply. Transportation program going well. \$15,000 additional has been authorized for dental/optical/hearing grant programs.

Vietnam veterans children assistance program requested \$49,206 which resulted in approval. Also a request for \$1200 to be spent for national symposium but that has changed by motion that must go for direct assistance to the children.

\$50,000 has been granted for the veterans job training program.

Veterans Home Report - Ken Evanson

107 beds filled in skilled care. No waiting list. 38 beds filled on the basic care. 63 on waiting list. The committee stands neutral on the vets home issue. Committee is 100% behind the councils decision to protect the trust fund.

Motion made by Suzanne Kime that a committee (adjutants) work with the administrative committee on drafting a letter on the initiative measure. Second by Harold Trimmer. Discussion held. Motion passed.

Motion made by Joe Litzinger that the council oppose the elimination of the Cass County VSO. Second by Glenn Maurer. Motion passed.

Joe Litzinger made a motion that the next meeting be March 8 & 9, 1996 in Bismarck. Second by Glenn Maurer. Motion passed.

Good of the Order - Earl Redlin talked about forming a committee for the constitutional amendment.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.