

PWTF Campaign Committee
July 14, 1996

Earl Redlin opened the meeting. He stated 17,000 signatures have been turned in to this date. There are many petitions still out there with signatures on them. Discussion was held on petition numbers. Bob Evans stated that he is personally checking each petition for correct addresses and if the petition is notarized.

There will be a Legion booth at the state fair in Minot that will be circulating a petition for signatures. Time is running out. Everyone needs to work hard and get signatures.

Discussion was held concerning the state commanders getting the word out to their individual posts. There is some feelings out there that people are letting everyone else do the job and that attitude is not going to get the signatures needed. Key people also need to be targeted so that they are able to obtain signatures at certain events. The response from the County VSO's is minimal. Comment was made by Earl Redlin to involve the local auxiliaries. Petitions have been mailed out to the Nursing Homes in the state. Comment was made to challenge the individual organizations in the state to obtain signatures. People need to realize that if the PWTF is not secured all veterans preferences will be lost. Discussion was held on having a telephone tree. It would include: Department Commander, Vice Commander, District Commander, and Post Commander. Ray Harkama will also be contacted to contact the County VSO's and push the issue. All calls will be returned to Bob Evans with the results of the phone calls. A motion was made by Bob Evans that individual board members are authorized to be reimbursed for phone calls made concerning the PWTF. Second was made. Motion passed. Duplication needs to be avoided.

It was suggested to have a public service announcement through the radio station, newspapers, and the TV. Kasy made comment that he is going to see if he can get on the Minot Noon show and discuss the PWTF.

NDVCC Meeting
July 14, 1996

Pledge of Allegiance was said.
Roll call of organizations was held.

Kathi Gilmore - State Treasurer

PWTF report was given. Please refer to article #1. She discussed a newspaper article on the planned home in Fargo. She stated that the LTCA has stated that they will fight this planned home as they did the veterans home. Please refer to article #2. She has set up a meeting with the LTCA on July 24th, to discuss the upcoming needs for ND veterans. She suggested to send a

letter and petition to the administrators to ask for their help in obtaining signatures.

Sgt. Miller - Veterans Cemetery

As of 7-1-96, there are 566 interments. 97% are veterans. 3% are reserve/national guard. Four employees to date. The balance of donations is \$330,000. Sgt. Miller stated that pre-registration is encouraged. Proof of veterans status is required. Explanation and discussion was held concerning the issue of why the cemetery has changed the markers from the white marble to gray granite stone. The white marble is hard to obtain and it is also containing quite a bit of gray color to the stone. It looks terrible. There are signs of erosion on the stone and the lettering. The white is nicer but the longevity of the gray stone is better. Discussion was held concerning the stones and other issues of the cemetery.

Rick Ryan - VETS

Dennis Boknecht was introduced who will be working for Job Service of ND. He can be contacted at 328-2875. A job training grant was obtained and will be used to train ND veterans. DVOP/LVER was briefly explained to the organization.

Ken Evenson - Vets Home Committee

Bed numbers include: 103 in basic and 0 on waiting list; 38 in skilled; 78 are waiting for a bed in skilled. Stated he received a call from Sen. Robinson who was questioning what the Veterans Home was doing with their funding of their budget. Also stated that Ken Anderson is going to go through proper channels to obtain \$85,000 from the trust fund for boiler repairs and the fountains. Extensive discussion was held concerning the requested amount from the trust fund. Suggestions were made to use general funds not the emergency funds.

Joe O'Brien - Vets Affairs

Stated they have a new member on the vets affairs subcommittee - Rhiny Weber (DAV). Stated, when possible, claims should start at the county VSO level. Training of VSOs will be in September 24, 1996, in West Fargo. Training conferences vary in expenses. Stated a motion was made and passed to provide \$10,000 for training. Transportation routes going well. Loan programs are going well with service improving on the collections. Grant programs are also going well. Stated a motion was made and passed to improve the spouse/widowers with an extension of \$50,000 with approval by the committee. Stutsman County will be hiring a VSO. Discussion was held concerning budgeting problems being experienced.

Earl Redlin - PWF Campaign Comm. Report

Stated 21 days are left before petition drive is over with. Currently there are 19,000 signatures on hand. 30,000 signatures will be needed. The current number gives a cushion but the petitions that are out there need to be handed in. Earl explained that letter writing, at this time, will take too long. Stated

that there is a need to set up a calling tree to track petitions that are still out there. Ray Harkama will contact VSOs and report to Bob Evans with results. This tree will apply to each organization of the council (all people must be contacted down to the local posts). Discussion was held concerning the calling tree. There will be petitions at the American Legion booth at the state fair. This booth will be in commercial building #1 (booth #845). Times include 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. Further discussion was held on different ways to obtain signatures during fair events.

Bob Hanson made remarks concerning the P WTF petition campaign. He suggested to put out a news release on Monday relating to the P WTF current signature number and events coming up where signature signing opportunities.

R. Stelmachuk made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting. J. Litzinger seconded the motion. Motion passed.

D. Schmidt made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as read to the council (checking \$1132.31; savings \$2026.52). Second by G. Maurer. Motion passed.

Resolutions:

Please refer to resolution #1. E. Ekern made a motion to accept resolution #1 as read. G. Maurer seconded the motion. Discussion held. J. Salveson made a motion to table the present motion. R. Ryan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Please refer to resolution #2. D. Schmidt made a motion to pursue legislative action. Second by J. Litzinger. Motion passed.

Please refer to resolution #3. D. Schmidt to adapt a resolution to encourage the white stones at the Veterans Cemetery. J. Litzinger seconded the motion. Motion failed.

Please refer to resolution #4. E. Ekern made a motion to accept resolution #4 as read. Belling seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Discussion was held concerning the legislative agenda. It was suggested to have a legislative social sometime in November or December.

A motion was made by J. Salveson to hold the next NDVCC meeting November 23, 1996, at 10am in Bismarck. Second by E. Ekern. Motion passed.

Discussion was held concerning the P WTF Rally on August 5, 1996.

E. Ekern ask for the action that was taken on a motion to all VVA a vote on the council from the previous meeting. Motion was read from the minutes of the previous meeting. D. Schmidt commented that it would be better if the membership number requirement be

changed from 750 to 250, therefore, the VVA would then be allowed a vote. This change would cause a change in the constitution. Discussion was held on this matter.

G. Maurer made a motion to change the bylaws to require organizational membership be 250 rather than 750. Belling seconded the motion, motion passed.

Belling made a motion to adjourn, 2nd and passed.