

NDVCC MINUTES
11-23-96

Meeting called to order by Bob Evans, Secretary of NDVCC
Pledge of Allegiance said.
Moment of silence for POW/MIAs
Roll call of members taken.

Reports:

R. Stalmachuck made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. J. Litzinger seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Financial report was presented to the council. D. Schmidt made a motion to accept the financial report as read. R. Jenson. seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Phil Miller: ND National Guard

Internments are at a total of 628 since the start. Individual denotations to the cemetery are ahead of 1994 and 1995. Organizational donations are down substantially. There is now a wish list for the cemetery. This includes material items that are needed for those who do not wish to donate money. The General's Cemetery Advisory Board has been formed. There are seven members on this board. Board member names were read to the council. There is no stipulation on the term limit of these board members. Militia fund is at \$400,000. Discussion was held.

Joe O'Brien: Advisory Committee

Spring conference for the CVSOs will be April 21-23. 57 grant programs have been approved. Hearing aid grants have been increased to \$750. Veterans aid loans are going well. Budget is short \$27,066. OMV wants a smaller budget. There have been questions concerning the milage on the Stanley and Wahpeton vans. Discussion was held among the council.

It was urged to the members to schedule earlier dates for VSO training sessions so that they are not the same dates as the state conventions.

Handicapped deer hunt went real good this year. There were six participants, who all got their deer.

Ken Evenson: Subcommittee for Veterans Home

In the basic facility 100 beds are filled, 1 committed and 3 applications are being processed. In the skilled facility 38 beds are filled and 80 are on the waiting list. The bus time for residents going downtown has been increased. The commandant went to the governor's office with some budget concerns.

Veterans License Plate

Recommended fee for the license plate will be \$10 but should be viable if it's \$15. The reimbursement will go to the commissioner's office and the balance will go to the veterans cemetery. Examples of the plate were shown to the council. It was

initially estimated that with a 60-70% participation rate, \$200,000 would be generated annually to be split between two department. DOT will only receive monies needed to make the plate. It was suggested that when testimonies are held on this issue it would be favorable to have a room full of veterans and guardsmen in support. Bob Evans stated he talked with Gen. Bjerke and asked and urged the General for the guard's support for this bill. There has been no voiced interest from the national guard to change their current plate. If this bill is passed, this will provide annual money for the vets cemetery decreasing the need to go to the PWTF for monies. Suggestion was made to open up the issue to the administrative committee. It would benefit the group to have some direction as to how to handle this proposed bill. Suggestion was made to make the wording of the bill such that to keep the universities out of the issue. A motion was made by D. Schmidt to seek approval of the vets license plate bill wording in relation to the split monies. Second from R. Ryan. Discussion held. Motion passed. It was the council's wishes to move forward with this bill. Phil Miller was asked to take this discussion back to the general and ask for his support on the bill. John Mullen suggested that if the license plate issue fails, that the minimum amount (\$150,000) be funded for the cemetery.

Legislative Supper

Dave Schmidt gave a background to the issue. This would provide an opportunity to let legislatures know where the veterans and the council are coming from. Give them a background of the issues and ideas of the council. Discussion was held on ideas for the supper. Suggestion made to have the supper at the start of the legislative session. Veterans need to be together. If legislatures sense a feeling of opposition, there is less chance of them voting in favor of veterans' issues. It was suggested to first send an introduction sheet to the legislatures before dealing with the other issues. D. Schmidt made a motion to consider outlining the legislative priorities, fact sheet on vets organizations, and the relationship between administrative comm. and NDVCC along with the legislative supper. G. Mauer seconded the motion. Discussion was held. Motion passed. R. Ryan made a motion assigning the legislative committee to create an information (fact) sheet outlining the information in the previous motion and that the NDVCC participate in conjunction with the Legion and the Guards if a legislative supper is held. Second by R. Jensen. Motion passed. R. Ryan made a motion to have the price of the legislative supper equally split between the participating organizations. Motion was seconded. Motion passed. It is the responsibility of each organization to supply the fact sheet concerning their group.

Concern was voiced regarding the "working together" of the administrative committee and the NDVCC. Have to be real close. Each organization needs to inform the other so that support is there during the testimonies. Need to have a firm stand with the legislature during this legislative year.

John Mullen - PWTF

Committee has been approached by 5 different requests from the PWTF. D. Kenyon requested \$87,000 to put TV/telemedicine in the clinic in Grafton. T. Rainsberry requested \$10,000 homeless veterans expansion. R. Evans requested \$19,756 for the purchase of a new van. D. Berg requested \$20,000 for the purchase of a van for Sioux County. Discussion held concerning the issue of how the vans are bought and sold in the state. General Bjerke is requesting minimum funding of \$150,00 but is hoping to get another full time employee which would be an additional \$50,000 per biennium. Estimated interest of fund that will be generated is \$550-\$575,000.

Gene Kouba - Legislative Comm.

Requested \$250 for postage and reports for the legislative committee, expenses are exceeding present budget.

R. Stalmachuck made a motion to approve the \$250 requested by G. Kouba. G. Maurer seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Please register on the lobbyist registration form. Need individuals to be helping out and providing testimonies. A motion was made by R. Ryan that the council pay the \$20 lobbyist registration fee. Second by D. Schmidt. Motion passed.

J. Salvesson made a motion to purchase the legislative booklets put out by motor vehicle department. Second by R. Stalmachuck. Motion passed.

Bob Evans - PWTF Committee

76% was the final count of the votes in the election. Council was told to hand in any bills from the campaign. Discussion was held on campaign adds. Suggested to send a "thank-you" to the people of ND for their support in the protection of the fund. R. Stalmachuck made a motion to send a "thank-you" letter to the editor's to all the papers in ND. Second by G. Maurer. Motion passed.

Further discussion was held on the visibility of veterans.

Dave Schmidt stated that the legion will be pursuing the issue of the gravesite markers at the veterans cemetery.

Resolution to amend Article III - membership of the NDVCC constitution. A motion was made by E. Eckern to approve the resolution as reworded. Second by R. Jensen. Discussion held. Motion passed.

Resolution to amend the statewide membership requirement for voting status on the council was read to the council. J. Salvesson made a motion to accept the first reading of the amendment. J. Litzinger seconded the motion. Discussion held. Motion passed.

Resolution to amend the statewide membership and post requirements for voting status on the council was read to the council. R. Ryan made a motion to accept the first reading of the

amendment. R. Stalmachuck seconded the motion. Discussion held. Motion failed.

Year of the Veteran Proclamation

R. Ryan represented the history of the proclamation. He stated he wrote a letter to the governor asking him to issue a proclamation and he did so. Over 90% of the states have received their proclamations. Feels that this needs to be addressed and possibly write some more proclamations.

VETS

R. Ryan voiced concern about getting a veteran representative on the Workforce Development Council. He discussed the tasks of the council. Discussion held. D. Schmidt made a motion for the secretary of the NDVCC to write a letter to the governor expressing desire to have a veteran representative on the council. Second by R. Ryan. Motion passed.

Administrative Committee

Stated that all requests made were tabled until committee members are able to discuss requests with Kathi Gilmore. Committee stated that they will back up any authority given to the NDVCC.

R. Harickama stated that a veterans preference bill has been rewritten. The previous final draft wording from last year was switched around. Stated that the commissioner may request a hearing for the veteran.

Cass County had a motion to change vets preference. This motion was tabled at the Association of Counties meeting.

D. Schmidt made a motion stating that the council will support the commissioners request for housekeeping of vets preference but won't allow changes to veterans preference. Second by G. Maurer. Discussion held. Motion passed.

K. Evenson commented on housekeeping bills for the vets home. Wants to use money from Fund 904 (Home Improvement) for total operations of the home. Discussion was held. Council wishes were to have the issue brought back to the administrative committee.

Discussion was held concerning the assisted living arrangements with long term care.

Discussion held concerning the legislative director position. Adjutants will discuss the issue and come up with a solution.

J. Litzinger made a motion to approve and present the resolution commending the americans who served the US during the period known as the cold war to legislatures. Second by J. Salveson. Discussion held. Motion passed.

Next meeting will be January 17 & 18, 1997 in Bismarck.

J. Salveson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second by R. Ryan. Passed.