

NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 22, 1997

Meeting called to order by Earl Redlin. President Kasy Schmaltz absent due to health problems.

Pledge of Allegiance said.
Moment of Silence for POW/MIAs.
Roll call taken.

R. Stalmachuck made a motion to accept to minutes of the previous meeting as written. Belling seconded the motion. Motion carried.

R. Stalmachuck made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as written. J. Litzinger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CEMETERY LIAISON COMM. REPORT - ARNIE MAIER

Commented on that the Guard presented a handout in reference to the Militia Foundation. Will provide this handout for the council. Decision made to have all the gravemarkers at the cemetery identical in the next year or two. Discussion held.

LEGISLATIVE COMM. - ARNIE MAIER

Copy of the bills being presented this year in this legislative session handed out to the members. Please refer to your handout. Thanks to Gene Kuba for putting the handout together.

HB1097 - originally defeated in the House. Was then revised and passed in the Senate. Later passed in the House. Out of 27 veterans in the House, 16 voted against the bill in the original vote and 9 voted against the bill in the 2nd vote. Discussion held on the bill.

HB1117 - passed. Ken Anderson spoke on the bill and discussion was held.

HB1118 - passed. Ray Harkema spoke on the bill and discussion was held.

HB1346 - bill was amended and passed. Discussion was held.

SB2007 - passed. K. Anderson and R. Harkema spoke on the bill and discussion was held.

HCR3029 - passed. Discussion held.

A. Maier further commented on behalf of the Legislative Committee. Stated that all of the bills are related to veterans and should have the full support of the council. Legislative committee would like to be at all the council meetings. Commented that the committee members are the direction of the council and need that direction. Without direction, they are at a loss. They requested copies of all written testimonies for the bills. Bills for the committee meetings presented to R. Evans, Secretary, for payment. Discussion held on the bills and what the council can do to better communicate with the committee.

VETERANS CEMETERY - ADJ. BJERKE

Presently there are 674 interments, 11 are non-veterans.

Legislative session going good. HB1017 passed in the House. License plate amendments read to the council. Hoping to get more monies to help with Armories services. Discussed where interments are coming from - majority from Bismarck & Mandan. Adj. Bjerke commented on the idea of establishing a second Veterans Cemetery in the eastern part of the state, an idea from the National Veterans Affairs Office. Discussion held.

Administrative Committee dismissed to meet for their business.

State Treasurer's Report handed out to the members. Bob Hanson commented on the report. Discussion held on ideas for investing the interest fund monies.

D. Schmidt made a motion that the NDVCC make payment for the bills presented by the Legislative Committee. R. Stalmachuck seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjutants of the vets organizations asked to send their new emblems to R. Evans for creating new letterhead.

Discussion was held on ideas for campaigning the passage and availability of the new Veterans License Plate Bill. Suggested to make the signing of the bill by the Governor a media event. Also, suggested to have a presentation board to have Joe Dispa, at all state conventions.

MEDORA FOUNDATION - ROD JAYDEN

Spoke on the new production of the "wind shelter" outside the Burning Hills Amphitheater. Presented the idea behind Medora, new ideas for Medora and the importance of veterans influence and involvement in Medora. Suggested to veterans to take a part in the production. Please refer to handout.

Dues and assessments were discussed for the present year. R. Stalmachuck made a motion to keep the current dues for each organization and drop the assessment fees. Belling seconded the motion. Motion carried. \$300.00 will be due from each organization at the July NDVCC meeting.

Discussion held concerning repayment for the Legislative committee members and the Legislative Liaison. R. Stalmachuck made a motion to pay each legislative member and liaison \$100 as a token of appreciation plus expenses for the current legislative session. Belling seconded the motion. Discussion held. Motion withdrawn.

Discussion held on what happened of the Legislative Luncheon. Suggested that it would be a good idea to have a luncheon for the next year. R. Ryan made a motion to assign the Legislative Committee to investigate alternative methods for legislative dinner for the next session. J. Balzer seconded the motion. Motion carried. Further discussion held.

Militia Foundation Report handed out to the members. Discussion

held.

Membership books need to be updated. Suggested to have abbreviated book to be handed out to veterans committee. Suggestion made to have a refreshing and training session with new members in July regarding the purpose of the council and other issues.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - JOHN MULLEN

Telemedicine requested \$87,000 for diagnosis and treatment planning. \$10,000 requested for the setup stand for homeless veterans. Suggestion made to have the administrative committee and the council have meeting together. New committee formed to provide information regarding the National Guard agendas. Committee members: R. Harkema, Raynsberry, and D. Bayer. Committee welcomed a member or two from the council, also. Administrative committee looking at long-term investments for the fund. The principal 4.2 million every year is worth less relating to inflation. Discussion held concerning committee to negotiate with the guard concerning requesting monies.

VETERANS HOME SUBCOMM. - KEN EVENSON

Ken Anderson nominated for Commandant again. Last survey went great. Salary increases according to the state. J. Balzer made a motion to send a card congratulating K. Anderson on the survey results at the home. D. Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VETERANS AFFAIRS SUBCOMM. - JOE

R. Harkema approved for. VA reorganizing (better jobs with less people). Gene Kuba just finished training. Spring training for VSOs will be April 21-23. Fall training will be in Fargo. Needing to buy 3 new vans before the milage is overdue ont he current vans. 135 grants have been approved. Commented that many spouses are unaware of this availability. Please remember to inform them. Loans have been turned down in relation to inflation. A salary increase was approved for R. Harkema.

J. Litzinger made a motion to send a "Get Well" card to Kasy Schmaltz. Seconded by A. Maier. Motion carried.

A. Mauer made a motion to have the next meeting on July 18, 1997, in Lisbon. Seconded by R. Ryan. Motion carried.

Veterans Week in Medora is July 11-12.
State VVA Picnic July 18-20 in Lisbon.