

**MINUTES
NDVCC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12,13, 1997**

The meeting was called to order by president Joe Smith with pledge of allegiance to the flag and moment of silence for POW/MIA's.

General Bjerke gave a presentation on the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, see attached reports. The general also reported that he was attending various guard units to make medal presentations and such.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and a motion by Jenson to accept, 2nd by Clifford, passed.

Treasurers report was presented and accepted with a motion by Jenson, 2nd Krejci, passed.

Announcements by Jerry Balzer.

An update on the veterans license plate was given, most of the information was covered by general Bjerke, Arnold Maier reported that DOT is in a computer revision, and hopes to have plates available January 1st. It was reported that all organizations have rendered permission to use organization logos except the American Legion. Dave Schmidt explained the Legions position on this matter. Much discussion followed.

Motion by Joe Novak that we respect the Legions position and proceed with use of the veterans organization emblem for those that have authorized use for the license plate. 2nd by Arnold Maier, discussion followed. Motion and 2nd were withdrawn.

Discussion was held on three points of concern for the council.

- * payment to the Veterans Cemetery TRUST Fund.
- * Cemetery Trust Fund may not be tax deductible.
- * Legislature and Governor may take the money at any time.

Joe Novak - discussed the problem with veterans preference in government employment. Concern is that there may be another attack on veterans preference. It was agreed that we need to be prepared to either defend what we have or try to come up with a more viable program.

Rick Ryan made a motion that the President of the Council appoint a committee to investigate North Dakota veterans preference law for possible changes or be prepared to provide answers to questions. It was also recommended that we prepare a position statement on veterans preference. 2nd by Willie Warner, motion carried.

Motion by Dave Schmidt that upon completion of this task, President, Rick Ryan, Joe Novak should attend the Association of Counties meeting to present our views on this issue. 2nd by Rudy Jenson, motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned until Saturday morning.

Saturday September 13, 1997

President Joe Smith opened the meeting at 8:30am.

Elmer Ekern addressed the council on how the unanimous vote affects the council. Elmer recommended we revisit the need for a unanimous vote. Much discussion took place with Joe Novak, Bob Hanson, and Rick Ryan all lending comments.

Motion made by Rick Ryan to have the president appoint a committee to review article five section 2 of the bylaws of the constitution. Willie Warner 2nd, motion carried. The charge of the committee was to investigate and report back to the president prior to the November meeting of the council. Elmer Ekern was pointed chairman of the committee.

A discussion about veterans's preference then ensued. The discussion resulted in a committee being formed which included Joe Novak, Joe Smith, Rick Ryan, Bob Hanson, and Gene Kouba who will investigate the current veterans preference law in North Dakota and compare it with laws from other states where their laws are working. The discussion led to the invitation we had from the Association of Counties to review the law with them. It was decided president Joe Smith and another representative will attend the meeting with their representative.

Motion made by Arnie Maier to have the Commander of each organization appoint a representative from the council to serve on this committee, 2nd by Jerome Krejci, motion carried.

AmVets appointed Elmer Ekern at this time and VVA appointed John Mullen. No others were appointed during the meeting.

A motion was then made by Arnold Maier for the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council express condolences to Mrs. Atol in Rays passing. 2nd by Rick Ryan, motion carried. President Smith said he would take care of it.

The council visited about the license plate bill and how we can keep it in front of the veterans until it is issued.

Report from the Administrative Committee, Chairman Balzer announced that the committee's for the department and the home had been formed.

The Veterans Home subcommittee chair is Paul Aaberg, members include Kent Anderson, Larry Dakken, Tom Moe, Richard Olek, Rhiney Weber and Don Wieble.

The Department subcommittee will be chaired by Ken Evenson. Members include Dean Beyer, Jim Carlascio, Jim Johnson, Joe Litzinger, Tom Rainsberry and Ken Vatne.

The Secretary of the Administrative Committee is Dean Beyer. Chairman Balzer reported on the Home and Department projects and happenings which are being done at this time. The committee plans to purchase three vans with interest funds from the PWTF. There was a motion made by the

full committee to invest 25% in equities to insure the fund would have the same spending equity in future years.

Chairman Balzer asked the NDVCC to send minutes to all the Administrative Committee members.

Chairman Balzer also asked that all of the veterans organizations submit their calender of events to him and Joe Smith who would then schedule meetings for the next five quarters. A discussion about both the minutes from the NDVCC and NDACOVA and who should receive copies took place. Minutes from both Committees will be mailed to the North Dakota DVA who will mail them to members of both committees.

Joe Smith talked about the veterans license plate. He said the plate will not be ready by Veterans Day. We will have some examples prepared to show to veterans on Veterans' Day to let them know what the plate will look like. Joe then reviewed other agenda items.

Motion made by Joe Novak that the next meeting is decided after the calenders from the veterans organizations are reviewed. 2nd by Willie Warner, motion carried. The next meeting will start at 1:00pm on Friday.

A motion by Willie Warner to adjourn, 2nd by Jerome Krejci, motion carried.