

**NDVCC Meeting
December 11,1998**

The meeting was called to order by President John Mullen with opening ceremony. Roll call of organizations was taken.

Ray Harkama, in place of Kathi Gilmore gave the Post War Trust Fund report. (Attachment #1)

Ronnie Miller Chief of Voluntary Service VA Fargo gave a report on activities at the center. (Attachment #2)

Jerry Meske of North Dakota Job Service presented his report on activities in the state. (Attachment #3)

Adjutant General Keith Bjerke of the North Dakota National Guard gave his report on the Veterans Cemetery, Militia Foundation and the Guard. (Attachment #4)

Tom Moe Chairman for the Administrative Committee offered his remarks.

The Administrative Committee was then dismissed and the council resumed its business.

A motion by Stelmachuk and 2nd by Schmidt to accept the minutes as mailed out. The motion passed.

Evans gave a brief summary of the financial status of the council. Checking account balance \$2449.96. Savings account balance is \$3159.90. Please review detailed report attached.

Report of the Veterans Preference Committee:

Arnold Maier reported on the makeup of the committee.

John Mullen reported on the mornings meeting action.

Rick Ryan reported on the priority of service issue coming up. This is the new issue for the future.

Ray Harkama addressed his concerns on the veterans' preference issue. Concerns were raised on the request of the Attorney Generals Opinion.

Jim Flemming offered remarks on his opinion of the proposal. His stated that his reply was only an advisory memo. Not something that is published in the newspaper.

Motion by Arnold Maier to drop the issue and move forward. The 2nd was by Stelmachuk. Discussion on history of appeals for veterans' preference this last year. Ray Harkama responded.

Motion passed.

Jim Flemming offered to summarize the Kliniske bill.

- 1) No longer have war time veterans.
- 2) Definition of justifiable cause.
- 3) Agencies must have written exams for every job.

There were many comments on the concerns of this bill. Jim offered his suggestions on the bill.

Arnold Maier offered a motion to recommend Ray Harkama have legal council contact Representative Kliniske to hold the bill until veterans have chance to review recommended changes. 2nd by Jim Fenstad. Discussion followed and the motion and second was withdrawn.

A motion by Joe Novak to recommend that Ray Harkama have legal council contact Representative Kliniske to not to introduce the proposed veterans' preference bill, and recommend that the council and state agencies to work together during the interim to come to an agreeable veterans preference bill. 2nd by Arnold Maier, and passed.

A motion by Joe Novak that the definition of veterans be changed to drop "war time requirement", and that 24 month minimum service be added. 2nd by Randy LeKander, discussion followed.

Page 2

A.L.	No
AmVets	Yes
DAV	Yes
VFW	No
VVA	Yes

Motion failed.

Bob Hanson stated we should try to develop a more broad coverage to encompass more veterans. This includes peacetime veterans.

Arnold Maier asked for an explanation on why organizations voted no on the previous motion.

Dave Schmidt offered their explanation.

Dave Schmidt offered a motion to extend veteran's preference to peacetime veterans for ten years following discharge from active duty. Motion was 2nd by Willie Warner/Arnold Maier. Discussion followed.

AmVets	Yes
DAV	Yes
VFW	Yes
VVA	No
A.L.	Yes

Motion failed.

Ray Stelmachuk offered a motion for the treasurer to pay for the purchase of legislative journals, legislative books, status books and postage. Motion was 2nd by Dave Schmidt, passed.

Dave Schmidt offered a motion that we adapt the following definition of justifiable cause: "the complete inability to properly perform the work based on physical, mental, educational, or experience limitations about which the employing agency knew at the time of the hiring decision. Justifiable cause shall be based only upon objective criteria. In no case shall the fact that a person is deemed over qualified for the position, be considered justifiable cause." The motion was 2nd by Bob Evans, discussion followed.

DAV	Yes
VFW	Yes
VVA	Yes
A.L.	Yes
AmVets	Yes

Motion passed.

A motion by Bob Hanson," that we oppose the requirement for agencies to provide any written examination".

2nd by Dave Schmidt,

VFW	Yes
VVA	Yes
A.L.	Yes
AmVets	Yes
DAV	Yes

Motion passed.

Motion by Ray Stelmachuk to adjourn for the day. Motion 2nd by Dave Schmidt, motion passed.

SATURDAY December 12, 1998

Meeting called back to order by President John Mullen.

Jerome Krejci remarked on the problem of obtaining a memorial license plate. It was recommended that the legislative committee contact DOT to determine the possibility of getting these available for purchase.

Bob Hanson made a motion to request that "justifiable cause in writing" be included in all sections of the law relating to veteran's preference in employment if the veteran is not hired. The motion was 2nd by Randy Lekander.

VVA yes
A.L. yes
AmVets yes
DAV yes
VFW yes

Motion passed.

Bob Hanson made a motion to request that any bill relating to veteran's preference, that agencies must clearly spell out minimum requirements and critical tasks required for the job opening. The motion was 2nd by Woody Wendt.

A.L. yes
AmVets yes
DAV yes
VFW yes
VVA yes

Motion passed.

Bob Hanson made a motion that we prefer full lifetime veterans preference for those that served honorably in the military. Secondly we prefer full lifetime preference for wartime veterans and 10 years delimiting from the date of honorable discharge for peacetime veterans. Thirdly we retain our present veteran's preference law. Motion 2nd by Randy LeKander.

AmVets yes
DAV no
VFW no
VVA yes
A.L. no

Motion failed.

Willie made a motion to reconsider the motion of Friday on veteran's preference for peacetime vets. Motion 2nd by Dave Schmidt, motion passed.

The motion on the floor was offered by Dave Schmidt to extend veteran's preference for a period of ten years following discharge from active service, 2nd by Willie Warner/ Arnold Maier.

A friendly amendment to the reconsidered motion was offered, "that we oppose any attempt to place limiting dates on wartime veterans in regard to veteran's preference".

The motion as amended was voted on.

DAV yes
VFW yes
VVA yes
A.L. yes
AmVets yes

Motion passed.

A motion by Joe Novak, that the council assign the legislative committee the responsibility for going ahead on the priority of service programs as outlined in the draft proposal and they will appoint an adhoc committee of resource people to work with them, to be worked on during the interim for possible legislation for the 2001 session. The motion was 2nd by Dave Schmidt.

VFW yes
VVA yes
A.L. yes
AmVets yes
DAV yes

Motion passed.

John reported on his discussions with Tom Moe about maybe utilizing PWTF moneys for the publicizing of the Veterans Cemetery license plate. It was reported that the council does have \$3000 in savings that could be used for this purpose. It was reported that there are approximately 575 plates that have been sold to date.

Page 4

Further discussion on this issue continued as to how we can best contact the veteran population to advertise the license plate issue.

Motion by Bob Evans to authorize Arnold Maier to ask General Bjerke for permission to place a license plate insert in their Militia Foundation mail out. Motion 2nd by Dave Schmidt, passed.

Further discussion was made on this issue.

It was reported that Gene Kouba had contacted the Jean's for charity program of Bismarck and has received \$6,600 in donations for veterans programs of North Dakota. A round of applause was given.

A question was asked on the motion on the veteran's preference bill from Kliniske. It was remarked that Jim Flemming was to contact us if the bill is going to be introduced or if there was to be any problem with it.

Motion by Bob Hanson to direct the Council's Program committee to create a news release on the cemetery license plate and to also check with an ad agency about creating an insert and program for our use, and to also look at a funding mechanism. Motion 2nd by Arnold Maier, discussion followed and the motion carried.

Proposed meeting dates are Feb. 19-20, and July 8-9-10.

Administrative Committee Report by Tom Moe. (See attached minutes)

Concerns were raised on the need for more communications on the proposed budgets for each department and that we as the council need to be aware of the details of each budget so as to properly lobby for them.

Motion by Dave Schmidt that the council supports the budget of the Veterans Home and the Commissioners office. Motion 2nd by Arnold Maier, passed.

Good of the Order:

Time and Place: Motion by Dave Schmidt the next meeting is scheduled for February 19-20, 1999 for Bismarck. The motion 2nd by Bob Evans, motion passed.

Motion by Bob Hanson to extend our sympathy to Jerry Balzer, 2nd by Randy Lekander, passed.

The meeting was adjourned.