

ND VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL
13 MARCH 1998

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Smith, followed by roll call of organizations. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report was given verbally. See attached report.

General Bjerke reported on the North Dakota Militia Foundation. He gave a detailed report on donations received to date, and monies spent to date. Questions were asked and answer provided. (Attachment #1, handout)

Randy Hatzembuhler, President of the TRM Foundation gave a report on the proposed Tjaden Terrace and Veterans' Overlook project at Medora. Randy thanked the veteran's organizations for their support of the Veterans Memorial Plaza recently completed. He noted that the Veterans' Weekend would be held on July 11th this year. Comdr. Wendt AmVets presented \$2,000 for the Foundation from the Commanders Project for this year. (Attachment #2, TRMF handout)

Jerry Meske, ND Job Service was introduced and brought greetings from Jennifer Gladden and reported on the programs being handled by Job Service.

Bob Hanson gave update on the Veterans' Cemetery License Plate program. Sample plates were shown and it was noted that the program is set to go for Memorial Day 1998. It was noted that Rough Rider Industries is ready to go with production of the plates, and DOT has noted that they will go on that date with or without computer support. Bob noted that when the plates are ready we need to get active in pushing the plates because others will want to get on the band wagon. Applications will be available at the CVSO training conference but are not to go out to the public until Memorial Day. The safety catches are being put in place to protect the integrity of the program.

Letter from the Bismarck AmVets Auxiliary and Joe's response was discussed. (Attachment #3, copy of letters)

Letter from American Legion Auxiliary was also read, Joe noted that both letters were mute based on Council action at the last meeting.

Jim Coats spoke on the Citizens Flag Alliance and its goals this year. Joint Senate Resolution #40 missing 7 co-sponsors including Conrad and Dorgan. A hand written short letter asking them to reconsider their vote in this issue. This resolution shall give congress power to protect the flag. 1901 passed the first flag desecration bill in North Dakota.

Council dues were discussed. A motion offered by Ray Stelmachuk to set the dues at \$300, and was 2nd by Dave Schmidt. The motion passed. Evans gave a financial history, showing the income and expenses transpired during 1996-97. Discussion was held on the need to handle this motion at this time.

Old Business: Constitution & Bylaw Changes: Elmer Ekern Article V Section 2 of the Bylaws, requiring a unanimous vote. There are 3 different changes proposed. Elmer's proposal was to have unanimous vote on legislative issues and a majority vote on all other issues.

John Mullen presented changes to have votes handled unanimous with vote being done by organizations instead of individuals. Joe Smith's proposal was the same as Johns but it spelled out the voting requirements within the organization. There were many questions needing clarification and much discussion was held. Ray Stelmachuk made a motion to accept both proposed changes to Article V Section 2 of the bylaws, 2nd by Mark Swartz. Motion by Dave Schmidt to table this motion as to such time as needed to discuss the issue further, 2nd by Joe Novak, passed.

Article II Section 2 of the constitution: Elmer stated the three principles phases of the organization, legislation, programs, and information. John Mullen made a motion to accept the changes as presented, 2nd by Jerome Krejci. Motion to table by Joe Novak, 2nd by Willie Warner, passed.

Article V Section 2 of the constitution: regarding meetings. Elmer gave a break down of the meeting schedule. It was noted this change was effective at the December meeting.

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Motion by Dave Schmidt to bring the first motion off the table, regarding the vote by member organizations, 2nd by Jim Clifford. Article V Section 2 of the bylaws now reads "Council action on the three principle phases of its objectives shall be unanimously endorsed by its members." To read "Council action on the three principle phases of its objectives shall be unanimously endorsed by its member organizations. Part two of this motion has to do with how the vote is handled within the organizations. Much, Much discussion was held on this issue. Joe Novak offered a substitute motion to remove the word unanimously from the sentence of Article V Section 2, 2nd by Judy Jenson, Dave Schmidt moved to table the motion, 2nd by John Mullen, passed. Joe Novak asked for roll call vote. The vote is recorded as follows:

Jim Clifford:	yes	Jerome Krejci	yes
Dave Schmidt	yes	Robert Evans	yes
Joe Smith	yes	Ted Will	yes
Woody Wendt	no	Ray Stelmachuk	yes
Rudy Jenson	no	Ted Krogen	yes
Joe Novak	no	Willie Warner	yes
		Mark Swartz	yes
		John Mullen	yes

Substitute motion was confirmed tabled.

Discussion on the original motion proceeded. Question called for and votes taken with a show of hands, the results were 11 yea, 3 nay. Motion passed. Meeting was recessed until Saturday morning 8:00am.

Saturday March 14th 8:05am the meeting was reconvened. Rick Ryan gave his VETS report. Rick reported on legislation SB1186 funding to states for employment training. Presently this bill has no language for veterans. Sen. Thurman and others have offered to put veteran's language into the bill. The key wording is "Fair Share". Congress created veterans and thus there is no other group that can claim this. They should be mandated to take care of veterans. In essence there is no veterans preference in this bill. Rick stated that as Americans we were given a fair share, as veterans we should be given preference.

The committee met and discussed veterans preference, rules from North Dakota and other states were discussed. A working draft was formulated and presented to those in attendance. (Attachment #4) It was noted that there are three states presently without veterans preference programs, Texas, Michigan and Colorado. They have the One Stop Program. Discussion followed on this subject. A motion by Dave Schmidt that the draft be accepted and the Legislative Committee member Rick Ryan be instructed to make a presentation to the Administrative Committee next week, 2nd by Willie Warner, motion passed.

The new solicitation letter from the ND Militia Foundation was discussed. It was noted that the wording on the letter is the same as before in regard to the Militia Foundation. A special note to all that the use of the Cemetery Trust Fund assures that the donation goes to that fund.

The Burleigh County VSO hiring procedure was discussed. It was noted that all the veterans' organizations were informed that they would be on the selection committee and the county did not follow through with this. There was discussion that the intent was to combine the vso position with Morton County.

Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs: Gerald Balzer reported on upcoming agenda. PWTF interest use- transportation- vans for Williston, Stanley and Wahpeton. Ransom County van request. A presentation from DOT to the CVSO spring training conference, it was noted that the applications are to be available on Memorial Day. Upgrade policy, Veterans Home smoking policy. Vet Center request- rehab program. Upcoming state budget cuts 95%.

Rick asked as to the actions and wishes of the veterans of this state in relation to the governor and congressional people. It was mentioned that the council had interviewed past governor candidates as to their views on veteran's issues. It was also discussed that we should be more vocal as to our needs and wishes, both with the governor's office and with the congressional people.

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Motion by Joe Novak, that the agenda for the July meeting reflect the discussion on cooperation with the congressional people and the governor's office, the second issue is the discussion of the pros and cons of moving the commissioners office to Bismarck, 2nd by Rick Ryan, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS: VVA state meeting in Fargo next weekend following the Administrative Committee meeting. It was recommended that the council send a letter to Marshall Moore urging the completion of the Veterans Cemetery license plate program on Memorial Day 1998.

It was noted that at future meetings the room reservations would have a room reservation number listed on the meeting notice to council members. This will help ease the problem of people using council reservations to get rooms.

Time & place: The next meeting of the council will be held in Lisbon on July 17-18, 1998 at the Veterans Home. It was noted that the commandant be asked to make reservations for rooms in Lisbon.

Jim Coats asked for council support on the flag alliance project. Discussion followed and it was noted that North Dakota passed memorial resolution in 1991 to protect the flag. It was noted that the veteran's organizations do support the flag alliance.

GOOD OF ORDER: TRM Foundation memorial plaza. Dave offered remarks on the project. He suggested that the foundation make contact with each organization, and maybe make a presentation at the various state conventions. It was also noted the veteran's weekend at Medora is scheduled for July 11th.

Bob Hanson spoke on what his position is in regard to the council. He stated that the American Legion appointed him to the legislative committee. He was asked to serve as the Legislative Liaison Director, and further stating the impropriety of representing just one veteran's organization. In his position he stated that he must serve all organizations, not just one. Secondly, he wanted to clarify what went on in the 1995 legislative session. (Attachment #4, handout)

Motion by Woody Wendt to adjourn, 2nd by Rudy Jenson, passed.