

**NDVCC MINUTES
NOVEMBER 15, 2003**

The council meeting was called to order by President Bob Hanson and introduced Senator Kent Conrad to offer some remarks on veterans' issues on the national level.

Brad Maasjo, Chairman of the Administrative Committee presented his report. Quarterly meetings are set for January 16-17th, April 16-17th, July 16-17th, and October 17-18th. The president stated in the interest of working together with the Administrative Committee the Council will hold its meetings at the same time and same location as the Administrative Committee.

Local veteran's organizations offered a welcome to the council.

Minutes were approved as mailed out. Motion by Arnold Maier and 2nd by Seb Roll.

Treasurer's report was handed out and explained by Bob Evans. Motion by Cliff Jacobson and 2nd by Arnold Maier to approve and passed.

Senator Dick Deaver was introduced. He offered some remarks.

Neal Asper, Administrator of the Veterans Home was introduced for the purpose of offering his remarks.

There was no report from the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. President Hanson handed out binders to each council member with information about state programs. Discussion and questions were fielded.

A report was heard from Darrell Burkland from the Fargo VAMC's homeless veterans program.

Congressman Earl Pomeroy was introduced and offered his remarks.

Joe Novak reported on the Veterans Cemetery license plate program. Bob Hanson reported on discussions with DOT in regard to the plate. A motion by Arnold Maier to draw up a resolution to recommend to DOT that the word **VETERAN** be placed on the Veterans Cemetery license plate replacing **Discover the Spirit** in BOLD print. 2nd by Carol Sigl, discussion followed asking about cost to the veteran. Bob will work with DOT on completing this project and returning to the council with information. The motion passed. This in no way forces an organization to use its logo. It sounds like this would also include regular plates being converted to veteran's plate.

John Jacobson, VFW representative reported on the upcoming WWII memorial dedication and getting WWII veterans to attend. He reported on travel plans that he has worked on.

Blaine Meier- American Legion representative discussed the plans to hold a dedication program in Garrison in conjunction with the Washington DC dedication.

Wayne Paulson reported on his findings on travel to DC for the WWII dedication. Questions were asked about different scenarios.

Potential legislative issues:

Brian Cleary presented his idea of getting the State Park system to offer discounts to disabled veterans. Doug Prchal, director, State Parks and Recreation department offered his remarks on the idea. He is willing to work with us on coming up with a viable plan to present to the legislature. Questions were asked and responses made. It was recommended that the council contact the VA for demographic information on veterans with Service Connected Disabilities. It was also recommended that Doug work on the legislative proposal with information coming from the VA.

License plate fee was discussed.

Veterans Day Off issue was discussed. This bill will possibly be introduced next legislative session. Other bills were discussed on this issue. The question was asked whether or not DPI has spearheaded the Veterans Day issue. Response indicated it had been done.

Jerry Meske from VETS was introduced. Jerry voiced a disclaimer and spoke to the council and provided information on the states veterans' preference issue. Jerry read through the Human Resource Management Services Web Sight, (Supervisor's Guide) in regard to Veteran's Preference. He noted that something needs to be done to strengthen Veterans Preference. Evans recommended Veterans Preference appeal process needs to be rewritten to provide a definite time line.

Senator Byron Dorgan was introduced to offer his remarks on veteran's issues.

Discussion continued on state veteran's preference, with a motion from Arnold Maier to urge the Administrative Committee to have the commissioner contact public entities to instruct them on Veteran's Preference. Motion 2nd by Seb Roll, and passed.

New Business: Discussion on adding the new names for the All Veterans Memorial in Bismarck. A motion by Arnold Maier to charge the commissioner with updating names on the memorial by Memorial Day, 2nd by Jeff Hall, passed.

Hand out on structure of Administrative Committee and Council and constitution & Bylaws were handed out. A constitution and bylaws committee was appointed by the president consisting of Arnold Maier, Seb Roll, Elmer Ekern, Wayne Paulson, Cliff Jacobson, and Joe Novak, with Wayne serving as chairman.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned with a motion from Bob Evans 2nd by Cliff Jacobson.