

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONFERENCE CALL

February 15, 2011
6:05pm

Meeting called to order by Chairman Lyle Schuchard.

Roll Call:

Present:

John Adolf
Ron Braaten
Lee Finstad
Mike Fisher
Jeff Hall

John Hanson
Ken Hasby
Dave Hilleren
Orletta Kilen
Mark Landis

Dean Overby
Carroll Quam
Lyle Schuchard
Jim Verwey

Absent:

Ron Otto

Chairman Schuchard stated that the action today is to vote to support or not support H.B. 1379 as amended.

Amendments to H.B. 1379 were put forward by Senator Dever at the hearing last Thursday.

Motion by Orletta Kilen to not support H.B. 1379 as amended, second by Jim Verwey.

Chairman Schuchard asked for discussion.

Lee Finstad reported the Governing Board had had a conference call in the afternoon on the issue. They felt it would be better for others to stand up for the committee. There is a need to mobilize and get the veteran community involved in this issue.

John Hanson stated he had sent emails to some of the legislators and had received phone calls from a few of them.

Mike Fisher said he had a lengthy discussion with Rep. Meier on the bill.

Lee Finstad spoke with General Dorman. While the National Guard can't take a position, they realize that their guardsmen may be joining veterans organizations as they get older. They know the value of having older veterans in positions to help the younger veterans transition into every day life after their military service.

Mark Landis had a veteran come into his office and told of a conversation he had with Senator Dever. Mark reported that some legislators feel that the ACOVA mismanaged the Postwar Trust Fund and this is part of the reason for the bill. Mark had a good talk with the veteran and gave him some facts on the financial situation of the Fund.

Lee Finstad said with no other hearings on this bill, they would have to rely on emails and written correspondence to the legislative committee.

Ron Braaten asked if it was necessary to have a vote as this may be seen as self-serving. Chairman Schuchard responded that the Committee had voted not to support the original bill and was now asked to respond to the amended bill. He can't give a written statement unless he knows what action the Committee will take on the bill so a vote is needed to support or not to support.

Roll call vote taken.

Motion passed unanimously. [MOTION #1]

Motion to adjourn, seconded, passed.

Respectfully submitted

Ron Otto
Secretary