

March 23, 2012
NDVCC MINUTES

OPENING:

President Robert Krause called the meeting of the NDVCC at 1 PM on March 23, 2012 in the Jamestown Vets Club.

The pledge of allegiance was recited by all followed by a moment of silence for our troops in harms way.

Roll call was taken with all members represented. Dave Rice represented Larry Vetter for the American Legion, Pat Wagemann represented Cmdr. Schmaltz, Jerry Bigalke represented Mike Nitschke for the AMVETS, Dana Baker was absent and not represented, Steven Volk was absent and represented. Did not get the name. Russ Stabcer represented Tom Rainsberry.

The minutes were in the packet and Robert Bird (VFW) moved to approve as written and Jerry Bigalke(AMVETS) seconded the motion and it was approved.

Guests present were Lyle Schuchard, Chairman of the ACOVA, Dean Overby, Sec. of the ACOVA, Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of VA, Lee R. Finstad, ACOVA and Chairman of the Legislative sub committee. Ron Otto ACOVA member and Morton CVS0. Ben Nelson VA Claim recipient.

Lee Finstad introduced Ben Nelson who spoke about the claim that he had put in to the VA and how the Bottineau CVS0 had shown no concern. Ben filed a claim for a hearing problem and was told that since it was not on his service record nothing could be done. Ben said that there had been quite a bit of tension between the CVS0 who he contacted and the Community where they resided at the time. Ben was also determined to have PTSD also after meeting with a service officer in Aberdeen SD.

Dale Ronning spoke on the amount of claims that need an attorney. He also urged to keep the appeals on the local level as much as possible and to keep a positive attitude. He said there is a two year waiting period on many appeals.

Warren spoke on how Veterans feel about county commissioners.

Dan Stenvold questioned what effect measure 2 would have on Veterans if it passes.

Lee mentioned that there should be an evaluation sheet for CVS0 and that there should be unity between CVS0 and the Dept. of VA. He also mentioned that the VA should have the authority to provide accreditation to CVS0 after training.

Jerry Bigalke questioned why some medical records are not able to be retrieved and Lee said that morning reports can many times provide information that a Veteran is seeking. It was mentioned that the state can do in house appeals and service connected activity can go from county to state.

Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of VA

Lonnie talked about the different programs beginning with the ND driver's license indicator. You can have the drivers license bureau have a V put on your drivers license after the proper paper work has been completed.

The Veteran Court training is being done for police officers.

Lonnie talked about the transportation grants for the Vans. He also mentioned that they will be getting transportation to everyone and how they would be able to know where the Vets are who need transportation and where transportation would be available.

Americor and VSO chancellor of Grand Forks will offer counseling to find out problems of the Vet. They expect 90% will drop out.

Vets Court: Working with every Judge and hope to have all Police, law enforcement people trained.

Spoke of DD214 to be redesigned to include e-mail address along with DD215, DD3006 forms. DOD is workin on paperless claims and will be compatible with each organization CVSO. The VA is doing a library to research and find information.

Working on a web-site where all information will be available to help all Vets reach info that they are seeking. The Web-site will contain a calendar with meeting dates and training of different organizations.

There will be training of deployed families children to help them.

Robert Bird spoke of the service centers and the aid that they could give.

Dean and Lyle then begin discussing the bills that ACOVA had discussed in there February meeting. They had endorsed the following bills and urged that they be brought to the next legislative session.

First bill HB 1429 Training of CVSO.

Second bill was the Mel Norgaard bequest and how it was handled. If more bequests are made to the Veterans home, they want it to be handled as the bequester desired.

A designed bill on the license plate for all Veterans.

Lyle spoke of the HB1178 dealing with a retired military person income being taxed. ND only state with no retirement relief.

Lyle also talked about a bill to increase the money in the PWTF, which has never had any money added to the fund. All programs have had to be reduced because of no money available.

A bill to give someone with 100% disability relief of all taxes and prorated down to 30%.

There was discussion on what the cost of the funds in the PWTF as far as to what it is costing to have Edward Jones handling our money.

Bob Krause mentioned that he did not want measure 2 to pass and there was discussion to have the NDVCC act as a Public Relation Committee on this bill.

It was brought up again how measure 2 will hurt the CVSO's as all or part of each CVSO expenses are covered by the 2 mill levy of property taxes in their county according to the century code.

Lonnie talked about the importance of getting the information out to the approximately 300 different Posts in the state. Send the bills that we endorse out to our Posts, get legislatures to

come to our meetings and seek their support. We should work together on the bills that we sponsor. This also goes for measure 2 which has already had law suits filed by the proponents of the bill.

Dale talked about the funding of the NSO's and handed out a handout of the claims that they have handled. There have been 1886 claims handled by the NSO's as of Nov. 2011. He asked for a bill to help the funding of these NSO's. Every other state helps out in some way.

It was again stressed to get good representation when presenting bills to the legislative from our service organizations.

ACOVA representatives left at this time, but not before informing us of their next meeting on March 20 and 30th.

The NDVCC then begin to discuss each of the bills that were presented before.

The first bill had to do with training of CVSO and after some discussion; Robert Bird asked that it be tabled until after the measure 2 outcome as there would not be any money from property tax if this bill passes.

The second bill had to do with the Melvin Norgaard, Bob Krause stated he was concerned if a new bequest comes in the future how it would be handled and that we should stand with ACOVA on this. Lee and Dean have a bill to administrate any request to stay at the home. Warren asked all bequests be treated equally.

HB 1170 dealing with the V on license plates. Dale R moved and Dan S 2nd the motion to back this bill and it passed unanimously

HB1178 dealing with retired income for retired military personnel: Dan moved and Dave seconded the motion to support this and it passed unanimously.

HB1116 Property tax for disabled. The numbers came in after it had been dealt with. It was table until measure 2 outcome is determined. Jim H. moved to table and Russ 2nd the motion and it carried unanimously.

HB1468 PWTF. To add \$2 million to the PWTF. Dale R moved to support and Dave J. seconded and it passed unanimously.

Bills that come from NG for mobilized guardsmen: Have Guard represented.

Measure 2, contact local representatives and explain to the people what this could cost.

Dale asked about the funding of NSO: Dan moved and Dave J. seconded to fund NSO. Discussion followed and decided that it would take research as each organization is funded differently. The motion passed unanimously.

VFW will have 2 bills coming up.

Lonnie asked that in the future to try and get bills out sooner so that if they needed to be rewritten we would have time.

In old business Dale R. moved and Jerry B. seconded to give American Legion credit for 2013 membership and it passed unanimously.

Good of the order:

Jerry B asked about charges for the Veterans home: If the spouse is a non-veteran it was \$1346 with limited income. Dean said that some are grandfathered in.

Time and Place: June 28th 2012 1PM Jamestown Vets Club if available Gary to check.

Warren moved to adjourn and Dave seconded it.

Respectively submitted,

Gary Maddock, Sec. NDVCC

If there are obvious mistakes let me know and I will correct them.

Thanks,

Gary