

September 27, 2012
NDVCC MINUTES

OPENING:

President Robert Krause called the meeting of the NDVCC at 4 PM on Sep. 27, 2012 at the Comfort Inn in Bismarck, ND

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

Russ Stabler moved to approve the minutes as sent out and Jerry Bigalke seconded the motion and it was approved.

The finance report was approved by a motion by Jerry Bigalke and seconded by Steve Volk. Gary Maddock passed out bills to each organization for \$300 for the upcoming years dues.

President Robert Krause asked to go over the bills and prioritize them. He also said that we needed to find a Legislative Director. It was said that we could go outside the C & BL if needed be to find a legislative director. Names that were mentioned were Bob Wefeld and Bob Bird. Dan Stenvold reported that a person from his legislative district would submit a bill to grant each organization \$50000 for their National Service Officer.

It was brought up that there is legislative training at the Capitol. You can register on line and the organizational training will be from Dec. 3 to 5th.

We then went into the bills and how we wanted to prioritize them.

Bill #1 was the Melvin Norgard Trust which we would like to change the century code so that any funds from the trust would allow the ND Veterans Home Governing Board to utilize funds as needed. Approved by the council and we prioritized this as a #1.

Bill #2 "Remember our Veteran Plate"

Remember our Veterans License Plate (John Hanson's): Would establish a "Remember our Veterans" license plate with the Boonie Stomper on it. Funds to go to PWTF. Approved by the Council and prioritized as a #3.

Bill #3: "Remove 50% from property tax exemption"

Would allow all ND resident veterans with 10% or higher disability ratings to apply for that percent of exemption from the first five Thousand four hundred dollars for taxable valuation of the fixtures, buildings and improvements of a disabled veteran..."NDCC 57-02-08.8 (1)

Russ Stabler moved to strike out the \$5400 and Steve Volk seconded the motion and it was approved by the council. This was prioritized as a number 2.

Bill number 4: \$2 million for PWTF:

PWTF add \$2,000,000: Would be a bill to add a one-time \$2,000,000 of General Fund money to the PWTF principle balance. ND CC37-14-14. Approved and prioritizes as a number 1.

Bill Number 5: Remove PWTF biennium restriction: PWTF remove the biennium earned and used wording that was added in 2011.

NDCC 37-14-14 Veterans' postwar trust fund.

“The veterans’ postwar trust fund is a permanent trust fund of the state of North Dakota and consists of moneys transferred or credited to the fund under this chapter and other laws. Investment of the fund is the responsibility of the state treasurer who shall invest the fund only in those legal investments authorized by section 21-10-07. All income received from investments is to be utilized only for programs of benefit and service to veterans or their dependents and all income earned in a biennium is appropriated to the administrative committee on veterans’ on a continuing basis ~~in the following biennium and not in the biennium the income is earned~~ for expenditure on these programs as authorized by law.” This is in direct contrast to the ND Constitution. Mark suggested asking the A.G. office to combine bill #4 and #5. Dan Stenvold moved and Russ Stabler seconded to have them combined and it was approved and prioritized as a number 1.

Bill Number 6: Change tuition free from 100% to 50-100% disabled.

Tuition –Free for dependents- add 50%-90% disabled to have that percent deducted from tuition costs. Would change from the required 100% disabled veteran to allow 50 to 90% disabled veterans have the percentage of their disability deducted from the cost of tuition and fees. This bill was approved and carries a number 2 priority.

Bill number 7: Funding for NSO’s at Fargo RO

Funding for NSO’s: Add funding to support the Veterans Service Organizations Veterans Service officers located at the Federal VA’s Regional Office in Fargo. Specifically American Legion and VFW. Would ask for \$50000 and would be grants or funding through the ND DVA.

- a. Grants for Service organizations or
- b. Funding for ND-DVA to add staff to cover these organizations.
 - i. Organizations would pay training cost.
 - ii. Organizations would provide attorney for ACOVA.

Approved and given a priority of 1.

Bill Number 8: USERRA for SAD orders.

NG will not pursue so we did not act on this bill.

Bill Number 9: Two FTE for NDDVA:

Two FTE-training and NSO for ND_DVA

- a. If not approved in Governor’s budget. Would add two FTE’s to the ND DVa to cover NSO work at the VA RO in Fargo and an additional Training position in the ND DVA main office in Fargo.
- b. Passed ACOVA

Dave Rice moved and Dan Stenvold seconded to approve upon voting there was one dissenting vote so the council will not be endorsing this bill.

Bill Number 10: Veterans license plate fees-reduced:

Senator Gary Paur Veterans Plates and costs-take a look at those to see what we could get waived, gold star, purple heart, vanity etc. Put together and bring to ACOVA. Senator Paur would be happy to sponsor the bill.

- a. Gold Star
 - i. Remove fees for having this plate
 - ii. Remove fee for personalized plates.
- b. POW
 - i. No fees?

- ii. Remove fee for personalized plates
- c. DAV
 - i. Un-remarried spouse to continue 1 plate.
- d. Purple Heart
 - i. Allow 100% Disabled to have Purple heart on DAV plate if qualified
 - ii. Fee the same as DAV Plates.

Bill number 10 was approved and given a number 3 priority.

Bill Number: 11 CVSO as Conservator:

CVSO's as conservators-removed See: NDCC 37-14-18

In part it says "A county veterans' service officer may not serve as a conservator for an individual who is receiving benefits or services from the department of veterans' affairs or the United States department of veterans' affairs, except if the individual is the spouse or an immediate family member of the officer, ~~or unless the conservator is appointed by the county under chapter 11-21.~~

Dave Johnson moved and Jerry Bigalke seconded the motion to approve this bill. It was approved and given a number three priority.

Bill Number: 12 Tuition for dependents-100% @ time of death

Free tuition for non-service connected death: If a veteran is 100 P & T disabled, that veterans eligible dependents are allowed free tuition at ND state schools of higher education. If a Veteran dies of non-service connected causes (such as a car accident) the law does not address the surviving dependents of this disabled Veteran. This bill would ensure that the dependents that would have been provided the benefit is the Veteran had not died will still be afforded this benefit.

- a. Add: 100% P & T at time of death. NDCC 15-10-18.3

Mark Landis moved and Steve Volk seconded to approve this bill, it carried and was given a number 2 priority.

Bill Number: 13 ND Legal Services funding-Veterans Preference.

Legal services to have funding for Veterans Preference appeals: Would allow General Fund dollars for the ND Legal Services to provide legal services to Veterans in Veterans Preference Appeals with the ND Court of Appeals. (have had one appeal in the last 4 years-not a very common to go to the ND Court of Appeals) Asking for legal service for appeals before the trust fund is used. Dan Stenvold moved and Russ Stabler seconded to approve the bill. It passed and was given a number two priority.

Bill Number: 14 Improved CVSO accreditation & training

1. CVSO accreditation and training standards (bring back HB 1429)
 - a. Make ND NVA Commissioner in charge of setting CVSO accreditation and training Standards. This would increase the accreditations required from only NACVSO by adding AMVETS, American Legion, DAV ND DVA and VFW. Would also require CVSO's to take the Federal VA's online training "Trip" and all required LMS training to gain access to VA web based applications such as Virtual VA, Share and MapD and SEP.

This was opposed by two organizations in June so will not be supported by the NDVCC.

Bill Number: 15 Veterans Flag

Russ Stabler moved and Dave Johnson seconded to not support this bill and it was approved as such.

Bill Number: 16 Income tax exemption for military retirement pay

Legislation is being brought up by a legislative person and was not discussed.

Bill Number: 17 Free Annual Fishing License 50%

Amended by a motion from Dan Stenvold with a second by Russ Stabler to add hunting and park pass. Approved and given a number 2 priority. Now is **A free annual fishing, hunting and park pass for 50% and above disabled Veterans.**

Bill Number: 18 Free-reduced tuition for Veterans.

Tabled as Education is to bring this up.

Bill Number: 19 Funding for HeartSprings

Funding for heartSprings/Working with legislature.

N.P.O. for PTSD and TBI. Lot of money involved and may not get everything this year. Motion by Jerry Bigalke and seconded by Dave Rice that we support the bill and it was approved. The bill was given a priority of two.

Bill Number: 20 Funding for Veterans Upward Bound.

The grant that funded this program was turned down after 40 years. The grant was for \$270,000 and has helped many low income Veteran Students. Steve Volk moved that we support the bill and Dave Rice seconded the motion and it was approved. It was given a number one priority.

The time and place was determined the next day when the ACOVA set their time and place. The next meeting of the NDVCC will be on Nov. 29 at from 4 to 6 pm at the Comfort Inn in Bismarck in room E. We will also meet the next morning jointly with the ACOVA, the time to be determined.

Respectively submitted,

Gary Maddock, Sec. NDVCC

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

Thanks,

Gary