

**NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL
CAMP GRAFTON NORTH DAKOTA
February 15, 2018**

Meeting opened by Vice President James Markey.

Salute colors and pledge.

Roll call:

Present members: James Markey, Dustin Hillebrand, Dan Stenvold, Ron Matthews.
Members present via phone conference: Bruce Sailer, Glenn Wahus, Russ Stabler,
Jim Nelson, Larry Young.

Went over proposed possible bills to present to 2019 legislation.

Motion was made and approved to approve minutes of last meeting.

Treasure report: \$3862.03 last minutes and last meeting was passed that all organizations were to pay the association dues of \$300.00. VFW paid at this time.

No old business.

Bruce brought up how the vote counts. Need to vote by organization.

Budget bill number: HB1025 NDDV Budget. Approved

Bill #1. Funding for STANDDOWN events. Approved.

Bill #2. Funding for Service Dogs/ND Veterans with PTSD. Approved

Bill #3. Funding for DAV Vans. Approved

Bill #4. NDDVA to accept and expend funds for Funeral Honor Coins. Approved

Bill #5. NDDVA to accept and expend funds on continuing basis. Approved

Bill #6. NDDVA to work with/apply for benefits with private entities. Approved

Bill #7. ACOVA to set goals, objectives and asset allocation of PWTF. Approved

Bill #8. NSA/SSO funding \$50,000 each organization. Approved.

Copies of the proposed bills are attached.

Bills that did not pass 2017 legislation.

HB1225- income tax deduction for retired military benefits

SB2217 – Gaming tax on Veterans Organizations. 50% to go to PWTF.

Discussion was brought up to not bring too much before the legislation and to table HB1225 for further discussion.

Good of the order: ND Vets Home Golf tournament Friday June 8, 2018 Mapleton Golf Course.

Bruce recommended to add to next meetings agenda to discuss how we are going to support these bills, what are we going to do to improve our relationship with legislators.

League of cities holds a meet and greet.

Closed with salute the colors.

Legislation 2019

As discussed and voted on at ACOVA and NDVCC meetings

Bill Number: HB1025

NDDV budget

NDCC:

Origination of Bill: NDDVA budget

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill: Commissioner

Sponsor: Commissioner

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Funding for two FTE (Loan & Grant, VSO) | \$290,304 |
| • Temp employee | \$59,488 |
| • Remove mandate on offsetting HRTG funds | \$100,000 |
| • Move DAV Van funding back to operations | \$37,200 |
| • NDVSO and CVSO training | \$50,000 |

Possible New Bills for 2019 legislative Session:

Bill Number: 1

Funding for STANDDOWN events

NDCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- 65th legislative assembly (2017) removed stand down funding from NDDVA budget.
- Pass Through funding items such as service dogs and DAV Vans were approved and NDDVA operation funds were used to pay for these items which are not NDDVA programs or operational budget line items. Resulting in loss of one FTE.
- Bismarck Stand Down requests \$5,000 year. Minot \$200-\$300

FISCAL IMPACT: \$20,000 in past budgets since 2011: HB1177 -PWTF prior to this

Bill Number: 2

Funding for Service Dogs/ ND Veterans with PTSD

NDCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- 65th legislative assembly (2017) approved service dog funding in NDDVA budget.
- Pass Through funding items such as service dogs and DAV Vans were approved and NDDVA operation funds were used to pay for these items which are not NDDVA programs or operational budget line items. Resulting in loss of one FTE.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$50,000

Bill Number: 3

Funding for DAV Vans

NDCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- 65th legislative assembly (2017) approved service dog funding in NDDVA budget.
- Pass Through funding items such as service dogs and DAV Vans were approved and NDDVA operation funds were used to pay for these items which are not NDDVA programs or operational budget line items. Resulting in loss of one FTE.
- DAV has had difficulty raising funds to pay the states portion of the vans or 55%.
- PWTF was utilized to pay the ND DAV 55% of van cost in the past. Until PWTF interest earnings could no longer fund.
- ND Legislature approved state funds for 55% of the van funding in 2011
- Next estimated van replacement: 2021

FISCAL IMPACT: \$40,000 (\$18,600 a van last biennium 2 vans a biennium)

Bill Number: 4

NDDVA to accept and expend funds for Funeral Honor Coin

NDCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- 65th legislative assembly (2017) passed SB2183 mandating
 - one "Commemorative Memorial Coin" be conferred upon family at funeral honors.
 - Additional coins be sold at a price to family members
 - NDDVA to solicit funds from the public to pay for the first 4000 coins
 - NDDVA to accept and expend funds as provided in NDCC 37-18-12
- This program has no end date and is expected to operate in perpetuity
- NDCC 37-18-12 requires prior approval from emergency commission to expend funds
- ND Emergency Commission meets quarterly (approximately-no set dates)
- NDCC 37-18 should be amended to allow NDDVA to accept and expend funds on a continuing basis

*****Should legislation pay for the coins?***

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Bill Number: 5

NDDVA to accept and expend funds on continuing basis

NDCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- NDCC 37-18-12 allows NDDVA to accept and expend funds from any source
- NDCC 37-18-12 requires NDDVA to gain prior approval from emergency commission to expend funds
- NDCC 37-15-21 allows ND Veterans home Administrator to accept and expend funds from any source...
- NDCC 37-15-21 does NOT require veterans home to gain prior approval from emergency commission to expend funds
- ND Emergency Commission meets quarterly (approximately-no set dates)
- NDCC 37-18 should be amended to allow NDDVA to accept and expend funds on a continuing basis in the same manner as the Veterans Home

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Bill Number: 6

NDDVA to work with/apply for benefits with private entities

NDCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- NDCC 37-18-04 Duties of the Commissioner is to coordinate agencies or instrumentalities of the state to render service and benefits to returning veterans...
- NDCC 37-18-04 approves ND Commissioner to work with "Government" entities
- ND Commissioner needs to work with all entities for the benefit of the dependents and veterans of North Dakota
 - Government and private such as
 - Veteran Service Organizations
 - For profits that serve veterans
 - Non-profits that serve veterans
 - ND Association for the disabled
 - Great plains food bank
 - Salvation Army
 - Etc.
- Government – Private partnerships are crucial to serving veterans of ND
- NDCC 37-18-04 should be changed to include all entities/organizations.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Bill Number: 7

ACOVA to set goals, objectives and asset allocation of PWTF

NDCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- ND Constitution Article X Section 25: provides "...the state treasurer who shall have full authority to invest the fund only in the same manner as the state investment board is authorized to make investments."
- NDCC 37-14-14 provides the state treasurer "
- NDCC 21-10-02.1 provides that "The governing body of each fund in NDCC21-10-06 shall establish policies on investment goals and objectives and asset allocation of each respective fund."
- The Governing body of each fund sets goals and objectives-the state investment board invests the funds based on meeting the goals and objectives set by the fund board members.
- Currently the state treasurer has full authority to set goals, objectives and asset allocation as well as investing to meet those goals, objectives and asset allocations.
****Should the ACOVA have input or authority on setting the goals, objectives and allocations?**

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Bill Number:

NSO/SSO funding \$50,000 each org.

NDVCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- Assisting veterans and dependents access benefits and services they have earned is responsibility of the state.
- Veteran Service Organizations have provided assistance and services to ND veterans and their dependents for decades at no cost to state of ND.
- ND Veteran Service Organizations have seen a significant reduction in ability to raise the funds necessary to maintain full time staff in ND to provide this service.
- Over half of the other states provide grants to Veteran Service Organizations to perform these functions
- Grants to off-set Veteran service organizations expenses are less expensive than filling state employee positions
- In 2016 the Federal VA expended over \$375,000,000 in ND. Over \$182,000,000 of this was in Compensation. That amounts to over \$750,000,000 in a biennium. These numbers do not happen without NSO's.
- Requesting \$50,000 per Veteran Service Organization with an NSO in ND per year. A. Legion, DAV and VFW.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$300,000

Bills that failed in past sessions:

Bills that did not pass 2013 legislation

HB 1205: NDVCC Fees for veterans plates DONE in 2015

- Disabled Veterans surviving spouse to retain one plate
- Disabled Veteran able to pay for veteran plate

HB 1219: NDVCC Change Free “Tuition for Dependents” of disabled veterans who are rated by the Federal VA as 100% to 50%.

- Legislators said they would support a graduated scale like the Property Tax credit but not the proposed 50% disabled veteran’ dependents getting 100% free tuition.
- ACOVA legislative committee and NDVCC refused to change so legislators removed this portion of the bill).
- Tried again in 2015 HB 1205

HB 1254: NDVCC Income tax deduction for Military Retirement Pay fiscal note of \$4,050,000

- Has not passed the last 4 sessions

HB 1306: NDVCC Property tax exemption.

- Did *not* remove 50% (tried every year since exemption was approved)
- Did *not* remove \$5,400 cap.
- Did increase to \$6,750

HB 1308: Melvin Norgard Memorial Fund. In litigation

HB 1323: NDVCC Patriotic License plates. DONE in 2015: HB 1360

- Was to be included in DOT budget with new plates-not there

Bills that did not pass 2015 legislation

HB 1196: National Guard Members reduced hunting and fishing license fees

- Fiscal Note \$72,400
- Recruiting tool

HB 1198: National Guard Free Vehicle Registration

- \$172,072
- Recruiting tool

HB 1205: *NDVCC* Tuition reduction for dependents of Disabled Veterans

- Lower to 50% disabled
- Discounted by disability rating amount
- Same as HB 1219 in 2013 session

HB 1262: Renter Credit for Disabled Veteran

- Fiscal note: \$2,020,000
- Rep. Guggisberg

HB 1413: Veterans Scholarship Grants and Scholarship program

- \$1,500 per semester
- Rep. Oversen, Sen. Carlisle

SB 2042: *NDVCC* Tax Exemption Military retirement pay

- Failed last 5 sessions

SB 2242: State Veterans Cemetery Burial Fees for Dependents of Veterans

- Fiscal note: \$160,000

Bills that did not pass 2017 legislation

HB 1056: Property Tax Credit Disabled Veteran Family Trust

HB 1225: *NDVCC*. Income Tax Deduction for Retired Military Benefits

HB 1285: Property Tax. Freeze value of residence Disabled Veterans and over 65

HB 1295: Homestead Credit Exemption Disabled Persons or over age 65

HB 1350: Hunting: Retired Veteran and Non-ND resident land owners nonresident fee waived

HCR 3022: Higher Education to provide financial aid counseling to veterans and dependents

SB 2217: *NDVCC*. Gaming tax on Veteran Organizations. 50% to go to PWTF

SB 2226: Veteran hunter Education. Veterans exempt from taking hunter ed.

Other possible bills.

*National Guard Bills- visit with NG on this.

**LEGISLATIVE
SUB COMMITTEE
RE-ORGANIZATION MINUTES**

Location: Camp Grafton

Date:

Meeting called to order at (time): _____ by: _____

Roll Call:

Trish Hodny (VVA) *Late Excused* A/P

Alan Wondrasek (AMVETS) A/P

Tom Ryan (DAV) *Excused* A/P

Dave Rice (VFW) A/P

*15 Feb Attended
16 Feb Excused
15 Feb Attended
Tabled till Sat 16 Feb*

Guests:

Nominations for Sub Committee Chairman:

_____ Nominated by: _____

_____ Nominated by: _____

_____ Nominated by: _____

_____ Called for vote: Second by: _____

Discussion:

_____ Voted in as Chairman

Chairman appointed _____ as Committee Secretary

Minutes of last meeting read.

Motion to accept minutes by _____ Second by _____

Discussion on Minutes: Yes/No

Motion Passed/Failed.

*Dave Rice & AW Attended CC meeting on Tues 15 Feb 18
leg 2019 possible Bills for leg Series
Noter Attached*



Legislation 2019

As discussed and voted on at ACOVA and NDVCC meetings

Bill Number: HB1025

NDDV budget

NDCC:

Origination of Bill: NDDVA budget

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill: Commissioner

Sponsor: Commissioner

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Funding for two FTE (Loan & Grant, VSO) | \$290,304 |
| • Temp employee | \$59,488 |
| • Remove mandate on offsetting HRTG funds | \$100,000 |
| • Move DAV Van funding back to operations | \$37,200 |
| • NDVSO and CVSO training | \$50,000 |

Possible New Bills for 2019 legislative Session:

Bill Number: 1 *yes*

Funding for STANDDOWN events

NDCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- 65th legislative assembly (2017) removed stand down funding from NDDVA budget.
- Pass Through funding items such as service dogs and DAV Vans were approved and NDDVA operation funds were used to pay for these items which are not NDDVA programs or operational budget line items. Resulting in loss of one FTE.
- Bismarck Stand Down requests \$5,000 year. Minot \$200-\$300

FISCAL IMPACT: \$20,000 in past budgets since 2011: HB1177 -PWTF prior to this

Bill Number: 2 *yes*

Funding for Service Dogs/ ND Veterans with PTSD

NDCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- 65th legislative assembly (2017) approved service dog funding in NDDVA budget.
- Pass Through funding items such as service dogs and DAV Vans were approved and NDDVA operation funds were used to pay for these items which are not NDDVA programs or operational budget line items. Resulting in loss of one FTE.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$50,000

Bill Number: 3 *Yes* **Funding for DAV Vans**

NDCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- 65th legislative assembly (2017) approved service dog funding in NDDVA budget.
- Pass Through funding items such as service dogs and DAV Vans were approved and NDDVA operation funds were used to pay for these items which are not NDDVA programs or operational budget line items. Resulting in loss of one FTE.
- DAV has had difficulty raising funds to pay the states portion of the vans or 55%.
- PWTF was utilized to pay the ND DAV 55% of van cost in the past. Until PWTF interest earnings could no longer fund.
- ND Legislature approved state funds for 55% of the van funding in 2011
- Next estimated van replacement: 2021

FISCAL IMPACT: \$40,000 (\$18,600 a van last biennium 2 vans a biennium)

Bill Number: 4 *yes* **NDDVA to accept and expend funds for Funeral Honor Coin**

NDCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- 65th legislative assembly (2017) passed SB2183 mandating
 - one "Commemorative Memorial Coin" be conferred upon family at funeral honors,
 - Additional coins be sold at a price to family members
 - NDDVA to solicit funds from the public to pay for the first 4000 coins
 - NDDVA to accept and expend funds as provided in NDCC 37-18-12
- This program has no end date and is expected to operate in perpetuity
- NDCC 37-18-12 requires prior approval from emergency commission to expend funds
- ND Emergency Commission meets quarterly (approximately-no set dates)
- NDCC 37-18 should be amended to allow NDDVA to accept and expend funds on a continuing basis

****Should legislation pay for the coins?** *yes,*

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Look at Content to move forward

Bill Number: 5 *Yes* **NDDVA to accept and expend funds on continuing basis**

NDCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- NDCC 37-18-12 allows NDDVA to accept and expend funds from any source
- NDCC 37-18-12 requires NDDVA to gain prior approval from emergency commission to expend funds
- NDCC 37-15-21 allows ND Veterans home Administrator to accept and expend funds from any source...
- NDCC 37-15-21 does NOT require veterans home to gain prior approval from emergency commission to expend funds
- ND Emergency Commission meets quarterly (approximately-no set dates)
- NDCC 37-18 should be amended to allow NDDVA to accept and expend funds on a continuing basis in the same manner as the Veterans Home

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Bill Number: 6 *Yes* **NDDVA to work with/apply for benefits with private entities**

NDCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- NDCC 37-18-04 Duties of the Commissioner is to coordinate agencies or instrumentalities of the state to render service and benefits to returning veterans...
- NDCC 37-18-04 approves ND Commissioner to work with "Government" entities
- ND Commissioner needs to work with all entities for the benefit of the dependents and veterans of North Dakota
 - Government and private such as
 - Veteran Service Organizations
 - For profits that serve veterans
 - Non-profits that serve veterans
 - ND Association for the disabled
 - Great plains food bank
 - Salvation Army
 - Etc.
- Government – Private partnerships are crucial to serving veterans of ND
- NDCC 37-18-04 should be changed to include all entities/organizations.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Bill Number: 7

Yes

ACOVA to set goals, objectives and asset allocation of PWTF

NDCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- ND Constitution Article X Section 25: provides "...the state treasurer who shall have full authority to invest the fund only in the same manner as the state investment board is authorized to make investments."
- NDCC 37-14-14 provides the state treasurer "
- NDCC 21-10-02.1 provides that "The governing body of each fund in NDCC21-10-06 shall establish policies on investment goals and objectives and asset allocation of each respective fund."
- The Governing body of each fund sets goals and objectives-the state investment board invests the funds based on meeting the goals and objectives set by the fund board members.
- Currently the state treasurer has full authority to set goals, objectives and asset allocation as well as investing to meet those goals, objectives and asset allocations.
****Should the ACOVA have input or authority on setting the goals, objectives and allocations?**

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Bill Number: 8

Yes

NSO/SSO funding \$50,000 each org.

NDVCC:

Origination of Bill:

Approved by ACOVA:

Approved by NDVCC:

Carry Bill:

Sponsor:

Reason for bill:

- Assisting veterans and dependents access benefits and services they have earned is responsibility of the state.
- Veteran Service Organizations have provided assistance and services to ND veterans and their dependents for decades at no cost to state of ND.
- ND Veteran Service Organizations have seen a significant reduction in ability to raise the funds necessary to maintain full time staff in ND to provide this service.
- Over half of the other states provide grants to Veteran Service Organizations to perform these functions
- Grants to off-set Veteran service organizations expenses are less expensive than filling state employee positions
- In 2016 the Federal VA expended over \$375,000,000 in ND. Over \$182,000,000 of this was in Compensation. That amounts to over \$750,000,000 in a biennium. These numbers do not happen without NSO's.
- Requesting \$50,000 per Veteran Service Organization with an NSO in ND per year. A. Legion, DAV and VFW.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$300,000

Bills that failed in past sessions:

Bills that did not pass 2013 legislation

HB 1205: *NDVCC* Fees for veterans plates **DONE in 2015**

- Disabled Veterans surviving spouse to retain one plate
- Disabled Veteran able to pay for veteran plate

HB 1219: *NDVCC* Change Free "Tuition for Dependents" of disabled veterans who are rated by the Federal VA as **100%** to **50%**.

- Legislators said they would support a graduated scale like the Property Tax credit but not the proposed 50% disabled veteran' dependents getting 100% free tuition,
- ACOVA legislative committee and *NDVCC* refused to change so legislators removed this portion of the bill).
- Tried again in 2015 HB 1205

HB 1254: *NDVCC* Income tax deduction for Military Retirement Pay fiscal note of \$4,050,000

- Has not passed the last 4 sessions

HB 1306: *NDVCC* Property tax exemption.

- Did *not* remove 50% (tried every year since exemption was approved)
- Did *not* remove \$5,400 cap.
- Did increase to \$6,750

HB 1308: Melvin Norgard Memorial Fund. In litigation

HB 1323: *NDVCC* Patriotic License plates. **DONE in 2015: HB 1360**

- Was to be included in DOT budget with new plates-not there

Bills that did not pass 2015 legislation

HB 1196: National Guard Members reduced hunting and fishing license fees

- Fiscal Note \$72,400
- Recruiting tool

HB 1198: National Guard Free Vehicle Registration

- \$172,072
- Recruiting tool

HB 1205: *NDVCC* Tuition reduction for dependents of Disabled Veterans

- Lower to 50% disabled
- Discounted by disability rating amount
- Same as HB 1219 in 2013 session

HB 1262: Renter Credit for Disabled Veteran

- Fiscal note: \$2,020,000
- Rep. Guggisberg

HB 1413: Veterans' Scholarship Grants and Scholarship program

- \$1,500 per semester
- Rep. Oversen, Sen. Carlisle

SB 2042: *NDVCC* Tax Exemption Military retirement pay

- Failed last 5 sessions

SB 2242: State Veterans Cemetery Burial Fees for Dependents of Veterans

- Fiscal note: \$160,000