



EDWARD T. SCHAFER, GOVERNOR
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN
JOHN J. MULLEN
McVILLE, NORTH DAKOTA

SECRETARY
PAUL S. AABERG
WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA

MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 1995, MEETING OF THE NORTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

LOCATION--ND VETERANS HOME, LISBON, NORTH DAKOTA CONVENED AT 8:10 A.M.

Chairman Mullen opened meeting at 8:10 A.M. with Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silent prayer for POW/MIA.

Following members present: John Mullen, Paul Aaberg, Al Huber, Kent Anderson, Michael Vandrovec, Joseph O'Brien, Joe Novak, Donald Weible, Dean Bayer, Thomas Rainsberry, Suzanne Kime and Gary Hoffman. Absent: Ken Evenson, James Groven and James Johnson. Also in attendance were Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, Ray Harkema; Commandant of Veterans Home, Ken Anderson; and Representing the National Guard, Col. Thilmony.

Chairman Mullen called on Col. Thilmony for remarks. He reported on an unsigned letter that had been distributed requesting support for legislation pending in legislature. Col. Thilmony stated he or Gen. Bjerke had not been aware of this letter until the Coordinating Council meeting held in Fargo two days earlier.

Col. Thilmony invited Administrative Committee to Camp Grafton for reorganizational meeting to be held in July. Meeting date tentative July 7 and to be held jointly with Coordinating Council.

Discussion on Trust Fund interest money legislature budgeted for Veterans Cemetery Care personnel, Persian Gulf Veterans bonus and tuition for guard. Joe Novak moved that individuals from Administrative Committee meet with Executive Committee from National Guard to discuss and work out timely use of Trust Fund Interest money appropriated for National Guard and Department of Veterans Affairs programs in the next biennium. Second by Rainsberry, carried.

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR
VETERANS AFFAIRS
JOSEPH J. O'BRIEN, SUB CHR
MICHAEL VANDROVEC, VICE-SUB CHR
PAUL S. AABERG
JOE NOVAK
AL HUBER
KENT ANDERSON
DONALD WEIBLE

RAY HARKEMA
COMMISSIONER
VETERANS AFFAIRS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

KEN ANDERSON
COMMANDANT
VETERANS' HOME
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR
VETERANS' HOME
KENNETH EVENSON, SUB CHR
SUZANNE KIME, VICE-SUB CHR
JAMES GROVEN
THOMAS RAINSBERRY
DEAN BAYER
GARY HOFFMAN
JAMES JOHNSON

M/G KEITH D. BJERKE
ADJUTANT GENERAL

EX OFFICIO
DOUGLAS M. KENYON
VA CENTER DIRECTOR

GERALD BALZER
ND JOB SERVICE

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Chairman Mullen appointed Commissioner Ray Harkema, Commandant Ken Anderson, Gary Hoffman, Tom Rainsberry, and Joe O'Brien as a committee to meet with Guard.

Sue Kime gave a report on White House conference on the aging meeting she attended. She mentioned the Veterans caucus and the Veterans resolutions that had been submitted for consideration.

Meeting was recessed at 10:20 A.M. so Committee members could attend funeral of Veterans Home resident Matthew Dordahl.

Meeting reconvened at 11:20 A.M.

Chairman Mullen called for reading of minutes of previous meetings. Aaberg moved that minutes of meetings of November 4 & 5, 1994; December 17 & 18, 1994; and Conference call of March 12 be approved as distributed. Second by Rainsberry. Carried.

Chairman Mullen brought up the complaint made about Department of Veterans Affairs. Joe Novak stated that he and James Johnson had met with Dominic F. Volesky and taped his statement. Tape was played and committee members read Volesky's prepared statement.

Sue Kime moved that Commissioner Harkema be allowed to give a statement addressing Volesky's complaint. Second by O'Brien. After discussion that it would be inappropriate for Commissioner Harkema to comment in the absence of Volesky, motion was withdrawn. Joe Novak stated he would not take part in discussion of the issue or in the decision of Committee as he was present when Volesky taped his complaint.

Recess for lunch at 12:15 P.M.

Reconvened at 1:05 P.M.

Moved by Kent Anderson that Chairman Mullen send a letter of apology to Volesky for the timeliness of Commissioner Harkema's response in reporting his decision and miscommunication with veteran. Second by Rainsberry. Carried.

In further discussion, Committee felt if veteran Volesky felt he still wanted to meet with Committee that Commissioner Harkema should have the opportunity to make a prepared statement and veteran be invited to next meeting of the committee.

Chairman Mullen called on Commissioner Harkema for legislative update and budget information. Commissioner reported that he felt that his Department came out quite well for next biennium. Commissioner Harkema introduced Chuck Risch and Larry Rasmussen from his

office. Commissioner commented on Veterans Preference Bill and Veterans License plates Bill. Both bills had been amended so that they were no longer viable and veterans could not support them.

Commandant Anderson was called on for remarks. He reported on his budget and that he felt that the Veterans Home will manage in the next biennium. Commandant did state that there was need for some improvements at the Home, mainly boiler retubing, but the improvement fund should cover the cost.

Committee recessed at 2:45 P.M. so sub committees could meet.

Reconvened at 4:15 P.M.

Veterans Affairs sub committee Chairman O'Brien reported for his committee. He stated that his committee recommended that Commissioner Harkema be reappointed for two years July 1, 1995. Moved by Hoffman to approve report, second by Vandrovec. Carried.

Veterans Home sub committee Vice Chairman Suzanne Kime reported for her committee. She stated the Veterans Home committee recommended that Commandant Anderson be reappointed for two years on July 1, 1995. Kime moved to approve report, second by Rainsberry. Carried.

Kime moved for adjournment. Second by Rainsberry. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Submitted by
Paul S. Aaberg, Secretary

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May 17, 1995