



# North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council

15 NORTH BROADWAY  
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
58072

EARL REDLIN, President  
O. V. "DUKE" ELLINGSON, Vice President

MILTON W. KANE, Secretary  
RAYMOND STELMACHUK, Treasurer

## VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL

### MINUTES

### AMVETS CLUB, BISMARCK, ND

December 3, 1988

The Coordinating Council met in Bismarck, Saturday, December 3, 1988, at the AMVETS Club.

Chairman Earl Redlin presiding.

Milt Kane was appointed secretary by President Redlin.

Meeting opened in the usual form.

Roll call: all officers and veterans organizations represented. Calvin Hall was replaced by Joe O'Brien for the AMVETS. Cal Hall has moved to Washington, D.C. area. Ex-POW, WWI, National Guard & VA Hospital not represented.

Minutes of last meeting read. Motion by James Gorman, second by Joe O'Brien to approve minutes, motion carried.

Treasurer's report was distributed and is a part of the minutes, moved by Duke Ellingson, second by James Gorman to accept the report, carried.

James Welder reported for the Veterans Home--111 members present 122 on the rolls. Request for construction project sent to Washington. Thanked Organizations for contributions for Christmas program. Request to reduce beds to 138 because of size of rooms to meet VA requirements. Applications come to Home for nursing care.

Department of Veterans Affairs report included a report by Bus Leary on the All Veterans Centennial Memorial. Construction has started, funds are still \$100,000 short. Renewed a request for additional funding from all organizations.

#### AMERICAN LEGION

ALLEN MATHISON, Dept. Cndr.  
VERY USELDINGER, Dept. Adj.  
EARL REDLIN, Council Rep.

#### VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

LARRY SENGER, State Pres.  
ROBERT EVANS, State Sec'y.  
KENNETH ZENT, Council Rep.

#### DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

O. V. "DUKE" ELLINGSON, Dept. Cndr.  
ROBERT HANNAH, Dept. Adj.  
WILLIAM J. DISHER, Council Rep.

#### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

JAMES GORMAN, Dept. Cndr.  
RAYMOND STELMACHUK, Dept. Adj.  
OTTO EVENSON, Council Rep.

#### AMVETS

DAVID ERBSTOESSER, Dept. Cndr.  
ELNER H. EMERY, Dept. Adj.  
JOSEPH O'BRIEN, Council Rep.

#### MEMBERS AT LARGE

FLOYD HENDERSON, Veterans of World War I  
WALTER ENGEL, ND American Ex-POW's Org.  
ELWYN M. NICHOLS, Pres. ND CVSO Assn.  
DAVID SCHMIDT, Publicity Chairman

BERNARD A. WAGNER, Chm. ND Adm'n. Com.  
LLO SWENSON, Dir. Vet. Emp. & Tng.  
CHARLES D. BARSTAD, VFW Service Officer  
JOHN BERGE, American Legion Service Officer  
GREGORY A. SEURER, DAV Men'l Svcs. Ofcr.

M/G A. P. MACDONALD, Adjutant General  
DAVID C. LONGSTRON, MD, VA Center Director  
MILTON W. KANE, Comr. Veterans Affairs  
JAMES WELDER, Commandant, Veterans Home

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Treasurer Bill Eslinger was introduced and reported on his efforts for fund raising. VFW Commander has this a designated project; Legion will run an update in their paper; DAV will mail requests to membership; AMVETS have mailed out a request to their membership. Some recognition to \$1,500 donors will be provided. Corporations have been contacted, no centennial commission dollars are available.

The Council voted that the date of dedication be established for June 10, 1989. Duke Ellingson moved, David Erbstoesser of AMVETS second, motion carried.

Milt Kane thanked all who participated in the Vets Fair at West Acres.

He reported on the establishment of a half-time position in Bismarck and the 14 interviews being conducted. The position is 20 hours a week.

Introduction of guests included American Legion, John Shafer; Tom Harris, membership marketing staff; and Chuck Godke, Vets Home Sub committee.

Dave Schmidt updated the petition drive to request funding for the Veterans Administration that was cut back. This petition drive has received National attention. It is a North Dakota-Minnesota effort. The effort could raise as many as 100,000 signatures. Dave further explained the seriousness of the cutbacks and the overall effects.

Report by Leo Swenson, three additional employment representatives have been appointed. Additional funds have been made available for JTPA which would be enough money to help about 50 veterans seek employment. Leo passed out a list of the Veterans Employments representatives around the state.

Legislative concerns were as follows: Extension of Veterans Aid Loan--payback from two to four years by Department of Veterans Affairs; Jim Welder, Commandant of the Veterans Home, spoke on his bill to extend the mission of the Home to long term care and the Veterans Home improvement Bill. The other legislation for the Home was a bill allowing the Home to borrow money from private and public sources--\$1,168,243.00. The purpose of the bill is to obtain money to meet the Federal matching requirements, this is the States share of the matching grant. He felt that possibly the entire amount might not be needed, possibly a sum of \$800,000. Attached on Page 2, Line 4 through 10, \$3,337,836 or so much thereof that may be necessary is being requested for the entire project. With the Federal grant there would be no cost to the State. The matching share would be paid back through the user fees and donated money. This is a similar procedure used in 1977 when the new addition was built. There were also other things connected to the construction that could be covered under other programs thereby reducing the States share. There will be no more matching funds available from Federal sources. This project must be completed now as no Federal funds will be available in the future.

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Milt Kane mentioned that some people have contacted the Department regarding unpaid bonuses and asked how the Council wished to react. The Council felt the bonus issue is over and they felt further legislation would not be necessary.

Commissioner Kane voiced concern for unpaid bonuses and asked for official ruling on how to deal with bonus requests. Council went on record not to support any further bonus legislation.

Discussion on whether Council should order 15 Motor Carrier Legislative Books, motion by Vern Useldinger, second by Ray Stelmachuk, that the books be ordered, passed unanimously.

Leo voiced concern about organization of the Legislative committee. Organizations need to submit names of people who are available on call.

President Redlin asked for an official letter from organizations naming their Legislative Representatives. All requests for registered lobbyist to be turned in. President Redlin called the Legislative Committee meeting for Friday, the 16th of December, at 1:00 p.m., Employment Office, for the purpose of organization.

President Redlin expressed his appreciation for the cooperation shown in the quest for winning 60% vote on Measure #4. He reiterated his feelings to keep the campaign out of politics and the showing that veterans do work together. Now we need to establish our next step once the funds are restored. The Legislature will control the money. The Administrative Committee will request expenditure on needed veterans projects. Several voiced many needs in veterans related issues. There were many questions on how the fund would be administered. The question was raised whether or not an Attorney General's opinion should be requested. The Council felt that the fund should be restored before any expenditures are planned.

Bill was presented to the Council for coffee and rolls for the meeting. Ray Stelmachuk moved and Duke Ellingson second that this should be paid and a thank you extended to the AMVETS for the use of their facility. Vote, all in favor.

President Redlin presented his bill for expenses incurred on the Measure #4 campaign of \$460.92. Motion by James Gorman second by David Erbstoesser that the bill be paid. Vote, all in favor.

President Redlin gave special recognition to Leo Swenson for his work on the campaign. In the final analysis of Measure #4, President Redlin suggested that the Legislative Committee research the steps necessary to deal with the issue.

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Ray Stelmachuk suggested the Council donate \$1,500 to the All Veterans Memorial project. Elmer Ekern motioned this be tabled until the March meeting, second by Vern Useldinger. Vote, all in favor.

Larry Senger requested a copy of the Conference Service Officers Book.

President Redlin read a letter from a veteran requesting support of a bill allowing buy-back of service time for teachers. The Legislative Committee will watch for this bill and decide on what procedure to follow.

The next meeting will be 10:00 a.m., Friday, March 17, 1989, at Bismarck in the AMVETS Club meeting room.

Adjourned.

Submitted by

Milton W. Kane  
Secretary

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December 9, 1988