

**July 17, 1998
NDVCC Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Smith with opening ceremony. A moment of silence was observed for POW/MIA's. The secretary took roll call of members. New Council members were introduced. Motion and 2nd accepted the minutes. The Treasurer's report was presented to the council. A motion and second was passed to accept the report.

Joe Smith reported on the presidents attempt to contact the co-sponsors of HB 1346. The letters of response from those legislators, who stated that their intent was that the service emblems only were to be used for the veterans cemetery license plate. In the end it was DOT who called the shots on what emblems were to be used.

Bob Hanson voiced his concern on not being able to meet with those legislators and being able to ask specific questions. (A more detailed copy of these remarks is on tape.) Questions were asked as to length of time allowed for early purchase of the plates. Joe Novak offered remarks on his concerns to the plate issuance. (Remarks are on tape, audibility is poor.)

(At this point in the tapes there was a malfunction and the remainder of the meeting was not recorded.)

Joe Novak offered a motion that the Coordinating Council unanimously favor a Veterans Cemetery License Plate with the emblem of the applicants choice of branch of service, to include veterans organization of those with state organization approval, and auxiliaries of those organizations also with state organization approval, US Army Reserve and general Eagle Emblem. 2nd Bob Hanson, discussion followed on the correctness of two people in the same organization making and seconding a motion since the bylaw changes of March 1998. Bob withdrew his second and the motion was second by Willie Warner, discussion followed.

A motion by Dave Schmidt to table the above motion until organizations have had a chance to discuss it within their respective organizations., 2nd by Jerome Krejci, motion failed.

President Joe Smith called for recess to caucus.

Meeting was reconvened. The vote was called for:

American Legion -	No
AmVets -	Yes
DAV -	No
VFW -	No
VVA -	Yes

Motion failed.

Joe Novak offered discussion on the March 14, 1998 minutes regarding page 3 motion.

Joe at this time offered remarks on the pro side of moving the commissioners office from Fargo to Bismarck. He also gave a background on the placement of the commissioner's office. It was noted that the council would ask the commissioner to give his concerns on moving the office at the September meeting.

Legislative Initiatives:

Veterans' Preference - Rick Ryan's letter of resignation as the chairman of the adhoc committee was read. Discussion followed. A motion by Robert Evans that the commissioner of Veterans Affairs be charged with the task of rewriting the veterans preference and bringing it back to the September meeting, 2nd by Willie Warner, passed.

A motion by Dave Schmidt to have Rick Ryan reconsider resignation, re-address and continue with priority of service to veterans. 2nd by Robert Evans, passed.

Discussion was held on the previous minutes regarding involvement of the congressional people. Dave Schmidt offered a motion that the Council President write a letter to the congressional people asking them to appoint a staff person from their Bismarck office to act as a veterans liaison to the Council, 2nd by Bob Hanson, passed.

A motion by Bob Hanson that the council president write a letter to the governor asking him to appoint a staff member to act as a veterans liaison to the council. The motion was 2nd by Dave Schmidt, and passed.

The meeting was adjourned until Saturday morning.
Supper was held at the Veterans Home cafeteria with an excellent menu.

SATURDAY JULY 18, 1998

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President John Mullen.

Bob Hanson read the following statement: "Yesterday American Legion representative David Schmidt challenged my seconding a motion by fellow AmVets voting member Joe Novak. He said it was improper for voting members of the same organization to both make and second a motion, especially since the March 1998 change in our bylaws. The chairman did not rule on this challenge as Willie Warner, VVA representative second the motion in addition to my second. This issue remains unresolved at this moment. I hope and believe the following will clear up the concern."

"At the May 1, 1998 meeting, 7 of the 12 so called main motions which were made and seconded and voted upon, were made and second by members of the same organization including on made and second by American Legion representatives. The only organization reps not making and seconding their own motion was VVA. This is all included in the minutes we approved yesterday."

"Not only has precedent been set at the May 1, 1998 meeting, but also to deny any individual who is a voting member of an organization to fully participate in a meeting would violate their rights as a voting member of this organization. Furthermore, any member organization of the coordinating council has the right to place any concern or position they have before the council for discussion and action. This may require a second by a voting member of the same organization."

"Let us continue to operate in a manner which allows for the free flowing of ideas and does not in any way prohibit a voting member from full participation in the council's proceedings."

Bob Hanson offered a motion for the council to adopt resolution #1 (attached)
The motion was 2nd by Richard Stark and passed.

Bob Hanson offered a motion to adopt resolution #2 with changes (attached)
The motion was 2nd by Joe Novak and passed.

New Business: It was noted that Bob Evans has tenured his resignation as council secretary. John Mullen asked for nominations for secretary and received none. Evans noted that he would serve as secretary until the next meeting, giving the council a chance to consider a new secretary.

Ray Stelmachuk offered a motion to give Bob Evans a gift certificate. The motion was 2nd by Willie Warner and passed.

A motion by Dave Schmidt to appoint a new Legislative Liaison Director for the new year, 2nd by Ray Stelmachuk, discussion followed. A caucus was called for.

The vote is as follows:

AmVets -	No
DAV -	No
VFW -	Yes
VVA -	Yes
Am. Leg. -	Yes

Motion passed.

Discussion followed on the passing of the previous motion. John Mullen ruled that the majority vote stands and the motion passed.

Arnold Maier asked that the Legislative Committee members be required to attend the next council meeting.

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A question was asked as the appropriateness of the Administrative Committee chair also serving on the Council's Legislative Committee. Remarks followed no action was taken.

Joe Novak offered a motion to have the Constitution and ByLaws be sent the National Judge Advocats of each organization asking for a review and recommendation as to changes, etc. to our constitution and bylaws. Motion 2nd by Bob Hanson, and discussion followed. Recess for caucus.

The vote was taken as follows:

DAV - No
VFW - No
VVA - No
A.L. - No
AmVets Yes

The motion failed.

Robert Evans offered a motion to table the appointment of the Legislative Liaison Director until the September meeting, 2nd by Ray Stelmachuk and passed.

It was noted that the Legislative Committee be directed to keep minutes of all committee meetings and present tot he council. The Committee also needs to follow the wishes of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council.

It was noted that the Governor has made no new appointments to the Administrative Committee. A report from Gerald Balzer, the Chairman of the Administrative Committee was given. A copy of the minutes will be attached.

The next meeting will be held September 18-19, 1998 in Fargo.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

RESOLUTION #1

The North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council extends its appreciation to our state's congressional delegation of Senator Kent Conrad, Senator Byron Dorgan and Congressman Earl Pomeroy for their efforts in trying to stop the raiding of the Department of Veterans Affairs budget of billions of dollars to pay for federal road projects, of which the vast majority of the money taken from the VA budget was for benefits for disabled veterans.

The Council further strongly encourages our congressional delegation to continue their fight to have this money restored to the budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs and particularly to those programs involving benefits to disabled veterans.

RESOLUTION #2

The North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council requests our state's congressional delegation of Senator Kent Conrad, Senator Byron Dorgan and Congressman Earl Pomeroy, when considering the FY 1999 funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, give serious consideration to the Department of Veterans Affairs budget recommendations made by the numerous veterans and medical organizations which address adequate funding for the care and needs of our nations veterans.