

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
COMFORT INN, BISMARCK, ND

August 15, 2008
1:00pm

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jenson. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence for POW/MIAs and those serving overseas.

Roll Call:

Present:

John Adolf	Ken Hasby	Dean Overby
Mike Fisher	Dave Hilleren	Lyle Schuchard
Jerry Goll	Rudy Jenson	
Jeff Hall	Orletta Kilen	

Absent:

Carl Bloomquist	Lee Finstad	John Hanson
Wayne Paulson	Dave Vandergon	

Guests:

June Veit

Speakers:

Maren Daley, Director, Job Service North Dakota, Bismarck

- ▶ Veterans Employment Team – There are seven veterans employment representatives; two each in Fargo, Bismarck and Grand Forks, and one in Minot
- ▶ Update on activities and events Job Service has been involved with throughout the State.
- ▶ HotJobs Brochure - listing of the most in-demand-jobs in North Dakota, more information found on Job Service website.

David Garland, Business Office Manager, Medical Center, VA

- ▶ Workload has increased by 6%
- ▶ In November 2009 the Devils Lake CBOC should open. Grand Forks was approved for a CBOC, it is in the planning stage right now and is anticipated to open late 2009/early 2010.
- ▶ Increased fee basis and consults by the private sector.
- ▶ Update on construction/renovation projects at the VA facility

- ▶ New MRI machine in FY 2009
- ▶ Gaining new services and employees to better serve veterans
- ▶ Increased mileage rate from 11¢ to 28.5¢ per mile.

BG Pat Martin, Chief of Joint Staff, NDARNG

- ▶ In March, April, and June the Guard welcomed back troops who served a year in Iraq.
- ▶ Reintegration event this weekend, the process is always being reviewed and refined.
- ▶ Shared recognitions that Guard Units/Personnel have received.
- ▶ Over 4,300 ND soldiers mobilized.

Kelly Schmidt, ND State Treasurer

PWTF Report distributed and explained.

Jerry Samuelson, President, ND County Veterans Service Officers Association

- ▶ Sought and received input from CVSOs regarding the proposed legislation of the Public Safety Committee. The main concern is about the accreditation standard and possibly losing their job if they do not receive it.
- ▶ American Legion passed resolutions against the proposed legislation.

Mark Johnson, Executive Director, North Dakota Association of Counties

- ▶ Association has not taken a position on the legislation proposed by the Public Safety Committee.
- ▶ Encouraged communication with local county commissioners.

Chairman Jenson spoke on the last legislative session and the success of having 20 of 24 bills passed due to the cooperated efforts of the ACOVA, NDVCC, and ND Guard along with the assistance of the Attorney General's Office. The ACOVA Legislative Committee will be discussing the addition of the CVSO Association President and the ND Association of Counties Executive Director as ex-officios members to the Administrative Committee.

Discussion on reallocating the obligated Postwar Trust Fund monies in preparation for a request from the ND Department of Veterans Affairs for additional money for the Hardship Grant Program. Committee concurred with recommendation.

ND Veterans Home Governing Board would like ACOVA to work against the destruction of the 1990 addition of the Veterans Home. This structure could be used for a CBOC or an Assisted Living Unit.

Chairman and Secretary recommend the appointments of Jerry Meske and Darrol Schroeder to the ND Veterans Home Governing Board.

Motion by Mike Fisher to approve recommendation, second by Dave Hilleren. Motion passed unanimously. [MOTION #1]

Subcommittee Assignments:

Department of Veterans Affairs – Jerry Goll, Dave Hilleren, Dean Overby, Wayne Paulson, Lyle Schuchard

Budget – Jerry Goll, Jeff Hall, John Hanson, Kenneth Hasby, Lyle Schuchard, Dave Vandergon

Postwar Trust Fund – John Adolf, Carl Bloomquist, Mike Fisher, Jeff Hall, John Hanson, Dave Hilleren

Appeals – John Adolf, Lee Finstad, Kenneth Hasby, Orletta Kilen, Wayne Paulson, Dave Vandergon

Legislative Committee – Carl Bloomquist, Lee Finstad, Mike Fisher, Dean Overby, Lyle Schuchard

Legislative Interim Committee meeting on August 26, 2008 in Bismarck. Committee members encouraged to attend and testify if they choose to do so.

Department of Veterans Affairs Report – Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner

A. CVSO Training Update

▶ Training manual should be done in the next month, Tom and Gene are working on it. Foster and Dunn/Stark CVSOs will training during the week of August 25.

▶ Outreach to CVSO – welcome home letters sent to returning veterans. Notices sent to CVSO of those in their counties asking them to contact the veterans, reports sent back to Commissioner. Received good response on the project.

▶ Association of Counties Conference – On agenda with Jerry Samuelson, President CVSO Association. Statistical information will be provided on amount of money going into the counties from veterans benefits.

▶ Fall Conference Agenda (tentative) provided.

B. Discharge Project – Documents will be go into a database for further office use, i.e. welcome home letters, statistical information. Target date for completion is September 4, 2008.

C. 2009-2011 Budget Information – Lori Laschkewitsch, OMB Budget Analyst, visited agency regarding the budget. She provided good recommendations for the base budget and the optional packages. Discussion on cost of training CVSOs. Recommendation that the Budget Committee look at increasing the amount of funding for training in the optional package.

D. Website Update – Going well with redesigning and adding information. Ongoing process.

E. Transportation Vans - DAV National did not approve vans this year. More information will be coming in the next week or two. Still have one van available for sale.

Motion by Dean Overby to approve recommendation of Subcommittee to approve Hardship Grant Policy 415, second by Jerry Goll. Motion passed.

Commissioner's evaluation will be done by Lyle Schuchard, Jerry Goll and Dean Overby.
Motion by Dean Overby that upon a satisfactory evaluation that the Commissioner receive the 4% general salary increase and a probationary increase, second by Dave Hilleren.

Motion by Dean Overby to accept subcommittee report, second by Orletta Kilen. Motion passed.

Strategic Plan will be updated by the Chairman, Secretary and Commissioner. Revised edition will be distributed to the committee.

Subcommittee Meetings

Committee recessed until Saturday at 8:30am.

Saturday, August 16, 2008
8:30am

Committee reconvened.

Roll Call:

Present:

John Adolf
Mike Fisher
Jerry Goll
Jeff Hall

Ken Hasby
Dave Hilleren
Rudy Jenson
Orletta Kilen

Dean Overby
Lyle Schuchard

Absent:

Carl Bloomquist
Wayne Paulson

Lee Finstad
Dave Vandergon

John Hanson

Guests:

none

Motion by Dave Hilleren to approve the June 13 & 14, 2008 minutes, second by Orletta Kilen. Motion passed.

Subcommittee Reports:

DVA Subcommittee – Dean Overby

Dean Overby elected chair. No business acted on.

Motion by Dean Overby to accept subcommittee report, second by Jerry Goll. Motion passed.

Budget – Lyle Schuchard

John Hanson elected chair. Discussion on CVSO training. Recommend the optional training package be increased to \$100,000.

Motion by Lyle Schuchard to accept committee report, second by Jeff Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Postwar Trust Fund Committee – Dave Hilleren

Dave Hilleren elected chair.

Committee recommendation to approve request from Department for \$50,000 for grant program.

Committee recommendation to deny request from Job Service North Dakota for \$3,500 to assist with advertising for upcoming Veteran's Job Fair.

Committee recommendation to deny request from Hospital Service Coordinator for \$700 for furnishings for a relaxation room for the volunteer van drivers.

Motion by Orletta Kilen to obligate \$50,000 for grant program, second by Mike Fisher. Motion passed unanimously. [MOTION #1]

Motion by Mike Fisher to deny request from Job Service for \$3,500, second by Jeff Hall. Motion passed unanimously. [MOTION #2]

Motion by John Adolf to deny request of \$700 for furnishings for volunteer drivers room, second by Dave Hilleren Motion passed unanimously. [MOTION #3]

Appeals Committee – Orletta Kilen

Wayne Paulson elected chair. Pending appeal distributed. Chairman will set appeal hearing date.

Motion by Ken Hasby to accept report, second by Orletta Kilen. Motion passed

Legislative Committee – Dean Overby

Lee Finstad elected chairman. No legislative issues discussed.

Motion by Dean Overby to accept report, second by Mike Fisher. Motion passed unanimously.

North Dakota Veterans Home – Mark Johnson, Administrator

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Update on construction of new veterans home. Completion date estimated in early/late 2010, depending on when construction can start.

Introduction of Norris Braaten, Chairman, Governing Board.

2009-2011 Budget – Kristin Lunneborg, Accounting Manager
Explanation of budget and optional packages.

Motion by Dean Overby to support the Veterans Home 2009-2011 budget and optional packages, second by Orletta Kilen. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Lyle Schuchard
Secretary