

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
COMFORT INN, BISMARCK ND

January 10, 2013
1:00PM

Joint meeting with the ND Veterans Coordinating Council called to order by Chairman Dean Overby. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike Fisher and a Moment of Silence for POW/MIAs and those serving overseas.

ACOVA Roll Call:

Present:

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| John Adolf | John Hanson | Dean Overby |
| Richard Belling | Ken Hasby | Carroll Quam |
| Lee Finstad | Dave Hilleren | Marlin Schneider |
| Mike Fisher | Trish Hodny | Jim Verwey |
| Jeff Hall | Robert Olzweski | |

Absent:

Ron Otto (was in attendance later in meeting)

NDVCC Roll Call by Gary Maddock.

Guests:

Marlys Morgenstern, Job Service North Dakota
LTC Davina French, ND National Guard

***Motion by Jim Verwey to accept November 2012 minutes, second by Bob Olzweski.
Motion carried.***

LTC Davina French

► Update on ND National Guard activities

► Legislative Bills:

SB 2062 – Job protections of emergency responders, similar to the Federal law.

SB 2073 – Operation of the ND National Guard and ND license plates. The bill also includes nonjudicial punishment for offenses while on military duty.

HB 1016 – Adjutant General Appropriations: budget

HB 1056 – Pay of National Guard members when called to state active duty. Each enlisted member shall also receive a state active duty pay enhancement of \$100 for every 14 consecutive days spent on state active duty.

HB 1057 – Definition and authority of the Adjutant General to present awards; to amend; and reenact sections 37-01-09 and 37-01-10.1 of the ND Century Code relating to service medals awarded to national guard members.

HB 1080 – Definition of wages and federal wages for National Guard employees. WSI will host bill for the Guard as it relates to covering members of the National Guard who sustain a compensable injury while on state active duty.

HB 1109 – Transfer of visitation rights of service members; to amend and reenact section 14-09-00.1 of the ND Century Code

HB 1114 – Delegation of the powers of a parent or guardian of a minor or incapacitated person

HB 2122 – Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act; amend and reenact sections 14-09-06.2 and 14-09-06.6 of the ND Century Code; relating to best interests and welfare of the child factors and limitation on post judgment modifications; and to provide for application.

Chairman Overby, Commissioner Wangen and Bob Krause met with legislators on Wednesday to discuss bills.

Commissioner Wangen:

Melvin Norgard Trust – Rep. Thoreson will have it drafted and be a sponsor. Senate Majority Leader will support the legislation.

Remember Vets License Plates – Commissioner needs to visit with DOT. They can't support it in its present form. Rep. Kempenich will be primary sponsor.

Property Tax Exemption – There will be a lot of property tax reform legislation discussed.

Increase Principal of PWTF – A bill is being drafted.

Education for dependents – Rep. Thoreson will be a primary sponsor.

CVSO as conservator – A bill is being drafted.

Legal Services for Veterans – Commissioner visited with Labor Commissioner – they can't help us out. We can request general fund monies to contract with Legal Services to represent veterans in veterans' preference cases.

Income Tax Exemption – A bill is being drafted. Rep. Thoreson and Sen. Oley Larsen will be the main sponsors.

Commissioner Wangen reported he met with the Chamber of Commerce and they want to support our bills. The group is very interested in the incentive to keep retiring service members in North Dakota. They are willing to sit in on hearings.

Fishing & Hunting License – Free license is not really free to the state. Their agency receives federal funding which counts up to 38% of their budget. A free license isn't included in the federal count for funding. If you want to use your disability to get a discount on your hunting license you need to come to Bismarck to get it. There isn't really another way to have it done since licenses are sold everywhere in the State.

Veterans Upward Bound – visited with the Appropriation subcommittee and Rep Thoreson wants this put into our budget rather than have two bills.

Trish Hodny asked if the county service officers would be of help to the counties with the burden of the tax exemption. Jim Verwey stated many service officers already assist veterans with this.

Trish Hodny asked if the Veterans Upward Bound funding gets placed in the department's budget, will the Department manage the program. The present grant will run out in June.

Chairman Overby made it known that the hunting and fishing license bill will need to be reviewed.

Bob Krause said his personal opinion is that the bill be pulled. They seemed to support 100% disabled paying a \$3.00 license but 50% disabled paying \$3.00 would need a fiscal note.

Mark Landis wondered if general funding would be available to make up the difference; maybe go just for the fishing and drop the hunting.

Motion by Mike Fisher to table the bill and look at again next year, second by Bob Olzweski. Motion carried unanimously. [MOTION #1]

Motion by Ron Otto to change the proposal for free fishing license for 50% and above, second by Jim Verwey. Friendly amendment to change the word free to \$3.00 accepted. Motion carried unanimously. [MOTION #2]

John Jacobson reported Senator Flakoll wants to put in a bill to publish a KIA book which would include a photograph and biography of each individual. Senator Flakoll is looking for assistance of this proposal.

Mark Johnson, Administrator of ND Veterans Home, reported they had their budget hearing this morning. A workshop for the residents is included in the Veterans Home budget. If the workshop is attached to the building, then issues of life safety have to be evaluated. This increases the cost of the workshop. There is a city cemetery containing a veteran's monument from 1905 that needs to be repaired. The monument was originally put in place by the G.A.R. There may need to be a separate bill to address the monument issue.

Subcommittee meetings are suspended except for the Appeals Committee which has two hearings later in the afternoon.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 18 & 19, 2013 at the Comfort Inn, Bismarck.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

John Adolf
Secretary