

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
COMFORT INN, BISMARCK ND

June 19, 2014
2:00PM

Meeting called to order by Chairman Dean Overby. Pledge of Allegiance said and a Moment of Silence observed for POW/MIAs and those serving overseas.

ACOVA Roll Call:

Present:

John Adolf	Dave Hilleren	Carroll Quam
Richard Belling	Trish Hodny	Marlin Schneider
Jeff Hall	Robert Olzweski	Jim Verwey
Ken Hasby	Ron Otto	Steve Volk
Jim Haukedahl	Dean Overby	Hal Weninger

Absent: none

Motion by Ken Hasby, to approve the minutes of January 9 & 10, 2014, second by Carroll Quam. Motion carried.

Chairman Overby relayed a request by a veterans' service officer in western North Dakota regarding homeless veterans' issue. He asked the speakers to address the issue in their presentation.

Jim Brubaker, Director, Regional VBA Director

- ▶ Approach to homeless veterans is to provide benefits. Cases are handled in house, basically the claims are walked from person to person. It is a very important issue for the VA.
- ▶ Centralized mail coming July 18th to Fargo Regional Office. There will be two post office boxes for the Fargo VA. USPS will intercept mail addressed to a specific PO Box and send it to Wisconsin for scanning. The Regional Office will be notified when it is in the system. All other mail will be delivered to the second PO Box # and brought to the VA where it will be date stamped and placed in a box and shipped to the scanners. Fargo VA will not be working with paper documents aside from date stamping.
- ▶ Starting December 15, 2014, all VA workload will be uploaded nightly to a queue and prioritize claims that need to be worked first and send them to available stations throughout the VA facilities. This will eliminate brokering between VA facilities. April 2014, the Fargo VA processed and made rating decisions on 527 claims. This is a record

high for Fargo. The new system will be good for Fargo because of its outstanding workforce.

- ▶ The VA is in the process of changing the regulations and automating reimbursement regarding burial benefits.
- ▶ Automating DIC benefits also.
- ▶ The number of homeless claims is somewhere between 1 and 4. These claims are processed very quickly.

Peggy Wheeldon,

- ▶ Station is fully funded for fiscal year 2014. Currently have 983 employees. Homeless veterans – Diana Hall is the Homeless Director in Fargo. Clancy Barnhart is moving to Dickinson and will be working with homeless veterans. Participated in Stand Downs. There have been visits are to western ND by the Director to see the extent of the situation there.
- ▶ Fargo is committed to quality care to veterans. Audits were done on 7 of 9 CBOC's, and there were no significant findings. 17 days average wait time, expanding more to communities.
- ▶ Started yoga and ti chi. Patients have gotten favorable results in managing their pain using these programs.
- ▶ Wishes on Wings Program is very successful, some of the events held were a wedding and Class Reunion.
- ▶ Expanding Tele-Health Program. Weight reduction is one issue being addressed.
- ▶ Construction – adding onto Building 1 expected to be done in 2015. Like to expand the Emergency Room and Oncology services.
- ▶ Updates on other areas / concerns of the VA.

Carroll Quam said he appreciated that previously he was able to schedule appointments a year in advance. Ken Hasby said he is now able to schedule multiple appointments in a row rather than have an appointment and have to come back ten days later for another appointment.

Marlys Morgenstern, Job Service North Dakota

- ▶ Governor Dalrymple has not yet selected Maren Daley's (Executive Director) replacement. Ms. Daley retired last fall.
- ▶ North Dakota has over 27,000 jobs available right now – 27% more openings than one year ago. These are not all “oilfield” jobs, only 1/3 of the job openings are from oil producing counties. Twenty-nine counties have more job openings than labor supply.

- ▶ Interstate Transition Program: JSND Veteran's Employment Team connects with out-of-state veterans. Veterans will get information and given a telephone number if they want to talk with a Team member. A majority of time is spent assisting veterans in transitioning their military skills into civilian skills.
- ▶ Job Service recently partnered with the ND Economic Development Foundation in their campaign to attract and retain permanent workers to ND. The campaign is called *Find the Good Life in North Dakota*. The campaign places significant emphasis on targeting veterans and transitioning service members. Hiring Fairs will be held at nine military bases throughout the country in June and July of this year.
- ▶ The members of the Job Service Veterans Employment Team are all veterans themselves and they are very good at what they do.
- ▶ Homeless– Outreach to shelters and assist with Stand Downs throughout the State. Work closely with coalitions in all communities.

Lt. Col. Davina French, ND National Guard

- ▶ Homeless – Chaplains team which includes three social workers to help with the situation. They try to do as much in house as possible.
- ▶ 80 personnel currently mobilized.
- ▶ Read letter from PA from Montana regarding 814th Guard members in a “Medical Mass Casualty” event. The NG members were commended for their professionalism, character, training and preparation, personalities and overall leadership in the event. He wrote, “I would travel, deploy, and work in any situation for the 814th ASMC”.
- ▶ Alerted: Eng. Company – 160 Soldiers Winter of 2014, Afghanistan.
- ▶ Partnership Program has three countries – Ghana (2004), Togo-Benin partnership announced
- ▶ ND was the 1st National Guard to win LTG John B. Conaway Award (SPP award)
- ▶ TAPS Event – about 50 family members and 20 staff travelled to D.C. for annual Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors Memorial Day weekend event. This was free to family members thanks to generous donations by individuals/businesses.
- ▶ Band Camp – 1st time held, 15 kids attended. Camp on NDSU Campus.
- ▶ Fish Camp – teach how to fish, outdoor activity.
- ▶ Firefighter Unit ends September 30, 2014. Worked with State and many were kept on at the Airport.

Bob Olzweski presented Dan Stenvold (ND V.V.A. state President) with a coin from the Bismarck AMVETS. The coin was a “Purple Heart AMVETS” coin and “Welcome Home” from the Vietnam 50th year commemoration.

Mark Johnson, Administrator, ND Veterans Home

- ▶ Homeless veterans - 12 beds are used to help accommodate the veterans
- ▶ July – bidding demolition of old Veterans Home
- ▶ 3 Surveys, State – nothing too serious; VA – deficiency free;

Excellent staff at Home

- ▶ Melvin Norgaard – will still be going into legal action with the family
- ▶ 2015-2017 legislation issues: backup; security system to lockdown entire building; Norgaard Workshop needs funding; walking bridge; miscellaneous equipment; and a house for the Administrator.
- ▶ Thanked the Commissioner for his work on getting a grant for the Veterans Home Cemetery from Monument Services. Funding was used to fix the cemetery monument and work on the headstones that were in decay.

Pamela Standing & Buddy, Service Dogs of America

- ▶ Model program for dogs for PTSD. Protocols are being put in place and her hope is that they will serve as models for other entities that are working with service dogs.
- ▶ Veterans will be required to have a sponsor for the dog. These dogs are being put in a vulnerable situation. We owe it to the dogs to make sure the situation is good for them.
- ▶ In North Dakota, dogs will be placed year-round.
- ▶ Looking for veterans, even those with PTSD, to help train dogs and to help with placing the dogs. Dogs are not trained to be guard dogs. The dogs offer emotional support. Dogs are in training two hours a day, it takes two years before a dog is ready to be placed with someone.
- ▶ Received first North Dakota application.

Commissioner's Report [POWERPOINT PRESENTATION]

- ▶ Need for funding for ND Cares Program. These are organizations that provide services and are working together. They need a couple thousand dollars for advertising.
- ▶ Hired Joanne Rivera for Administrative Assistant I position. She is an Army veteran and retired from USDA.
- ▶ Update on staff training and staff presentations/outreach
- ▶ Commissioner's presentations/visits/speeches
- ▶ VSO training has been ongoing
- ▶ Andrea Swiontek left her position; all the loan and grant folders were reviewed. Implemented new procedures for processing grants and loans
- ▶ Current loans: 136 Outstanding balance: \$331,205.24
- ▶ Update on Grant Program

- ▶ Update on Transportation Program. New VA Director authorized the Golden Valley Van to travel to Fort Meade, South Dakota. One replacement van scheduled for 2015.
 - ▶ Grant for transportation has been approved. Commissioner working with DOT on placing paid driver in the vans.
 - ▶ Update on website
 - ▶ Federal Legislation – HR 3493- Electronic DD 214's; HR 1742–Exempt Aid and Attendance; SB 1602–Agent Orange; HR 3858-VA to use non-VA providers.
 - ▶ State Legislation – interim GSC committee looking at income tax exemption;
- Need to have one voice – all bills agreed upon as NDVCC policy – show support for all.

Commissioner Wangen talked about the last legislative session and meetings with legislators. He had support for the bills but allegations about the Commissioner and ACOVA mishandling PWTF monies came up with legislators. An audit of the Department and Veterans Home was done with no finding of wrongdoing by either entity. After explaining everything during a bill hearing, the Commissioner thought everything had been handled. Then a “trust” issue came up with that some legislators had with Commissioner. It negatively impacted issues affecting veterans and the Department.

After Ms. Swiontek left, there were some issues found with the loan program. A “concerned” veteran wrote emails to legislators and the Governor’s Office that money was missing from the program. Ms. Halgunseth was accused of taking money and quitting the Department. Commissioner Wangen had to straighten out that misconception.

Commissioner Wangen distributed: Letter by Professional Veterans Advocates of North Dakota to the Governor’s Office; Timeline of Events; ACOVA Meeting September 27, 2012-Page 8; Post War Trust Fund Committee Minutes of September 2, 2012; ACOVA Meeting November 29 & 30, 2012-Page 10; ACOVA Voting Record-November 29, 2012; and ACOVA Meeting April 18 & 19, 2013-Page 5-7.

The letter to the Governor sent by the Professional Veterans Advocates of North Dakota dated April 16, 2013 was signed by Ron Otto as President of the Professional Veterans Advocates. The letter talks about the Postwar Trust Fund and disbursements to the Veterans Home. ACOVA gave \$50,000 to the Veterans Home, the vote had been unanimous. (Ron had voted for the disbursements). According to the letter, “It is obvious the actions of the ACOVA, in conjunction with the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs, are causing unnecessary and unwarranted hardship to the most vulnerable in our veteran population. We respectfully request your attention and assistance in correcting these grievous actions.”

Chairman Overby told about his visit to the Governor’s Office regarding a letter sent in by a “concerned veteran”. Since the letter wasn’t signed, the Governor’s Office was not doing any follow-up on it. Everyone, including the Professional Advocates, believes the PWTF fund is just for Grants. Chairman Overby stated he’s been on the Committee for quite a while when he started the Veterans Cemetery was being funded as well as salaries

of the Department employees. The money is to help veterans. So if you spend \$50,000 on machines to help 150 veterans at the Home that the veterans love, that's a good thing. Chairman Overby spoke his visit to the Veterans Home with some legislators regarding the items that were purchased for the Veterans Home. The legislators saw the positive impact the items have made for the residents of the Home. Chairman Overby had a problem when he saw the letter from the Professional Advocates.

Ron Otto stated it was his letter and the letter was written accurately. When we spent that money, Service Officers were told the Grant program was out of money. The \$50,000 was gone so it couldn't be used to pay for grants. Ron stated Lonnie told him at the legislature we were out of money. Service Officers were told to continue to send in grants but it would take a while for them to be paid from other sources. Ron said Grants were waiting to be processed until money was available.

Chairman Overby asked how many grants were held up. Commissioner Wangen stated four were held up for a month until money came in from another source.

Commissioner Wangen stated Ron knew we would be out of money and it would hurt the grant program. Ron supported emptying the coffers knowing the grant program would be hurt so that during the legislative process the grant program would get \$2 million. Ron stated the legislative process is this: if you are going to have a grant program and the way we are going to get money for that program and if there is a boatload of money left on the end, we can't show the need; we're not going to get our \$2 million dollars because we haven't shown the need. Commissioner Wangen asked why he's arguing because he's the one who said we needed to run out of money, now you're (Ron) is mad that we ran out of money.

Commissioner Wangen said that instead of coming to the committee and voicing any concerns he (Ron Otto) wrote a letter to the Governor and the Legislators which does nothing but hurt veterans; not a veteran suffered. Ron never let anyone know he wrote the letter. The letter basically slams ACOVA and the Commissioner they're out spending money hurting veterans.

Ron admitted he was part of the process that spent the money but he was told by the Commissioner that there would be plenty of money left over to cover the grant applications that would be coming in. But after that, the fund was depleted.

Commissioner Wangen stated there was enough money and there was \$20,000 leftover.

No one understands why Ron did what he did since he's a part of ACOVA. Ron's response is he's also the President of the Professional Advocates and when they make the motion and when they have a concern and they instruct him to write a letter, he writes the letter. Just like if this group (ACOVA) instructs the Commissioner to write a letter, he

does it. Commissioner Wangen stated he would write the letter but would also tell the committee he voted for the action. Ron said his vote is part of public record.

The Commissioner felt Ron shouldn't have written the letter. Ron stated the Commissioner nor the Committee is going to tell the Professional Advocates what they can do.

Chairman Overby told Ron that he needed to make a choice which committee he wants to be on. ACOVA needs to be one voice. Ron stated the Chairman is out of line and he doesn't need to make a choice. Ron is appointed by another organization to sit on the ACOVA.

Hal Weninger asked to speak. When Hal came on this committee and he sat on the legislative committee with Ron, he expected to maintain a level of trust with Ron. Hal read an excerpt from The Board Team Handbook, "As a board member you must not make decisions based on personal interests or other special interests, but must always make decisions on what is best for those you serve." I think the Chairman's point is you have a conflict of interest.

The Commissioner referred to the letter and asked what action did they (the Professional Veteran Advocates) want the Governors officer or Legislation to take that ACOVA couldn't have done at their meeting.

Ron replied it was to basically counsel the actions. In our estimation, the Professional Advocates estimation, Mark should have brought that stuff through a budgetary process not come in and deplete the postwar trust with regard to those issues.

Commissioner Wangen pointed out the postwar trust fund is not for just the grant program. It's what this committee decides it should be spent on.

Trish Hodny understands that Ron wears a different hat working with the Professional Advocates or some other group but the expectation would be then as a representative that also sits on ACOVA would have brought it up to ACOVA to address so if there is an error it could be corrected. There could have been a conference call or special meeting. She doesn't understand why it went the route it went. Being a member, knowing we need to be one voice; the letter could have been written differently or had the vice-president written it.

Mark Johnson, Administrator ND Veterans Home, said he had been unaware of the letter. Auditors showed up at the building and stayed for the day. They couldn't find anything. Mark's staff was tied up for an entire day answering questions.

Ron didn't understand why auditors were sent out to the Veterans Home and Veterans Affairs. The letter didn't say there was anything illegal.

Chairman Overby felt the letter undercut the veteran's legislation.

Trish Hodny needed to hear from Ron if he understands where she's coming from and he acknowledge he does. She doesn't agree with what happened but feels the committee should be moving forward and Ron agreed.

Committee recessed so subcommittees could hold their meetings.

June 20, 2014
9:00 a.m.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Dean Overby. Pledge of Allegiance said and a Moment of Silence observed for POW/MIAs and all service people.

ACOVA Roll Call:

Present:

John Adolf	Trish Hodny	Marlin Schneider
Jeff Hall	Robert Olzweski	Jim Verwey
Ken Hasby	Ron Otto	Steve Volk
Jim Haukedahl	Dean Overby	Hal Weninger
Dave Hilleren	Carroll Quam	

Absent:

Richard Belling

Chairman Overby questioned the Fort Meade transportation van and lodging for the volunteer drivers. Commissioner Wangen stated there is no housing available for the drivers and the Volunteer Services Director is looking for a hotel. ACOVA would have to consider paying for those rooms.

Ron Otto asked about the routes that will be taken to Fort Meade. Commissioner Wangen replied it will be decided between the Henry Gerving, Golden Valley CVSO and Leslie Ross, Stark CVSO.

Chairman Overby asked about the grant for Cemetery at the Veterans Home. Commissioner Wangen stated it was a 100% grant, there were no matching funding

PWTF/Appeals Subcommittee – Jim Verwey, Chairman
Appeal hearing at 5:00 last night via telephone call.

PWTF subcommittee met this morning. Approximately \$40,000 obligated in grant funding. Received bill from Veterans Home for It's Never Too Late - yearly cost for updating the software is \$4,320; Deferred until more information. Approved request for additional \$25,000 grant funding from the PWTF.

Motion by Dave Hilleren to accept PWTF/Appeals subcommittee minutes, second by Jim Haukedahl. Motion carried.

Motion by Trish Hodny that ACOVA authorize an additional \$25,000 from the PWTF for the grant program to be effective July 1, 2014, second by Ron Otto. Motion carried.

Legislative Subcommittee – Ron Otto, Chairman
Hal Weninger read the minutes.

Discussion on two legislative issues brought by the ND Veterans Coordinating Council:

- (1) Allow a survivor who remarries and loses their property tax exemption under that section to recapture the benefit in the event of any subsequent termination of the remarriage. (amends North Dakota Century Code 57-02-08.8) and
- (2) Lower the eligibility for the tuition waiver from 100% service connection to 50% (amends NDCC 15-10-18.3).

Subcommittee endorsed proposed amendments.

2015-2017 Department budget requested discussed.

Motion by Ron Otto to accept subcommittee minutes, second by Bob Olzweski. Motion carried.

Friendly amendment by Ron Otto to amend the minutes to include that the ND Veterans Coordinating Council already considered changes and voted unanimously to endorse them, accepted by Bob Olzweski. Motion carried.

Motion by Ron Otto that ACOVA endorse the two amendments, second by Bob Olzweski.

Commissioner Wangen asked for clarification on the tuition assistance. He suggested it be brought back as a graduated scale, it would have a better chance of being accepted by the legislators. Discussion on merits of changing it to a graduated scale.

Friendly amendment by Ron Otto that the tuition assistance be brought back as a graduated scale, accepted by Bob Olzweski. Motion carried.

Change will be sent to the ND Veterans Coordinating Council for the consideration.

Department of Veterans Affairs/Budget – Ken Hasby, Chair

Carroll Quam will read the minutes.

Recommend that the ACOVA authorize an additional \$25,000 for grants from the PWTF Subcommittee requests a three year spending comparison of the grant program to review the effects of the policy changes.

Subcommittee recommends approval of changes to Policies #231 & #250

Policy #231 Timely Repayment of Veterans Aid Loan

Timely payment is ~~to include a ten day grace period~~ *any payment made within thirty days* from the payment *due* date.

Policy #250 ~~Late Fees~~ – Veterans Aid Loan

A \$15.00 ~~late~~ fee will be assessed to any payment that is *not* received ~~ten days after the payment date~~ *in a timely manner*.

Subcommittee recommends approval of changes to Policies #232 & #234

Policy #232

An interest refund is to be given if the full amount ~~including late fees~~ is paid on or before the maturity date.

Any fees (late, NSF) may be deducted from the interest refund.

Policy #234

Incoming payments will be applied in the following manner:

- ~~Past Due Late Fees~~
- ~~Past Due Fees~~
- ~~Current Late Fees~~
- Current Fees
- Past Due Interest

- Current Interest
- Past Due Principal
- Current Principal

Payments applied to fees after the principal balance has been paid:

- *Past Due Late Fees*
- *Past Due Fees*
- *Current Late Fees*
- *Current Fees*

Fees may be deducted from the interest refund.

Subcommittee recommends approval of changes to Policies #251

Policy #251

~~A service charge up to \$25.00 will be assessed to any returned payments, NSF checks, received on Veterans Aid Loans.~~

The service charge costs for returned payments or NSF checks may be assessed to the loan.

Tabled action on request concerning Doyle's Yellow Checker Cab.

Recommend approval of Commissioner's legislative raise in salary. Subcommittee recommends approval based on legislative authorization.

Subcommittee reconvened and discussed travel – unmet needs request (Doyle's Yellow Checker Cab.) Recommend authorizing DVA to amend transportation services to provide for non-medical transportation providers (cab).

Motion by Carroll Quam to accept report, second by Marlin Schneider. Motion carried.

Motion by Trish Hodny to accept Policy #231 changes as recommended by the DVA subcommittee, second by Ken Hasby. Trish explained the ACH sometimes causes a late fee then it has to be removed every month. Commissioner Wangen said extending the late fee will reduce a lot of the problems with late fees. ***Motion carried.***

Motion by Trish Hodny to accept Policy #232 changes as recommended by the DVA subcommittee, Jim Verwey second. Sometimes people get denied an interest refund because they still have late fees that haven't been paid by the maturity date. This way we can legally give an interest refund by deducting fee. ***Motion carried.***

Motion by Trish Hodny to accept Policy #234 changes as recommended by the DVA subcommittee, Carroll Quam second. Changing the order of how the payments are

applied, the payments can go straight to the loan/interest amount first and then an interest refund can be used for any late fees. Commissioner Wangen stated that if the loan holder passed away, there would be less of the principal to be written off. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Trish Hodny to accept Policy #250 changes as recommended by the DVA subcommittee, Ken Hasby second. It's a late fee for not making a payment in 30 days. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Trish Hodny to accept Policy #251 changes as recommended by the DVA subcommittee, Carroll Quam second. Since the Department switched to the Bank of North Dakota, there aren't any fees attached to returned payments. Discussion on using may or shall in the policy. Using "may" allows the Commissioner discretion to assess the fee. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Trish Hodny that the Commissioner be authorized to amend the Transportation agreement with the VA to include the use of non-medical providers, second by Marlin Schneider.

Discussion on using providers, i.e. cabs, to transport veterans home. This only concerns medical procedures at the VA in Fargo. The change would be added to the Unmet Needs Program. Commissioner Wangen explained that the VA has an agreement with Doyle's Yellow Cab to bring veterans home after a medical procedure. If the veteran doesn't have travel eligibility, the Department could pay that fee. It's a cheaper alternative to a medical transport. Deb Kunkel, VA, can't thank the committee enough in helping these veterans who have transportation needs.

Motion passed.

Chairman Overby recommended leaving the next meeting's dates open while waiting for the Governor's Office appointments. The place can be at the Fargo VA, they will provide a meeting room. VA personnel will also provide a tour of the facility.

Roundtable Discussion:

Marlin Schneider – Concern about how veterans are being taken care of regarding claims at the VA. How is the national queue going to affect North Dakota claims? Ron pointed out that North Dakota claims could be worked on by someone in Texas. This wouldn't be a good thing for our veterans. Commissioner Wangen reported the State Directors meeting, the policy will be, i.e. North Dakota will take care of North Dakota claims and if they're caught up, then they will get claims from other states.

Jim Verwey - VA has outsourced therapy. Jim needed therapy and was told to go to Enderlin instead of Valley City where he lives. He called VA and said he wouldn't drive to Enderlin. He then received a letter that states he has appointments in Valley City.

Ron Otto – Apologized to committee for behavior yesterday. He realizes Hal had concerns with the letter Ron had written as President. Commissioner talked about problems with Loan Program. Earlier this year, Ron bumped into a legislator on the street and it came to Ron's attention that money was missing from the Department. He went to Governor's Office and talked with Jodi Link with regards to issues. Bank statements hadn't been reconciled since 2011 and there was approximately \$1,000 floating around. Ron also contacted the State Auditor's Office on the issues. Ron wished the Commissioner would have brought the issues to the Committee a lot sooner. Commissioner Wangen explained the procedures that are in place and there was never any missing money. He commented that Ron didn't need to go to the Governor's Office or the State Auditors for answers, he should have called the Department. We need to work within to fix our problems and concerns.

Ron talked about problems with service officers who are not as proficient in their jobs as they should be, costing veterans benefits. Trish also has encountered problems with service officers not filing paperwork. She wondered what can be done with the CVSOs not doing their job and to hold them accountable for their actions. The Commissioner has no oversight to the CVSO's but the Department does offer extensive training for them.

Bob Olzweski – Are veterans complaining they're not getting their benefits or are they unaware of what they are entitled to. Word needs to get out to veterans.

John Adolf – Concerned about the bill about received by the Veterans Home from - It's Never Too Late. The Home paid the bill from their activities fund. It was not discussed who would be responsible for the software maintenance, the Home or ACOVA.

Gary Maddock – NDVCC: approved legislative changes. Proposing increase for NSO funding to \$300,000 in Department budget. The next Coordinating Council meeting is set for Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 1:00pm in Jamestown ND. Overview of Coordinating Council's Roundtable discussion.

Russ Stabler– NDVCC; discussed veteran organization membership. Fargo VVA is increasing their membership. That group is getting involved in community events and doing presentations at schools.

Trish Hodny – Two meetings in a row that the Fargo VA is bringing in changes that will decrease the efficiency of the Regional Office. She couldn't vote in June because her driver's license didn't match her new address. Legislators have been made aware of the problem.

Jim Haukedahl – Last month there was a 2K walk at the VA. Employees donated money from the walk to a homeless shelter. VA is on Facebook so you can check on what is happening there.

Steve Volk – Inspect trains for work so his time on the committee may be limited. Happy to be on committee.

Carroll Quam - scheduling issues at VA. Here to take care of veterans of ND, when we go to the Legislature we should be working together.

Ken Hasby – ND Veterans Affairs website is one of the best websites.

Commissioner Wangen – The old Veterans Home is being torn down, encourage Governing Board to save the cornerstone. Taking bricks and sell them for the activity fund. Chairman Overby said the plaques remaining in the building be taken out and preserved. Support letter to VA thanking them for what they do for the veterans of ND.

Chairman Overby – Thanked everybody for the work they do for veterans. As soon as the Governor makes his appointments, the meeting will be scheduled.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Verwey, seconded by Carroll Quam. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Jim Verwey
Secretary