

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS  
VETERANS CENTER, STEELE ND

May 23, 2019  
1:00 PM

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

ACOVA Roll Call:

Present:

Richard Belling	Trish Hodny	Marlin Schneider
Alan Fehr	Gary Maddock	Murray Strom
Roy Fillion	Dean Overby	Jim Verwey
Jim Haukedahl	Dave Rice	Hal Weninger
Dave Hilleren	Tom Ryan	

Absent - Excused:

Alan Wondrasek

Guests:

Laura Balliet, Attorney General's Office  
Henry Gerving, President ND CVSO & Tribal  
Chelsey Stopplesworth, Legislative Intern, NDNG  
Darcie Handt, ND CARES, ND National Guard

Veterans Home Governing Board;

Chairman Overby reported that Gary Skarphol, Curt Twete, and Greg Stemen would like another term on the Board.

***Motion by Jim Verwey to reappoint Gary Skarphol, Curt Twete and Greg Stemen to serve on the Veterans Home Governing Board, second by Richard Belling. Motion carried.***

Gary Skaphol who is currently serving as Chairman and has agreed to serve again if appointed.

***Motion by Jim Haukedahl to reappoint Gary Skarphol as Chairman, second by Murray Strom. Motion carried.***

**Commissioner's Performance Evaluation**

Richard Belling, Veterans Affairs Subcommittee Chair reported on the Commissioner's evaluation.

***Motion by Richard Belling to give Commissioner legislative increases as passed by the Legislative Assembly for the 2019-2021 biennium, second by Dave Hilleren. Motion carried.***

**Hardship Assistant Grant Policies:**

Policy 400: Purpose and Authority

Policy 401: Applications

Policy 402: File Access

***Motion by Murray Strom to update section to comply with Century Code taking effect August 1, second by Hal Weninger. Motion withdrawn by Murray Strom and Hal Weninger second. This policy is same as the loan policy.***

Policy 403: Annual Limits

Policy 404: Cancellation

Policy 405: Appeals

Policy 406: Payment

Policy 410: Applicant Eligibility

Policy 411: ACOVA and DVA Eligibility

Policy 412: Assets

Policy 413: Income

Policy 415: Allowable Expenses

Policy 430: Medical Special – committee in favor of removing policy

Policy 431: Dental

Policy 432: Medical: Dentures

Policy 433: Medical: Optical

Policy 434: Medical: Hearing

Committee recessed until Friday morning

May 24, 2019

9:00 am

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

ACOVA Roll Call:

Present:

Richard Belling	Trish Hodny	Marlin Schneider
Alan Fehr	Gary Maddock	Murray Strom
Roy Fillion	Dean Overby	Jim Verwey
Jim Haukedahl	Dave Rice	Hal Weninger
Dave Hilleren	Tom Ryan	

Absent - excused:

Alan Wondrasek

Guests:

Henry Gerving, President ND CVSO & Tribal Association  
Darcie Handt, ND CARES, ND National Guard

Policy 434: Hearing (continued discussion)  
Policy 435: Hyper Baric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT)  
Policy 440: General – Special (Discretionary)  
Policy 441: General – Transportation  
Policy 442: General – Housing

***Motion by Trish Hodny to approve policies as changed and have Laura Balliet, AG Office, make changes to policies to comply with N.D.C.C. as of August 1st, Tom Ryan second. Motion carried unanimously.***

Discussion to go over policies affected by N.D.C.C. changes as of August 1<sup>st</sup>.

***Motion by Murray Strom to remove Policy #430: Medical-Special, second by Alan Fehr. Motion carried unanimously.***

Commissioner Wangen reported on Postwar Trust Fund Interest earnings from the 2017-2019 biennium to be used for the 2019-2021 biennium. The committee usually gives the Department seed money for grants to start the new biennium. At the next ACOVA meeting, members will have the Treasurer's Report so they know the full amount of PWTF monies available for the 19-21 biennium.

***Motion by Jim Verwey to transfer \$50,000 from Postwar Trust Fund Interest earnings from the 2017-2019 biennium to be used for the 2019-2021 biennium and to transfer the carryover funds from the 2017-2019 biennium, second by Trish Hodny.***

Trish Hodny asked for information about the Support our Veterans Grant. Commissioner Wangen gave background information on the program. The committee that decides the funding distributions of the Support our Veterans Grant are looking for someone to head a committee to do fundraising for the program.

***Motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Overby asked for approval of the previous committee meeting minutes.

***Motion by Alan Fehr to accept March 2019 minutes, second by Dave Rice. Motion carried unanimously.***

### **Strategic Plan**

Commissioner Wangen talked on the strategic plan. Topics outlined in the plan: Client/Market and Stakeholders Development, Organizational Development Governance, Health, Mental & Behavior Health, Employment and Entrepreneur, Financial, Education and Training, Burial and Memorial, Housing, Veteran Appreciation, Legal Services, Outreach, Women and Minority, Transportation, Legislation,

Trish Hodny spoke on an idea of all the veterans' organizations held their conventions during the same week at the same place so there could be more collaboration.

Client/Market and Stakeholders Development section discussed and updated.

Organizational Development and Governance section discussed and updated.

Health section discussed and updated.

Mental & Behavior Health section discussed and updated.

Employment and Entrepreneur section discussed and updated.

Financial section discussed and updated.

Chairman Overby thought it was a good way to take care of the policies and strategic plan by presenting them to the full committee for action.

**Round table:**

Murray Strom: Thanks for coming to Steele.

Henry Gerving: Good location, good to be a part of the process.

Tom Ryan: Good to do a rotation around the State to get others involved

Darcie Handt: Thanks for having me here; learned a lot.

Marlin Schneider: Better to have the whole group do the policies.

Trish Hodny: I think it went well going through the policies. Good to start going through the strategic plan; it tends to get brushed aside.

Gary Maddock: Enjoyed the meeting. The video concerning suicide prevention was really good.

Jim Verwey: Liked Trish's idea of set aside one meeting every 4 or 5 years to go through policies and strategic plan as a group.

Dave Rice: Completed 12<sup>th</sup> honor flight; hope to have one in October. VFW Convention hosted by West Fargo VFW. After being a longtime guest, he became host of veteran's hour.

Dave Hilleren: Good session to be involved in. Vietnam Veterans National meeting is in Spokane in July; Chapter 487 putting together a group to attend.

Alan Fehr: Appreciate Steele, nice place to be for a meeting. Consider Medora in August, Minot happy to facilitate or Dickinson. Like to see on first day have open forum for complaints.

Roy Fillion: Going through this (policies and strategic plan) was a good idea, good interaction of committee members. Suicide video was very good.

Jim Haukedahl: Thanked everybody, he has been on the committee for six years and will be coming off.

Richard Belling: Golf tournament June 14<sup>th</sup> to raise money for the ND Veterans Home Foundation. Thanked everybody for the good job working on issues.

Hal Weninger: Going through policy and strategic planning was good to do as a committee.

Commissioner Wangen: Thanks for the time and patience for going through this. Really appreciate going through strategic plan. Suicide prevention video is going to be promoted as Commissioner's Challenge. He thanked the committee for taking the time to watch it. Thanks to Murray for accommodating us in Steele.

Chairman Overby thought it would be a good idea to bring up the strategic plan at every meeting to get through a section or two. He also thanked the committee for their participation along with Henry Gerving and Darcie Handt for attending.

Chairman Overby presented an ACOVA coin to Jim Haukedahl and Trish Hodny for serving on the Committee; Commissioner Wangen presented each one with a Department coin also. Their term on the committee is done and their names are not being submitted. Alan Wondrasek is also coming off the committee and he will receive ACOVA and Department coin also.

ACOVA Meeting  
May 23 & 24, 2019  
Page 6 of 6

Discussion on next meeting dates and site. August 8 & 9  
Locations offered: Veterans Home, Camp Grafton, Medora, New Town, Carrington, if  
Dickinson – Ramada Hotel with a start time of 2:00pm Mountain Time

Trish Hodny reported that there are Minnesota Twins game tickets are available on the  
VetTix site.

***Motion to adjourn, second. Motion carried unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted

Jim Verwey  
Secretary