

# ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

MINUTES  
December 8, 2000

Comfort Inn  
Bismarck, North Dakota

Meeting called to order by Chairman Thomas Moe, Pledge of Allegiance, moment of silence for POW/MIA followed.

Roll call, following members **PRESENT:**

Paul Aaberg	Kent Anderson	Gerald Balzer
Larry Dakken	Ken Evenson	Rudy Jenson
Joe Litzinger	Tom Rainsberry	Kasimir Schmaltz
Don Weible	Rick Ryan	Wilbert Wanner
Ken Vatne		

Following members **ABSENT:**

Joe Schneider

Others in Attendance:

Commissioner Ray Harkema	Commandant Ken Anderson
Members of Coordinating Council	Representatives from National Guard
Doug Kenyon, VA Medical Center	Jerry Metzke ND Veterans Employment

Gen. Gagness from the National Guard brought greetings from M.G. Bjerke. He reported on and asked our opinion on proposing bill legislation to amending a section of the Century Code relating to recording of Veterans burial sites. In general discussion it was noted that the Coordinating Council agrees with N.G. efforts to follow through with this change. *Motion by Paul Aaberg to move that we support the N.Guard with this change, seconded by Tom Rainsberry, motion carried.*

Doug Kenyon reported on the V. A. Medical Center, covering areas of the budget crunch, hearing aids, eye glasses, and the upcoming remodeling project. He noted that because of the money crunch there will be a change where only service connected people will be getting hearing aids. On the remodeling project they will be going on 4 separate projects for the next four years. He also noted some organizational changes where he will become CEO of the Specialty Care Section in January 2001.

SFC Phil Miller gave his report on the Veterans Cemetery. He noted that under a new law that we will be receiving \$150.00 per burial retroactive one year. This money will go into the maintenance account. He reported that they are working on the issue of out of state internments and how the data could reflect the home county if the person was

originally from North Dakota, ~~Veterans~~. It was noted that there is a movement to legislate for money from the general fund for the Cemetery.

Secretary Don Weible read minutes. Noted that Gerald Balzer Sub Committee minute changes were made in the report but not reflected in the written minutes. These changes were made and will be attached to the minutes. *Motion to accept the minutes with changes by Wilbert Wanner, seconded by Kasimir Schmaltz, motion carried.*

Chairman Moe gave Commandant Anderson and Commissioner Harkema the opportunity to give the members a brief version of their upcoming agenda. Commissioner Harkema noted the Century Code ruling on auto resignations of members appointments with the election of new Governor and also asked Commanders and Veterans Organization leaders to be making appointments of members whose terms are up this next July.

With no representative from the Treasurers Department, Commissioner Harkema gave the P WTF report. As an action item he will prepare fact sheet on Tri-Care issues and send out with the minutes.

Got introduction of Jerry Metzke, the new Director of Veterans Employment and Training.

Break for lunch and sub committee meetings to reconvene at 2:30 p.m.

#### **Subcommittee Reports:**

**Department of Veterans Affairs subcommittee report** by Ken Evenson. Noted the change to the minutes from last meeting to be attached. *Motion by Evenson to accept report, seconded by Tom Rainsberry, motion carried.*

**Veterans Home subcommittee report** by Paul Aaberg. *Motion to accept the minutes by Paul Aaberg, seconded by Larry Dakken, motion carried.*

Introduced VSO President Bill Pischel and welcomed his attendance.

Chairman Moe reported on the upcoming Legislative Session and passed out copies of guidelines in dealing with this committee and the Coordinating Council. He encouraged members to try to be in attendance at the presentation of budgets to Legislative committee. He noted the next meeting is scheduled for May and the possibility of meeting in February because of Legislative Session. Motion by Ken Vatne for Chairman Moe to call meeting on short notice, seconded by Tom Rainsberry, motion carried.

Heard report from the Coordinating Council on topics including, WWII diplomas, bill to promote general fund dollars for the Veterans Cemetery being sponsored by a Senator, and discussed using Commissioner Harkema and Gene Kouba as resource people for

the Legislative Committee. Commissioner Harkema to address and establish policy on Gene Kouba job description and responsibilities for the Legislative Committee.

Discussed PWTF money and requests from Subcommittee reports. *Motion by Ken Evenson to give \$50,000 to the Grant Program, seconded by Tom Rainsberry.*

Discussion on Trust Fund dollars and if not approved would recommend to stop dental grants. Ken Evenson rescinded his motion of \$50,000 to the Grant Program, agreed to by Tom Rainsberry, motion carried.

*Motion by Ken Evenson to stop all grants, unless previously approved, until we get a handle on the dollars we have in the Trust Fund. Motion died for a lack of second.*

*Motion by Gerald Balzer to table all PWTF money until May meeting, seconded by Rick Ryan. Discussion, verbal roll call, roll call show of hands, 6 no, motion failed.*

*Motion by Rick Ryan to table all spending from the PWTF until next meeting, seconded by Willie Wanner, motion carried. Note 1 no vote by Rudy Jenson.*

Discussion on Gov. Elect Hoeven making a visitation to our meeting possibly when we meet at Lisbon.

Noted that the Coordinating Council should have their Sticker Project ready by March.

Chairman Moe noted that he and Bob Evans made a generous donation of \$50.00 to the Legislative Committee and that the offer is open to others as well.

Larry Dakken noted that we are to take advantage and "Toot our Horn" at any Veterans and public meetings and tell them what we are doing as a Committee.

Note that there were no individual roll call vote for the voting record list.

Motion to adjourn @ 3:15. seconded .

*Submitted  
Don Weible  
Secretary*