

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
Minutes - February 11, 1972
First James River Bank
Jamestown, North Dakota

Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Wagner.

Present: Wagner, Welander, Ulness, Morris, Groth, Schmit, Novak, Sloan, Gullickson, Crawford; Ex-Officio Members - Gronvold, Rice

Absent: Rosendahl, Habiger; Ex-Officio - Melhouse, Fiedler

Minutes of October 29-30 meeting read and approved.

Chairman Wagner outlined agenda for the meeting, then proceeded with business as follows:

- Report on Soldiers Home Survey made in October by Co-ordinating Council was studied
- Report from Co-ordinating Council regarding committee's request for legislative action to amend law to allow DVA to pay half of County Service Officers' salary - Tabled.
- Soldiers Home name change referred to council for legislative action.

Also discussed:

- Free hunting license for active duty servicemen
- Proposed VFW Bonus changes - tabled.
- Minnesota plan for deferred tuition for veterans.
- "Sleeping Watchdog" letter to editor
- Must present recommendation and plan for Soldiers Home maintenance charge to Council by March 24.
- Veterans preference in hiring

2:10 p.m. - Sub-committees met separately

3:15 p.m. - Committee reconvened:

Joe Novak reported on behalf of Sub-committee on Veterans Affairs:

- Letters to County Commissioners regarding Zander's responsibilities
- Administrative guidelines adopted and working
- Recommendation that an opinion should be obtained from the Attorney General regarding legality of Committee administratively assessing

a maintenance charge at Soldiers Home and that Commandant get official ruling from VA Central office as to a charge and what affect it could have on VA funding.

Clarence Welander reported on behalf of Soldiers Home Sub-Committee:

- Problem on funding from VA for water system - Mr. Rice to assist in solving
- A maintenance charge would be acceptable after more study on rates and special exemptions and possible appeals from members.
- Also seek Attorney General's opinion on Administrative assessment by Committee.
- Ask VA - in writing - for no reduction in funding because of maintenance charge.
- Mr. Rice recommended establishment of a time-table for assessment of charge.
 - obtain Attorney General's opinion
 - Develop rate schedule
 - Give VA a letter on over-all proposal
 - Implementation

Clarence Welander made a motion, seconded by Morris:

"I move we recommend approval of a maintenance charge at the North Dakota Soldiers Home which provides for an equitable method of assessment from the members, within allowable limits of the VA, and in accord with State and Federal Statutes."

Joe Novak moved: "That the Chairman write the Attorney General requesting an opinion on Committee's authority to assess a charge." Seconded by Welander.

Interim Study Committee report by Joe Novak -- did not meet but will soon.

Bill Williamson appeared on behalf of Co-ordinating Council. Reported on Con-Con and other matters of mutual interest.

Time and place of the next meeting: Fargo, April 28th.

Adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Earnest N. Schmit
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Secretary