

**NORTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
ON VETERANS AFFAIRS**

JULY 6 & 7, 2001

**CAMP GRAFTON
DEVILS LAKE, NORTH DAKOTA**

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

Roll call, following members **PRESENT:**

Paul Aaberg	Gerald P. Balzer	Daryl Beard
Larry Dakken	Ken Evenson	Rudy Jenson
Ted Krogen	Joseph Litzinger	Thomas Rainsberry
Kasey Schmaltz	Ken Vatne	Willy Warner
Don Weible	Thomas R. Moe	

following members **ABSENT:**

Joe Schneider

Others in Attendance

Commissioner Ray Harkema	Commandant Ken Anderson
SFC Phil Miller, National Guard	Members of the Coordinating Council
Doug Kenyon, VA Center Director	Maren Daley, Ex. Director Job Service
BG Michael Haugen, ND National Guard	Bob Olheiser, Deputy State Treasurer
Jerry Meske, US Dept of Labor	

Minutes of May 4, 2001 meeting.

Corrections by Balzer:

Page 2, the phrase "legislative mandated salary increases" should appear in the motion by Paul Aaberg reappointing Ken Anderson as Commandant.

Motion by Balzer, second by Jenson to accept the minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Balzer requested the Performance Factors stated on page 3 of the Veterans Home subcommittee minutes, under Commandant's Evaluation, be sent to him.

Guest Speakers:

Doug Kenyon, VA Center Director - The Community Based Outpatient Clinics will be experiencing a slowdown in growth in the bigger cities. Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota will continue to open CBOCs due to geographic distance. Dickinson is the next proposed site.

Maren Daley, Executive Director Job Service - Due to decreased federal funding, some DVOP and LVER positions were eliminated. Performance standards applied to veterans will be changing.

BG Michael Haugen - ND National Guard - Welcomed committee members to Camp Grafton. Reported on Guard activities throughout North Dakota and missions in other countries. Armory maintenance bills and securing general fund dollars for the Cemetery were accomplished in 2001 Legislative session.

SFC Phil Miller, North Dakota Veterans Cemetery - showed video of cemetery. Copies of the video are available for those interested. SFC Miller reported on internments at Cemetery [HANDOUT PROVIDED]. Accessing the Monument System on-line service for ordering monuments has shortened the waiting time.

Bob Olheiser, Deputy State Treasurer - [HANDOUT PROVIDED] Gave explanation of Postwar Trust Fund monies. Committee found handouts very informative and useful in determining fund expenditures.

Chairman Moe stated he had been reappointed as Chairman. Jerry Balzer was appointed Secretary.

Subcommittee appoints are as follows:

<u>Veterans Home</u>		<u>Veterans Affairs</u>	
Paul Aaberg	Don Weible	Joe Litzinger	Willy Warner
Kasey Schmaltz	Larry Dakken	Jerry Balzer	Ken Vatne
Tom Rainsberry	Ken Evenson	Ted Krogen	Daryl Beard
Rudy Jensen	Joe Schneider		

Committee recessed for subcommittee meetings.

Chairman Moe reconvened meeting.

Bob Hanson, Vice-President ND Veterans Coordinating Council, reported on the council meeting. Jim Fenstad elected President and Bob Evans elected Secretary/Treasurer for the 2001-2002 year. The council is working with NDDOT on license plate changes. The council will start to draft legislation on "justifiable cause" for the next legislative session. 10,000 decals have been distributed at the post level (a donation of \$5 for a decal goes to the veterans cemetery). Council discussed adding an insert to the DOT mailing to help generate interest in the license plate.

Chairman Moe asked the subcommittee chairman for a brief report.

Veterans Home subcommittee report by Paul Aaberg. Seven members present, one absent. Paul Aaberg elected Chairman and Ken Evenson elected vice-chairman. Ideas on promoting the Veterans Home discussed. The first monthly meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2001 at 5:00pm at the Home.

Department of Veterans Affairs subcommittee report by Joe Litzinger. Joe Litzinger elected Chairman and Ken Vatne elected vice-chairman. Litzinger reported on the goals set by the committee for the Commissioner and gave overview of items discussed at meeting.

Chairman Moe informed the committee of the Legislative Interim Committee meeting set for July 12th. This is in response to SB2007, Section 3 which passed in the 2001 legislature. The Interim Committee will be looking at the structure of the Administrative Committee and what is the function of the Veterans Home and Department of Veterans Affairs. Moe challenged the committee members with a series of questions: is there a better way to select the commandant/commissioner; the relationship between the two agencies - should there be a chain of command; should there be common budgeting - one finance office; what are other states/boards doing; and what changes should be done as far as the Administrative Committee itself - too many members; the selection process; more meetings; do we need two subcommittees; should there be health professionals on the Home subcommittee. Committee recessed.

Chairman Moe reconvened the meeting on July 7, 2001 at 9:00am.

Roll call, following members **PRESENT:**

Paul Aaberg	Gerald P. Balzer	Daryl Beard
Larry Dakken	Ken Evenson	Rudy Jenson
Ted Krogen	Joseph Litzinger	Thomas Rainsberry
Kasey Schmaltz	Ken Vatne	Willy Warner
Don Weible	Thomas R. Moe	

following members **ABSENT:**
Joe Schneider

Time and place for committee meetings discussed.

Motion by Evenson, second by Beard, for committee to meet October 26 & 27, 2001 at the Veterans Home, Lisbon. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Warner, second by Rainsberry, for committee to meet January 4 & 5, 2002 at the Comfort Inn, Bismarck. Motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Meske, Director V.E.T.S./U.S. D.O.L. - spoke briefly on activities of Department of Labor pertaining to veterans.

Veterans Home subcommittee report by Paul Aaberg. Discussion on setting policy for subcommittee. Some items mentioned - better knowledge of budget, become more familiar with rules and regulations of Home, possibility of one subcommittee member attending conference with Commandant, and having a subcommittee member present when survey reports are given at the Home. Monthly meetings set: August 24, and September 14 or 15.

Motion by Aaberg, second by Rainsberry, to accept Veterans Home report. Motion passed unanimously.

Department of Veterans Affairs subcommittee report by Joe Litzinger. Reported on the Department's draft request for PWTF monies, reinstatement of grant program and American Legion Convention Resolution. The draft appeals procedure was read to the committee. Balzer suggested sharing the draft appeal procedure with the legislative sponsors.

Motion by Litzinger, second by Rainsberry, to accept Department report. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Litzinger, second by Dakken, to accept appeals process. Motion passed 12 yeas, 2 nays - Balzer and Jenson. Consensus of committee that the rules could be modified at future meetings but something should be put in place as soon as possible.

Motion by Litzinger, second by Balzer, to accept subcommittee recommendation to appropriate \$50,000 to the Grant Program from the Postwar Trust Fund as needed. Motion passed unanimously. See Voting Record, Proposal 1.

Motion by Litzinger, second by Warner, to accept subcommittee recommendation to appropriate \$74,000 to the Department budget from the Postwar Trust Fund for the 01-03 biennium. Motion passed 12 yeas, 2 nays - Jenson, Moe. See Voting Record, Proposal 2.

Motion by Litzinger, second by Aaberg, to accept subcommittee recommendation to raise maximum loan amount to \$5,000 for the Veterans Aid Loan Program. Motion passed unanimously.

Litzinger asked Commissioner Harkema to bring committee up-to-date on the Cass County issue. Additional information in packet form given to committee members by Jim Brent. Specific item for committee to discuss is a grant that was approved and then disapproved due to additional information received.

Motion by Rainsberry, second by Dakken, not to pay \$700 grant and to close the file. Balzer asked that the motion be ruled out of order. Chairman Moe accepted the motion. Motion passed, 10 yeas, 4 nays - Balzer, Litzinger, Beard, Jenson.

Recommendation of committee that Commissioner Harkema meet with Cass County Commissioners and inform the committee of any outcomes.

Discussion on July 12th Interim Legislative Committee meeting. Several committee members will be attending. Legislators to be invited to tour Veterans Home.

Discussion on starting Reserve Fund to help grow the Postwar Trust Fund.

Motion by Jenson, second by Balzer, that \$50,000 be put into a Reserve Fund with another \$50,000 appropriated by June 30, 2002. Motion passed unanimously. See Voting Record, Proposal 3

Chairman Moe directed Jenson to write a one paragraph summary of the reason for a reserve fund and when spending would be allowed from that fund.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by

Gerald P. Balzer
Secretary