

Administrative Committee On Veterans Affairs

~~1000 PRESIDENTIAL BLVD~~ Box 334

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501



CHAIRMAN  
BERNARD A. WAGNER  
SANBORN, NORTH DAKOTA

**Minutes** - July 12, 1974  
Conference Room  
Employment Security Bureau  
Bismarck, North Dakota

Joe Novak  
SECRETARY  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

Chairman Wagner called the meeting of the Committee to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll Call was taken with the following present: Crawford, Groth, Gullickson, Habiger, Morris, Novak, Rosendahl, Sloan, Swartz, Ulness and Wagner. Absent: Welander. Ex-Officio members present: Gronvold, Klecker, Melhouse. Absent: Rice (Excused). Code and Zander present.

The following guests were present: Richard Grenz, State Department Commander, VFW; Vern Useldinger, Department Adjutant, American Legion; Boyd Clemens, Immediate Past State Commander, American Legion; Leonard Bechtel, Employment Security Bureau; Ralph Lange, Employment Security Bureau; Willard Williamson, Executive Secretary of the Veterans Coordinating Council and Chief of the Veterans Employment Service, and Gordon Henrikson, representing Senator Young's Grand Forks administrative staff.

The minutes of the March 15, 1974 meeting were read and approved.

Chairman Wagner outlined the purpose of the meeting, noting that it is at this meeting the Committee has the responsibility to reorganize, and further that additional business in the nature of a request from the American Legion and VFW was to be presented. Chairman Wagner noted the addition to the Committee of Terry Swartz of Grand Forks, replacing Earnest Schmit of Bismarck, representing the DAV, and distributed to members present a current directory of the members of the Committee, including home and office phone numbers, as well as home addresses.

Chairman Wagner noted that he has been renamed Chairman for the year beginning July 1, 1974, and that Joe Novak has been appointed Secretary for the corresponding period. And, in addition, noted that the membership of the sub-committees for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Soldiers' Home would remain the same, with the exception that Terry Swartz would be assigned to the Department of Veterans Affairs sub-committee for the year.

U. S. DEPT. OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

RECEIVED

AUG 16 1974

SUB-COMMITTEE FOR  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MES G. ROSENDAHL, CHM.  
E NOVAK, ~~XXXXXXXX~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Terry K. Swartz  
ORVILLE L. GULLICKSON  
RUSSELL S. CRAWFORD  
DONALD F. SLOAN  
KENNETH G. HABIGER

EX-OFFICIO  
M/G LACLAIR A. MELHOUSE  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
ALAN L. RICE  
VA CENTER DIRECTOR  
EDWARD J. KLECKER  
DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONS  
M. N. GRONVOLD, DIRECTOR  
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY BUREAU

Copy Mailed \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SUB-COMMITTEE FOR  
SOLDIERS HOME  
CLARENCE WELANDER, CHM.  
JAMES M. MORRIS, VICE-CHM.  
BERNARD A. WAGNER  
STEPHEN J. GROTH  
ARTHUR E. ULNESS

Chairman Wagner introduced W. M. Williamson who presented the circumstances involved in the request of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars that two positions, specifically provided under the Public Employment Program, be assigned to these organizations, with the Department of Veterans Affairs operating as the State agency responsible. These two individuals to be out-stationed - one at the State office of the American Legion, and one at the State office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, where they will be trained for anticipated permanent positions within those organizations. One trainee will be selected and placed in the program for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, this selection being made by the Employment Security Bureau. He will train to potentially serve as a replacement for the anticipated retirement of the State Adjutant of the V.F.W. The individual assigned out-stationed training for the American Legion Administrative office in Fargo is for an expansion of staff required because of the increased number of programs in which they are involved, as well as the additional American Legion membership which has continued to increase throughout the State.

After extensive discussion the Committee gave approval to the request in the form of a motion by Jim Morris, seconded by Jim Rosendahl, and approved without dissent, which would permit the implementation of the program; however, with the qualification that a letter be prepared for the record, directed to the Director of Accounts and Purchases, to advise that this particular implementation of the two PEP positions was being undertaken.

Willard Williamson asked Chairman Wagner if the minutes of the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs could be exchanged with those of the office of the Veterans Coordinating Council and, there being no objection to this practice, it was directed by Chairman Wagner to be implemented with the minutes of this meeting.

Chairman Wagner advised that the time had come for the sub-committee meetings, that they would take up business at hand and that the general meeting of the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs would reconvene at one p.m. following lunch, to hear the recommendations of the sub-committee, and take appropriate action where necessary.

Chairman Wagner called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. It was brought out that there were a number of changes that should be made in telephone numbers on the roster of the Committee members that had been passed out during the morning meeting. Because of these changes the Chairman instructed the Secretary to print a corrected roster and mail it out to the membership with the minutes of the meeting.

Vice Chairman Morris furnished the following report on the meeting of the Soldiers' Home sub-committee:

- (1) With regard to the proposal that members of the Home apply for a Veterans' Aid Loan when an emergency arises, an alternative was offered that instead the Home grant emergency loans from accumulated interest earned on member contributions.

- (2) Minimum wage program will affect the Soldiers' Home. Payroll for Home members who work on part-time basis may go from the present 20¢ per hour to \$2. Commandant Code will see what he can find out about it at the convention of the National Association of State Veterans Homes.
- (3) The Home will not have to abide by the requirement that state agencies must have one-fourth of their appropriation on balance at the beginning of the fourth quarter of the biennium. It is hoped that funds derived from the Ellendale sale and VA contribution will see them through. Morris said they predict a \$74,000 general fund excess.
- (4) Proposed that the Supplies & Materials portion of the Soldiers' Home proposed budget be increased by 5 percent, that is, from \$171,600 to \$178,750, which would be a 25 percent increase over the present estimated biennial expenditure. Also reported that his sub-committee had approved the adding of a \$29,000 contingency fund to the overall budget, bringing the total proposed budget to \$833,950.

Chairman Wagner called for a motion to approve the proposed budget for the Soldiers' Home. Motion to accept was made by Rosendahl. Second by Habiger. Motion carried.

The Secretary of the Administrative Committee was instructed to write the Governor's Office for the purpose of urging the Governor to honor the Soldiers' Home application for the position of a trainee maintenance man at the Home under the PEP Program. This was put in the form of a motion by Welander. Second by Sloan. Carried.

Next a motion was made by Rosendahl that the Committee accept the report of the Soldiers' Home sub-committee. Second by Crawford. Carried.

The Chairman of the sub-committee to the Department of Veterans Affairs, James Rosendahl, gave the following report from his Committee:

- (1) That he had been reelected Chairman of his subcommittee and Russell Crawford was elected Vice Chairman.
- (2) The Department of Veterans Affairs was presently being audited by the State Auditors Office.
- (3) General Melhouse gave the sub-committee a comprehensive report on the progress of bonus payments and also advised that the ND Supreme Court had ruled in favor of Governor Link and General Melhouse in litigation brought against them concerning bonus payments.

- (4) Explained that the large increases in the DVA budget in Fees and Services was for the reason that the DVA proposes to pay for the travel, meals and lodging for county service officers to attend the annual Training Conference which is held once each year in Fargo. He explained that the other increase was for funds to pay attorney fees in the event court action is necessary to get a veteran reinstated to his former employment after discharge.

Welander emphasized the need for a 10 percent Contingency Fund for the Soldiers' Home to take up for variables.

Rosendahl offered a motion to the effect that if it appears there may be need for a Contingency Fund in the DVA budget, that it be added. Second by Welander. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Morris that Rosendahl's report be accepted. Second by Ulness. Carried.

Morris stated that Welander had been elected Chairman of the Soldiers' Home sub-committee and himself as Vice Chairman.

Committee Chairman Wagner called for new business. Time and place of the next meeting was discussed. It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in conjunction with the ND Veterans Coordinating Council, and that the time and place would be reported to the members at a later date.

The Committee instructed that a letter of appreciation be sent Earnest Schmit, thanking him for the services he rendered. Welander put this in the form of a motion. Second by Rosendahl. Carried.

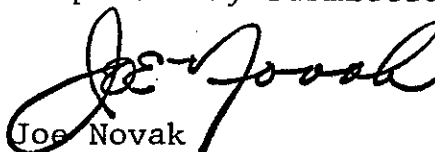
Chairman Wagner asked if there was anything for the good of the order. The Committee went on record expressing their thanks to Joe Novak for making arrangements for their meeting in such beautiful facilities.

The Chairman thanked all members for being present and said he was confident they would have a good year ahead of them.

Motion to adjourn was made by Morris. Second by Ulness. Carried.

The Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joe Novak  
Secretary