



EDWARD T. SCHAFER, GOVERNOR
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN
GERALD P. BALZER
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

SECRETARY
DEAN BAYER
TUTTLE, NORTH DAKOTA

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20 & 21, 1998, MEETING OF THE NORTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

EXPRESSWAY INN, FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

Meeting called to order by chairman Gerald P. Balzer. Pledge of Allegiance, moment of silence, and prayer for the POW/MIA followed.

Roll call, **PRESENT:**

Gerald P. Balzer	Kenneth Vatne	Thomas Moe
Paul Aaberg	Larry Dakken	Ken Evenson
James Johnson	Joseph Litzinger	Donald Weible
Rheinhold Weber	Thomas Rainsberry	
Kent Anderson	Dean Bayer	

ABSENT:

James Carlascio	Richard Olek
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Others in Attendance:

Commissioner Ray Harkema	Commandant Ken Anderson
Chuck Risch, ND DVA	

Motion by Jim Johnson, second by Paul Aaberg to accept minutes of our December 5 & 6, 1997 meeting, carried.

Jennifer Gladden from Job Service talked on pilot projects for serving veterans.

Glenn Fogel from VA Medical Center talked on veterans health care and benefits.

General Bjerke talked on Veterans Cemetery, reported advisory committee on cemetery is one member from each veterans organization.

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR
VETERANS AFFAIRS
KENETH EVENSON, SUB CHR
LARRY DAKKEN, VICE-SUB CHR
DEAN BAYER
JAMES A. CARLASCIO
JAMES O. JOHNSON
JOSEPH LITZINGER
KENNETH A VATNE

RAY HARKEMA
COMMISSIONER
VETERANS AFFAIRS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

KEN ANDERSON
COMMANDANT
VETERANS' HOME
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR
VETERANS' HOME
PAUL AABERG, SUB CHR
LARRY DAKKEN, VICE-SUB CHR
KENT ANDERSON
THOMAS R. MOE
RICHARD S. OLEK
RHINY L. WEBER
DONALD WEIBLE

M/G KEITH D. BJERKE
ADJUTANT GENERAL

EX OFFICIO
DOUGLAS M. KENYON
VA CENTER DIRECTOR

JENNIFER GLADDEN
JOB SERVICE ND

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State Treasurer, Kathi Gilmore, gave a report on postwar trust fund. She also talked about money invested with retirement and investment office (RIO) \$1,000,000 in fund, S & P 500, managed by State Street.

Rick Ryan talked on veterans preference and priority. Joe Smith and Joe Novak are on committee, Gene Kouba is a resource person. Phone 701-328-2865 with any suggestions on veterans preference.

Joe Smith, president of Coordinating Council, reported on their meeting in Bismarck. He reported on the Flag Amendment and indicated D.O.T. has agreed to the license plate kick off date as May 25; Memorial Day. The Council's constitution has been changed to provide for organizational votes instead of individuals.

Bob Hanson talked on cemetery license plate.

Ray Harkema talked on new vans at a cost of \$51,910. The replacement vans will be delivered to Williston, Stanley, and Wahpeton by April 3.

Adjourned into sub committees.

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Meeting reconvened March 21, 10:00 AM

Tom Rainsberry introduced Jim Tougas from VA Hospital who talked about veterans with post traumatic stress. They formed a group known as the Fargo Memorial Fund and they are trying to raise money to visit the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.. to help them deal with their problems.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

Paul Aaberg reported on Veterans Home. Paul Aaberg moved to accept report, second by Ken Evenson, motion carried.

Ken Evenson gave report on Department of Veterans Affairs. Ken Evenson moved to accept report, second by Paul Aaberg, motion carried.

Tom Rainsberry, speaking for the VVA, submitted 5 proposals requesting interest monies from the Postwar Trust Fund.

- 1.) Veteran's overlook next to Tiaden Terrace at Medora: \$10,000.
- 2.) Rascal scooter project: \$40,000.
- 3.) Handiap picnic table project: \$50,000.
- 4.) Homeless veterans: \$10,000.
- 5.) Vet Center Memorial Fund, Fargo: \$5,000.

A sixth proposal was submitted by both the Veterans Home and DVA subcommittees for a van to be located in Ransom County for transportation of veterans to V.A. in Fargo: \$24,210

After some discussion, Tom asked that items #2 and #3 be withdrawn. Balloting on remaining items were as follows:

#1	Defeated	9 - 3
#4	Defeated	8 - 3
#5	Defeated	7 - 5
#6	Approved	12 - 0

Chairman Balzer suggested everyone on the committee give their comments to Rick Ryan so his committee can come up with new proposal for legislation.

Chairman Balzer also said that all requests for Postwar Trust Fund interest money must be sent to the Chairman one month prior to the committee meeting at which time it will be considered.

Tom Moe talked on veterans programs and how we spend money from trust fund interest.

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Tom Rainsberry made motion to donate \$3,000 to Fargo Vet Center Memorial Fund, seconded by Jim Johnson, motion carried.

Chairman Balzer reminded committee members of the importance of letters of support for the flag amendment.

No other business; meeting adjourned.

Submitted by
Dean Bayer, Secretary

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April 2, 1998