



**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**CHAIRMAN**  
JOHN J. MULLEN  
McVILLE, NORTH DAKOTA

**SECRETARY**  
PAUL S. AABERG  
WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4 & 5, 1994, MEETING OF THE  
NORTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE  
ON VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**LOCATION--AMERICAN LEGION, MEETING HALL  
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA  
CONVENED AT 1:10 P.M.**

Meeting opened jointly with North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council. Coordinating Council President Rick Olek opened meeting at 1:10 P.M. with Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silent prayer for POW/MIA.

General Bjerke of the North Dakota National Guard was introduced for remarks. He reported on need to recruit 500 personnel to fill guard positions. Tuition assistance is an incentive for recruiting. Guard brings in 10 million federal dollars to state.

VA Center Director Doug Kenyon was introduced. He reported on increased medical staffing to provide more and faster service at Fargo VA Hospital. Bad news was that the next fiscal year called for downstaffing but Doug felt he could accomplish this and still provide the service to veterans.

Sheila Peterson, representative from OMB, gave remarks on 95-97 Budget. She stated no money from Post War Trust Fund interest would be appropriated but there was a \$85,941.00 amount in Department of Veterans Affairs proposed budget that would not be funded from General Fund.

Ray Harkema, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, introduced Mr. Al Hoberg, Office of Administrative Hearings, who explained possibility of a bill to amend Veterans Preference Law.

Rick Ryan, Veterans Employment and Training, commented on Veterans Preference. Rick also proposed a possible use of Veterans Post War Trust Fund interest earnings for retraining veterans employment.

Gerald Balzer, North Dakota Job Service had remarks and called on Gary Hoffman for remarks and handouts.

**SUBCOMMITTEE FOR  
VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
SEPH J. O'BRIEN, *SUB CHR*  
IAEL VANDROVEC, *VICE-SUB CHR*  
L. S. AABERG  
JOE NOVAK  
AL HUBER  
KENT ANDERSON  
DONALD WEIBLE

**RAY HARKEMA  
COMMISSIONER  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**KEN ANDERSON  
COMMANDANT  
VETERANS' HOME  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**SUBCOMMITTEE FOR  
VETERANS' HOME**  
KENNETH EVENSON, *SUB CHR*  
SUZANNE KIME, *VICE-SUB CHR*  
JAMES GROVEN  
THOMAS RAINSBERRY  
DEAN BAYER  
GARY HOFFMAN  
JAMES JOHNSON

**M/G KEITH D. BJERKE  
ADJUTANT GENERAL**

**EX OFFICIO  
DOUGLAS M. KENYON  
VA CENTER DIRECTOR**

**GERALD BALZER  
ND JOB SERVICE**

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Kathi Gilmore, State Treasurer, was unable to attend, but she had prepared a report on Veterans Post War Trust Fund interest earnings that was distributed.

Meeting was recessed at 3:10 P.M. so Coordinating Council and Administrative Committee's could meet separately.

Chairman Mullen convened the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs at 3:20 P.M.

Present were John Mullen, Paul Aaberg, Don Weible, Al Huber, Kent Anderson, Joe O'Brien, Joe Novak, Dean Bayer, Thomas Rainsberry, Ken Evenson, James Groven, Suzanne Kime, Gary Hoffman, and James Johnson. Absent: Michael Vandrovec. Also in attendance: Ray Harkema, Commissioner and Ken Anderson, Commandant. Guests: Vic Hass, past member of the Committee and Bill Ellig, Architect.

Motion by Groven to dispense with reading of minutes of July 15 & 16, 1994, meeting and minutes of Conference calls held August 26, 1994 and October 16, 1994; and that they be approved as distributed. Second by Rainsberry. Carried.

Ken Anderson introduced Bill Ellig to give a rundown on codes and requirements of the VA for a Veterans Home.

Chairman Mullen asked for comments on Veterans Preference Law, and suggestion for funding Veterans Employment training.

Chairman Mullen presented Vic Hass a Certificate for his service on Administrative Committee.

Recess at 4:15 P.M. so subcommittees could meet. Full Committee to reconvene at 9:00 A.M., Saturday morning.

Chairman Mullen reconvened the Administrative Committee at 9:10 A.M., Saturday, November 5, 1994.

Ken Evenson reported for the Veterans Home subcommittee. In discussion it was decided that the Steering Committee for Western North Dakota Veterans home site would meet on November 27, 1994 at 8:00 A.M. in Lisbon, to screen site proposals to three locations and present these to the full committee.

The Administrative Committee would meet in Carrington at the Chieftain Motel on December 17, 1994 at 10:00 A.M. to make final site selection.

Rainsberry moved to approve Veterans Home Report. Second by Hoffman. Motion carried.

Joe O'Brien reported for Veterans Affairs subcommittee.

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Jim Groven moved to approve report. Second by Rainsberry. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15. Committee would meet with Coordinating Council where Chairman Mullen and Subcommittee Chairmen Evenson and O'Brien would report on committee action.

Submitted by  
Paul S. Aaberg, Secretary

vok  
November 14, 1994