



EDWARD T. SCHAFFER, 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 SEPTEMBER 12 & 13, 1997, MEETING OF THE NORTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

LOCATION--AMVETS CLUB, BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA CONVENED AT 2:00 P.M.

Met with Kathi Gilmore at 11:00 A.M. for round table discussion on Post War Trust Fund. She supplied a booklet of investments on Post War Trust Funds. She said she would like to invest up to 25% of the fund in equity.

Chairman Gerald P. Balzer opened meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer for POW/MIA.

Roll call, following members **PRESENT**:

Gerald P. Balzer	Kenneth Vatne	Others in Attendance: Commissioner Ray Harkema Commandant Ken Anderson Chuck Risch, ND DVA Gene Kouba, Bismarck Branch ND DVA Rick Ryan, USDOL
Dean Bayer	Paul Aaberg	
James Carlascio	Larry Dakken	
Ken Evenson	Thomas R. Moe	
James O. Johnson	Richard S. Olek	
Joseph Litzinger	Rheinhold Weber	
Thomas Rainsberry	Donald Weible	

ABSENT:

Kent Anderson

Motion by Joseph Litzinger to dismiss reading of minutes of last meeting (July 18, 1997) as they were mailed to all members. Seconded by Thomas Moe, approved.

Rick Ryan talked on the \$50,000 given for veterans training from the Post War Trust Fund in the 95-97 Biennium.

**SUBCOMMITTEE FOR
VETERANS AFFAIRS**
KENNETH EVENSON, SUB CHR
THOMAS RAINSBERRY, 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
RHINNY 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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Commissioner Ray Harkema gave a report on expenditures of interest from the Post War Trust Fund.

Chairman Balzer announced sub committees and gave recommendations. Copy of subcommittees attached.

Paul Aaberg was nominated chairman of the Veterans Home subcommittee. Ken Evenson was nominated chairman of the Department of Veterans Affairs subcommittee. No other nominations, carried.

Meeting recessed at 3:15 P.M. so subcommittees could meet.

Meeting reconvened at 9:00 A.M. Saturday, September 13, 1997, to hear reports from the Veterans Home and Department of Veterans Affairs sub committees.

Paul Aaberg gave the report for the **North Dakota Veterans Home Sub Committee**. Paul was elected chairman of the sub committee and Larry Dakken was elected vice chairman of the sub committee.

The budget issues identified by the State Auditors office and referred to by the Appropriations Committees of the last Legislative session have been addressed. A corrective action plan, as ordered, has been completed by the Commandant and submitted to the Legislative Council, the State Auditors Office and the Office of Management and Budget. Chairman Balzer has visited with representatives of these offices and they are all satisfied with the progress made on the issues. The Interim Budget Committee will meet in Bismarck on October 8 and the Home has been scheduled to appear at 11:45 A.M. that day.

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has conducted their inspection of the Veterans Home and have completed a positive report.

The remodeling projects at the Home are progressing and are within budget. Commandant Anderson will keep on top of these projects to assure timeliness.

Recruitment of nurses is a major problem for the Home. Commandant Anderson has started a recruitment bonus for staff members who are able to recruit new nurse personnel for the Home. Commandant Anderson and Chairman Balzer will visit with administrators of Job Service in Bismarck on October 8 when Commandant Anderson comes in for the Budget Section meeting.

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Federal Emergency Management Administration funds have been received as a result of damage suffered in the Spring flooding. The Emergency Commission will be asked to allow use of these funds for the salary and wage line item of the Home's Budget, for some remodeling projects, and to purchase an automatic telephone system.

Because of safety programs implemented at the Home, they have received a five (5) percent discount in the Home's Workers Compensation premium.

Paul Aaberg move acceptance of the Veterans Home sub committee report, seconded by Thomas Rainsberry, carried.

Kenneth Evenson gave the report for the **Department of Veterans Affairs** sub committee. Ken was elected chairman of the sub committee and Thomas Rainsberry was elected vice chairman of the sub committee.

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is in the process of setting up a satellite clinic in Bismarck. They are negotiating with various medical facilities in Bismarck for a location. They will keep us informed.

Discussion was held on claims time lapse. While improvement is noted, we still need to be aggressive in monitoring this and insisting on improved timeliness.

The County Veterans Service Officer annual conference will be September 22-24 in Fargo. The recognition banquet will be Tuesday night. Administrative committee members were encouraged to attend all or part of the conference.

Discussion of replacement vans to transport veterans for medical service was held. Ken Evenson made a motion to provide Post War Trust Fund monies to furnish vans currently operating in Stanley and Wahpeton and a van with a current proposed location in Williston. Dollar amount to be determined at the discretion of the Commissioner based on current costs, trade-in allowance and availability. Second by James Carlascio. Carried.

The Veterans Laws of North Dakota, commonly called the "Blue Book" is ready to go the printers. Distribution should be in early October.

There are two CVSO vacancies. One in Cavalier County and one in Oliver County. We should assist where possible in recruiting these very important positions.

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Ken Evenson motioned to support State Treasurer Kathi Gilmore's proposal to invest Post War Trust Fund monies in a most favorable position, not to exceed 25 percent in equities. Second by Thomas Rainsberry. Carried.

Ken Evenson moved acceptance of the Department of Veterans Affairs sub committee report, second by Jim Carlascio, carried.

No further business, meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

Submitted by
Dean Bayer, Secretary

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October 1, 1997