



JACK DALRYMPLE, GOVERNOR
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN
DEAN OVERBY
Wahpeton

SECRETARY
JIM VERWEY
Valley City

June 12, 2014

Government Services Committee
Senator Ron Sorvaag Chairman

Senator Sorvaag and committee members,

The following are legislative bills the ACOVA and NDVCC have agreed upon for the next legislative session. At this point we are not proposing any new bills but are requesting the following in the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Budget.

1. Increase to the Post War Trust Fund (PWTF). This bill is our top priority. We have attempted for 2 sessions to get \$2 million dollars added to the previously maintained \$4.1 Million dollar PWTF. The 63rd Legislative assembly in 2013 did add \$250,000 to the principal of the PWTF and we are thankful for that. The \$2 million dollars we are requesting is intended to allow the fund to grow with the rate of inflation so that the buying power of the fund will remain stable for our veterans in the future while maintaining interest earnings to take care of the veterans needs today.
2. Funding for our Veteran Service Organizations National Service Officers/ Power of Attorney's who work in the Fargo Regional Office. These positions are the final stop prior to claims being submitted to the Federal VA for processing. The Veteran Service Organizations are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain these positions as their fiscal budgets are declining every year. We are requesting a \$50,000 grant for each of the remaining three organizations: American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).
3. Continued and added funding for the Veterans Education Training (VET) which is appropriated through ND University System is supported.
4. Maintain or increase funding in the NDDVA budget...
 - a. PTSD Dogs- as the assessment of need is determined by the number of applications submitted.
 - b. Stand Down events need to be funded at the prior amount of \$20,000 as the \$10,000 for the current biennium has already been obligated.
 - c. Transportation vans-funded as the estimated replacement plan will show the need of 1 or 2 vans in the next biennium
 - d. Agent Orange outreach as determined after this year's outreach programs are completed.
5. Will be reviewing bills being proposed by the Adjutant General's office also.

Dean Overby
Chairman- Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs