

SD Veterans Commission Meeting
1 October 2008
VA Regional Office
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Members present: Chairman Mike Birnbaum, Commissioner Bill Locken, Commissioner Gene Murphy, Commissioner Paul Evenson, Commissioner Don Loudner, and Commissioner Wade Hubbard.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM (CT), at the VA Regional Office, Sioux Falls, by Chairman Birnbaum. Chairman Birnbaum led the Commission and attendees in the "Pledge of Allegiance" and then welcomed all audience members.

A change to the agenda was made. The change added Dale Bertsch to speak on behalf of the Governor.

At this time, Mr. Bertsch came forward to present and read a proclamation to former commission member Don Clarke.

Mr. Clarke then addressed the Commission with his final thoughts as a member and as a Veteran. As the Commission struggles with the hiring of a new director, Mr. Clarke stated he would like the Commission to move forward and nominate Mr. George Summerside as Director, at this meeting. If the action is not taken by a member he would like to take this action and nominate George to that position. Don left the Commission with the following suggestions:

- I hope that the service organizations will always be in attendance and always have an invitation to these meetings.
- This commission should have a minimum of four meetings a year.
- There should always be time to have an executive session.
- Schedule meetings so there is time to cover all issues, do not rush to be done.

In closing, Mr. Clarke conveyed his time has been enjoyable serving the Veterans and he hopes all remember he is a friend and will always be there to help when needed.

Dale Bertsch then introduced Mr. Wade Hubbard as the newest member of the Commission. Mr. Hubbard came forward and introductions to the Commission were made. Mr. Bertsch also gave the Commission a summary of Commissioner Hubbard's resume.

Commissioner Locken took action and moved to forward George Summerside as Director of the Division. The motion was 2nd by Commissioner Hubbard.

Discussion between the Commissioners took place-expressing thoughts on who would best fill this position, having the General at all interviews and qualifications of applicants. Commissioner Evenson suggested going into executive session at this time.

The board has the authority to nominate, the Major General has the authority to appoint, Mr. Summerside met all qualifications at the time of the interviews, and BOP was present, explained Chairman Birnbaum. Chairman Birnbaum stated there is a difference of opinion and a vote was called for.

Commissioner Loudner said George's name was never sent forward. Chairman Birnbaum clarified his statement on qualifications and feels the Commission should be concerned about how "information is being leaked".

Discussion continued on qualified applicants, with Commissioner Locken stating he would like to move forward with filling the position of Director.

Chairman Birnbaum again asked for a vote to move the name of George Summerside forward. The members voted 3 no (Murphy, Loudner, Evenson): 3 yes (Locken, Hubbard, Birnbaum).

Commissioner Murphy stated the Chairman could not vote in this case. He would like to take a break to call an attorney to clarify this issue.

Dale Bertsch addressed the Chair and clarified it is proper for the Chair to vote in this case. Commissioner Murphy adamantly disagreed and asked an attorney be contacted. Commissioner Hubbard at this time said Mr. Bertsch was correct in his clarification and the Chair could vote. The Chair is not able to make a motion or second a motion.

Chairman Birnbaum stated the record would show a 3 to 3 vote.

Commissioner Evenson moved the Commission go on record, contacts the States Attorney General for a ruling of the process for nominating the Director, to see if it was followed by SD Codified Law and ask for a written procedure for this position of Directorship. The motion was 2nd by Commissioner Loudner.

Commissioner Locken stated the Commission is looking foolish. In Hot Springs, six commission members agreed to send five names to the Major General, at that time this issue was ran through the Attorney Generals office. It is time to move forward. George has served the Veterans of our state and nation very well for many years; we need to give him a chance.

Commissioner Murphy stated the interview process was to interview eight, three backed out.

Chairman Birnbaum asked for a vote on the motion. Commissioner Hubbard asked if there was an official advisory from the Attorney General's office. Chairman Birnbaum said no formal advisory was given. Commissioner Hubbard feels it is not out of line to ask for one, especially if there is a difference of opinion.

Chairman Birnbaum called for a vote. Motion passed 5 (Evenson, Loudner, Murphy, Hubbard, Birnbaum); 1 abstention (Locken). (Contact the States Attorney General for a ruling of the process for nominating the Director, to see if it was followed by SD Codified Law and ask for a written procedure for this position of Directorship).

A motion was made by Don Loudner to approve the March 17 & 18, 2008 minutes. 2nd by Bill Locken. Motion passed with all voting in favor (Locken, Hubbard, Loudner, Evenson, Murphy, Birnbaum).

Commissioner Evenson made a motion to approve the June 26, 2008 minutes.

Commissioner Murphy posed a question about the names stated on page 4 of paragraph 3. Commissioner Murphy stated these names were never said in the meeting. He also stated that there could be possible consequences for Mr. Kolden, at his place of work, with his supervisor, if this were said aloud. He does not believe that Mr. Kolden said this and he would like to know why these names are in the minutes.

Chairman Birnbaum requested Commissioner Locken call Mr. Kolden, visit with him about this matter, and get his statement.

At this time, Commissioner Evenson amended his motion to approve the June 26, 2008 minutes, striking the names stated on page 4, paragraph 3 (strike all words after the word "preference"). Motion 2nd by Bill Locken. All voting in favor (Locken, Evenson, Hubbard, Loudner, Murphy, Birnbaum); motion passed.

Minutes for the July 29, 2008 meeting held at the DAV Headquarters in Sioux Falls, were moved to be approved, by Commissioner Murphy. 2nd by Commissioner Loudner. Motion passed with all members voting in favor (Locken, Evenson, Hubbard, Loudner, Murphy, Birnbaum).

Break at 10:15AM, the meeting reconvened at 10:23AM.

George Summerside and Dave Wherry came forward to report on the Division activities. Mr. Summerside thanked Don Clarke for his years of service and wished him well. Mr. Summerside, Pierre Division office, reported the following:

- C/TVSO school was very well received
 - Advanced training
- New awards program included WWII Veterans and C/TVSO awards given

- Working on updating state forms
- Teamwork very vital in serving the Veterans
- Paul Gremse is the new west river field officer
- An increase in the Headstone Setting Fee is being looked at (currently \$40.00 with an increase to \$100.00)

Dave Wherry, Sioux Falls Regional Office, thanked Mr. Clarke for his years on the Commission and reported the following:

- On going battle of losing a VSO to the VA each year
- Training – network training at C/TVSO school
- Claims office has processed 1100 claims at \$62 million

Commissioner Murphy inquired about TRIP Training. Mr. Summerside thought 27 C/TVSO's had gone through this training. Commissioner Murphy also asked if a proposal from our Division is needed to raise the Headstone Setting Fee and asked about other concerns the Division is looking at for going to Legislature.

Mr. Gerlach explained the process for forwarding concerns to the Governor and Legislation, stating an update can be provided to the Commission once the process is in motion.

Commissioner Murphy asked if a report could be provided to the Commission on the C/TVSO meetings and he would like a report from the job fair that was held in Rapid City. This report was to be provided by Todd Kolden and he asked that someone try to get it for the next commission meeting. Shane Olivier (SAA) is a new member of the Division that Commissioner Murphy requested be at the next meeting to be introduced. He also asked Mr. Wherry how many in his office have been there over a year or less. Mr. Wherry said there were four VSO's, two of them have been there over one year.

Commissioner Loudner would like figures on the Emergency Loan Program included in future reports. Commissioner Evenson inquired about the C/TVSO salary increase of 25%; how is this being justified? Mr. Summerside commented with the research done to date, there are 14 that are not in the program, 14-16 are borderline. He would not like to see reverting to lower pay. Mr. Summerside tries to show some of this data in his monthly reports and he wants to assure C/TVSO's and Commission members, his purpose for visiting each C/TVSO is to form a partnership. Commissioner Evenson asked if the counties were being contacted to let them know what kind of a job the C/TVSO is doing. Mr. Summerside thought 12 letters have gone out to the County Commissioners. Mr. Wherry was asked about the new computers bought for his office and where the money came from. Mr. Summerside said the offices work closely with Mr. Regynski to determine the budget; these computers were purchased with capitol assets. Commissioner Evenson would like a report available from Mr. Regynski at the next meeting.

Commissioner Hubbard suggested goals be setup, formalize who is accountable. Mission statement contains five items; look at how these goals are to be met and consider a business plan.

Commissioner Locken would like to see the monthly activity reports clarified as to what constitutes what a contact. He thanked Mr. Summerside for staying focused during this time and for his leadership. He also thanked Mr. Wherry for his leadership.

Lynn Carpenter, Service Center Manager, reported the following:

- Retirement of Mr. Smith, Director, as of October 1, 2008.
- Veteran Service Center and Vocational Rehabilitation divisions at full strength.
- Original pension claims will be processed by the St. Paul Pension Management Center, currently 1/3 of the nations claims are processed at the center.
- Online initial applications are now accepted without the additional requirement to submit a signed paper copy of the application.
- New regulations for presumption of service connection of ALS has been established.
- New criteria for TBI evaluation.
- Do not foresee sudden increase with incoming claims, average 325 incoming each month.

Commissioner Murphy asked what the timeline would be in regards to hiring a new director and would the hire be internal. Commissioner Loudner asked how the union would be worked into the hiring process.

Dr. Petzel, VA Midwest Health Care Network, came forward and presented the following information.

- OEF/OIF recruited 34 new employees, additional 24 case managers, 3 transition patient advocates, and 7 program assistants.
- Proud of South Dakota for getting Medical Staff and others to attend Guard meetings/weekends as outreach to educate our troops.
- 837,000 troops active duty (national figures).
 - 50% of these active duty
 - 50% are reserve or National Guard
 - 39% or 324, 000 obtained VA care
 - 96% are outpatient care
 - 4% have been hospitalized in VA care
 - 17% intensive care
- Minneapolis VAMC operates one of four Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers.
- Network funding and staffing for 2008 fiscal year very good.
- VA is encouraging replacement of cards to protect veterans from potential identity theft.

- VA employees, led by Paul Bockelman, returned from San Antonio, TX where they worked in shelters helping hurricane victims.
- 3 Veterans Rural Health Centers opened to better understand rural health issues.
- Mental health services steadily increased since 2005.
 - Expansion of mental health services in all CBOCs.
 - Staffing in mental health increased 175 positions.
 - Patients treated in mental health increased by 6.5%.
 - PTSD and SUD psychologist funded in late FY08.
 - Funding based on number of patients served.
- VISN 23 completed a nationally requested review of PTSD patients and medications used
- VISN has full-time Suicide Prevent Coordinators at each Medial Center.
- VA has responded to the growing number of women veterans.
- Research on Expressive Writing and the Impact of Spirituality of Trauma Recovery currently being conducted.

Commissioner Loudner inquired to the number of female Veterans with mental health issues. Dr. Petzel said there are 1700 male and female Veterans with these issues - 96% are male Veterans and 4% are female Veterans.

Commissioner Murphy inquired about the number of TBI's. About 143 troops have sought Polytrauma Center care.

Are we doing any type of mandatory evaluations on our returning troops, was a question posed by Commissioner Evenson. Regulation is for all troops to be screened. Dr. Petzel also commented these regulations vary around the country and is not sure what the Department of Defense has for regulations on this issue. Returning troops are covered by the VA and National Guard is covered by Tri-care or VA. Commissioner Evenson then asked about troops with PTSD returning to active duty. The group was informed there is a full-time VA Employee in the Aberdeen area. The National Guard put him on orders to evaluate all troops. Depending on evaluation, some will return to active duty, others will not. We have to remember these records are private and to reach out to an individual without their consent makes it difficult.

Chairman Birnbaum asked about the number or percentage of Iraqi Freedom troops, considered to be part of the VA workload. Dr. Petzel answered about 6% with better work on outreach as a goal.

Dr. Petzel informed the Commission, nation wide, 11% of Iraqi Freedom Veterans are women, 15% are active duty, and 17% are National Guard. Minneapolis provides on going treatment for sexual trauma that is taking place.

The FY2009 agreement passed adds millions to the budget, these monies are "ear marked" monies. Funding is provided for the following:

- Enrollment of Priority 8 Veterans.
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse.
- Free-Bases Services.
- Rural Health Initiative.
- Patient Travel Reimbursements.
- Assistance for Homeless Veterans.
- New Generation Prosthetics.
- Enables the Department to hire roughly 2,000 additional claims processors.

Dr. Petzel would like to see more flexibility and less fencing with these funds. Commissioner Locken asked about the travel for Veterans. He feels it is getting difficult for Veterans in the Rapid City area to fly to Minneapolis when needed for VA care. Dr. Petzel asked for names and he would check into this matter. Commissioner Locken also inquired to the number of South Dakota Veterans and what is being done to contact them. Dr. Petzel said South Dakota is doing a great job reaching out to its 4338 Veterans. The Division sends a letter and Welcome Home booklet to each returning troop.

Commissioner Loudner inquired to the status of the CBOC's in South Dakota. Watertown and Wagner are scheduled to open soon and all areas are being looked at to see where the need is for these clinics, was Dr. Petzel's reply. He also stated all CBOC's would have mental health services.

Commissioner Murphy commented TBI screening is a concern although indications show troops are being reached. He would like some statistics on this issue in the future and inquired to hotline numbers at the CBOC facilities.

Dr. Petzel was thanked for his time and report.

Lunch break 12:00 noon.

Meeting reconvened at 1:02 PM.

Larry Geotte, C/TVSO President, came forward and presented the following points of interest:

- Annual Training was a great success.
- Would like to see the organization recognized on various issues of concern.
 - Pay
 - Training
 - Revamping of C/TVSO Organization
- Lack of communication within.
- C/TVSO's conduct many home interviews.
- Kenneth Lindblad continues to distribute newsletter.
- It is important for C/TVSO's to make contact and have a good rapport with VA centers and other organizations in the Veteran community.

- Some C/TVSO's would like to have DD214's provided to them.
- Most C/TVSO's would like to move on with the issue of Directorship – many members had not seen the previous letter sent by executive committee.

Commissioner Evenson congratulated Mr. Geotte on being elected President.

Commissioner Locken inquired if it would be possible to acquire extra computers from state BIT to give to C/TVSO's, or what other options are there to accomplish each C/TVSO having their own computer.

Delbert Foster suggested looking to corporations, they sometimes give the hardware, but you provide the programs. Joel Niemeyer was a name also given to contact for helping with this issue.

Chairman Birnbaum commented the overall responsibility of all parties is to serve the Veterans and in order to accomplish the service to the best of our ability is for all parties involved to work on communication.

At this time, Commissioner Loudner reported on the National Cemetery. He gave the following comments:

- National Committee to meet in November.
- Requested law showing ratio of Veterans to square miles.
- VA regulations are not law, they are policy.
- Federal needs to look at cost to states and take care of the costs.
- Looking at legislative bill for east river cemetery.

Jerry Lolley, Meade CVSO, asked "how deep in the pile" is the BLM land next to the Black Hills National Cemetery. Commissioner Loudner said he requested this information at the last meeting he attended.

Commissioner Murphy moved the Division staff compose a letter to the VA Committee for the Chairman's signature in support to change guidelines for rural cemeteries. 2nd by Commissioner Evenson.

Commissioner Evenson feels this issue needs to be pursued; administrative rules can be changed, to acquire a cemetery in eastern South Dakota.

Chairman Birnbaum suggested an individual be assigned to this and work with it until it is complete.

Larry Person reminded the Commission the process has been outlined to the Commission at previous meetings. Andy Gerlach, Department Secretary, said the correct process would be for him to take this issue to the Governor, get his input, and take forward as needed. This issue could require a resolution. All

Commission members are in favor of Mr. Gerlach taking a resolution forward to the Governor.

The various Veterans Organizations gave the following comments:

American Legion – Commander Hulls

- Asst. Adj. Dennis Brendon will take position effective November 1.
- Attended National convention.
- SD Veterans Council Survey results available – cemetery issue is in survey.
- The American Legion can and will be of help when needed.

DAV – Department Commander Bob Hill

- Fall Conference to be held at Al's Oasis
- DAV and Auxiliary 14th District Fall Conference to be held October 24-25, 2008 in Fargo, ND.
- DAV part of the Honor Flight of South Dakota
- Military Appreciation Night – November 13th in Rapid City.
- Membership is at 99.70%, first in National Division IV
- DAV part of the South Dakota State Candidates Survey.
- 87th DAV National Convention was held in Las Vegas, NV
- DAV has 4 vans for sale.
- Congressional Representatives all signed the Congressional Pledge to Stand Up for Veterans.

Commissioner Murphy mentioned the new vans would be ordered in November and scheduled to arrive in May. All donations are welcome.

PVA – Delbert Foster

- Legislature dealing with housing regulations for Veterans.
- Pheasant hunts scheduled – 1 in October, 3 in November.
- December will be the month for giving gifts to the area VA and LaVern, MN nursing home.

VFW – Rick Barg

- State Convention was held in Rapid City in June.
- District Meetings will be held throughout the state in October.
- The VFW is just under 13,000 members.
- Sent Sioux Falls staff members to the National VFW Training.
- National Grant received for purchase of various books, guides, and manuals. Total grant money - \$3366.00.
- Working with National Military Service Program.
- Donated to Women's Conference.
- Annual Pheasant hunt to take place in Faulkton, SD.
- Working with other organizations on Honor Flight of South Dakota.
- VFW also concerned on the east river cemetery issue.

Mr. Gerlach commented on the home/long term care issue. He stated, Social Services just finished a study on this subject and the same person is doing our study. This person is familiar with specifics giving them an advantage to provide a report that is accurate and detailed. The study will be discussed within the next month. A possible initiative could come out of this, but cannot predict a timeline.

Commission Locken thanked Mr. Barg for all who attended the VFW School and for providing manuals.

National American Indian Veterans, Inc. – Don Loudner

- Codetalker Bill passed – 1.1 million dollars in medals.
- Congress would like tribes to pay for \$700,000 of medal cost.
- There are 300 Codetalkers.
- National Conference will be in Riverside, CA in late January.
- Organization helping inform other states on how to acquire DAV vans.

Elections of officers was the next agenda item. Bill Locken was nominated as Chair by Commissioner Murphy. 2nd by Commissioner Loudner. 5 members voted in favor (Evenson, Hubbard, Murphy, Loudner, Birnbaum); 1 abstention (Locken).

Commissioner Loudner nominated Gene Murphy for vice-chair, 2nd by Paul Evenson, 5 voted in favor (Locken, Evenson, Hubbard, Loudner, Birnbaum); 1 abstention (Murphy).

Future meetings were discussed and the following tentative dates were set:

- January – Pierre
- April – Hot Springs
- July – Wagner
- October – Sioux Falls

Larry Wilcox, SD Veterans Home, thanked the Commission and attending organizations, then provided the following information:

- Veterans from the home will attend the Pheasant Hunt in Gettysburg, the following day they will fish with the guidance of Larry Price.
- Steve Oliva is scheduled next week to train Mr. Sowder (VA Home staff) and JR Steele (CVSO). Mr. Sowder will also go to Sioux Falls for training in the Division Region office.
- Life Safety projects to be completed by October 2009.
- National Guard constructed two new parking lots this past summer.
- New elevator upgrade to cost \$70,000.
- New heat exchange tank to cost \$350,000.
- Electrical upgrade needed for boiler plant - \$450,000.
- Long term funding needs to be authorized by state before spending.
- Vets home study to be completed by mid October 2008.

Mr. Wilcox assured the Commission the person doing the study would separate Social Service needs from the State Vets Home needs. Doing the study for Social Services gives her insight to the home's issues because she is already familiar with the differences.

Commissioner Murphy asked Mr. Wilcox if he had composed a letter to date, if not he would like to proceed with this in a different manner. He also commented Lake Preston Nursing Home was closed leaving many beds open for Veterans nursing care in eastern South Dakota and said there is a limit of 155 beds funded by the VA – 65% of this is grant money, he would like to see laws changed.

Commissioner Evenson feels the total picture needs to be looked at; review the limit of 155 beds.

Mr. Gerlach commented individuals are staying in their homes longer, or reside in assisted living homes. Possibilities are to take over homes such as Lake Preston or to build nursing homes. Commissioner Evenson feels places like the State Veterans Home are more flexible for residents than a nursing home.

Afternoon break was taken at 2:40 PM reconvening at 2:55 PM.

Paul Bockelman – Director Sioux Falls VA reported to the Commission the following points:

- New hires
 - Asst. Director, Sara Ackert.
 - Patient Advocate, Beth Dellman
- Extended Care working through local outreach programs.
- Mental Health – 5 new psychologists hired.
 - Needs are growing in this area.
 - Suicide prevention – contact Janelle for information.
 - Partnership with IHS to reach Veterans through face to face, video conference and group sessions.
- Veterans Staff at 40%.
- Budget reflects 16.1 million collected from primary insurance companies – 15% of budget.
- Needed equipment purchased.
- Goals for seeing patients is being met.
- CBOC in Watertown pending legal negotiations.
- Wagner CBOC to co-locate with IHS.

- Transitional Care renamed to Community Living Center.
 - 58 beds in South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota.
 - Currently 46 are being used.
- 6 patients enrolled in new programs.
- Working to reach the needs of American Indian Veterans.

- Focusing on mental health.
- Projects
 - Installing lifts in rooms.
 - Purchase of a new MRI.
- Outreach efforts made to attend events to enroll troops and answer questions.
- Volunteers went to hurricane costal area to help victims.
- Workload
 - Growth not seen – new Veterans enrolling, older Veterans dying.
 - New Veterans not enrolling.
 - Decline in Veterans using VA Medical Centers.

Commissioner Locken asked about the budget and project growth and will the Wagner CBOC be IHS providers. Mr. Bockelman said the growth cost is made up with reserves at VISN and a contract with the tribe is underway concerning utilities, parking lot, etc.

Commissioner Murphy would like a spreadsheet on collections and asked are you being penalized for collecting monies from primary insurance. Currently there are measures in place for the VA to collect these monies from the insurance companies, was Mr. Bockelman's comment. Commissioner Murphy then requested Veterans' hiring figures be provided and inquired if any Iraqi Veterans are direct hired and what the Category 8 projections are.

The following statistics were then given:

- TBI Screening
 - 1400 Veterans screened to date.
 - 240 forwarded.
 - 200 came forward.
 - 2-4 have been referred to Minnesota.

Commissioner Loudner feels the American Indian is not getting hired and inquired to whether positions are being filled out of house or in house. Mr. Bockelman clarified, certain positions can only be filled by Veterans. Outreach is being done in the application and skills area. He also stated the Secretary has the authority to authorize Category 8 and this will be done progressively.

Amy Bilka-Skillbred, Senator Johnson's Office and Ben Ready, Senator Thune's Office came forward to report. Ms. Bilka-Skillbred reported the following:

- VA FY09 Appropriations Bill Highlights
 - Total bill 72.865 billion in discretionary funding.
 - Bill funding is 3.52 billion above the President's budget request.
 - 2.84 billion of the increase is for D of VA and will go towards Veterans' health care and research.
 - 41 billion is for the Veterans Health Administration for medical care and research.

- Title I – Military Construction
 - Bill provides a total of 25.05 billion for military construction.
 - 10.8 billion for active duty military construction.
 - 1.35 billion for Guard and reserve military construction.
 - 8.765 billion for BRAC 2005.
- Title II – Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Bill provides 47.6 billion in discretionary funding for the VA.
 - 250 million for the Secretary to launch a major new rural health initiative.
 - 375 million for the VA to increase the income eligibility threshold for Priority 8 Veterans.
 - 133 million to increase the mileage reimbursement rate.
 - Additional 116 million for the VA's prosthetic program.
 - Restores the 38 million cut to research proposed in areas such as PTSD, TBI, suicide prevent and polytrauma.
 - Additional 754 million to address backlog of construction needs and an additional 368 million to address maintenance deficiencies at VA hospitals and clinics.
 - 94 million in new claims processor hires.
 - 746 million above the President's budget for cost associated with the post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008.

Ben Ready, Senator Thune's Officer commented the following:

- Senate passed the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill.
- The Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008 was passed.
- Senator Thune is an original cosponsor of S. 3527, Veterans Health Care Budget Reform Act.
- Senator Thune is cosponsor of S. 2639, Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act.
- Some bills may not be passed and may have to be re-introduced next session.
- COLA must be approved.
- The National Defense Act authorizes expansion of PTSD and TBI to troops.
- Codetalkers Bill passed.
- Standup for Veterans Pledge to Gene.

Commissioner Loudner is not in favor of the tribes having to contribute to the Codetalker Bill. \$700,000 is what the tribes would have to contribute. There are about 300 names on the list being studied.

Mr. Ready asked about the difference in meetings held west river and east river. He wanted to make sure he was not overlooking meetings he should be attending. He was told he was not overlooking anything.

Unfinished business was discussed. It was thought maybe the Commission meetings should be recorded along with notes taken.

All were invited to attend tours on Wednesday morning starting at 9:00 AM.

It was mentioned Casey Russell is heading the Korean and Viet Nam event.

Commissioner Locken asked who is responsible for the follow up concerning the "List of Items".

Commissioner Murphy provided a list other than the list included in the Commission book to be followed up on.

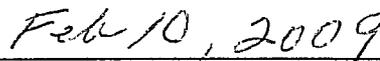
Mr. Gerlach will attend the next meeting, schedule permitting, to advise the Commission on the process of closing listed task items.

Commissioner Murphy moved to recommend, by letter, to thank the three Washington delegates for the job they have done, under signature of the Chairman. 2nd by Commissioner Locken, all voted in favor (Locken, Evenson, Hubbard, Murphy, Loudner, Birnbaum), motion passed.

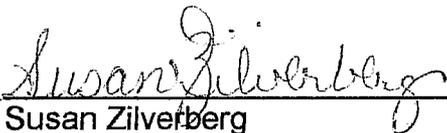
Meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.



Mike Birnbaum
Chairman



Date



Susan Zilverberg
Recording Secretary