

**Report to  
Government Services Committee  
October 27, 2010**

**Lonnie Wangen  
Commissioner  
North Dakota  
Department of Veterans Affairs**



## Accreditations

In accordance with NDCC 37-18 as directed by Section 1 of HB 1057 of the **Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota** "By August 1, 2011 all county veterans' service officers must be accredited by the national association of county veterans' service officers" (See Attachment 1 pages 7 & 8)

- Accreditation training by National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) was provided April 19-23, 2010 in Bismarck ND
  - **56** Students
    - 38 County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO)
    - 5 Assistant CVSO's
    - 5 ND Department of Veterans Affairs
    - 4 Tribal Veteran Service Officers
    - 4 Out of state CVSO's
  - **5** CVSO not in attendance and not previously accredited with NACVSO
    - Billings County-Roy Basaraba
      - Did not attend Fall 2010 CVSO training.
      - Has not attended NACVSO accreditation training
      - Has been informed of requirement
        - No response
    - Eddy County-Alan Knatterud
      - Did not attend Fall 2010 CVSO training
      - Has not attended NACVSO accreditation training
      - Has been informed of requirement
        - No response
    - Mercer County-Gerald Beck
      - **Retired**
      - New CVSO has been hired
        - Started October of 2010
    - Slope County-Ernie Holzemer
      - Has not attended NACVSO accreditation training
      - Did attend Fall 2010 CVSO training
      - Wants to attend NACVSO accreditation training
    - Williams County-Bob Evans
      - **Retired**
      - New CVSO being hired



- NACVSO accreditation training available
  - 2010 ○ June 7-11 in Bloomington MN *-not here*
  - 2011 ○ June 4-11 in Biloxi MS

*\* Above detailed information provided in August 17, 2010 packet*

Current CVSO accreditations (See attachment 2 Page 9-13)

- \* • NACVSO
  - 24 CVSO Accredited
  - 5 Pending
  - 20 Not applied through ND-DVA
  - Must be a member to be accredited
- American Legion
  - 36 CVSO Accredited
  - 1 Pending
  - 12 Not applied through ND-DVA
- AMVETS
  - 19 CVSO accredited
  - 4 Pending
  - 26 Not applied through ND-DVA
  - Must be a member to be accredited
- DAV
  - 6 CVSO accredited
  - 16 Pending
  - 27 Not applied through ND-DVA
    - Note: must have NACVSO accreditation letter to apply for accreditation. Must work min. 1000 hrs year.
- ND Department of Veterans Affairs
  - Has accredited training
  - 3 CVSO accredited
    - Only offered to 3 CVSO's
      - Initial accreditation testing
- VFW
  - 29 CVSO accredited
  - 5 Pending
  - 15 Not applied through ND-DVA



**Funds appropriated for NACVSO accreditation**

As appropriated by Section 5 of HB 1057 of the **Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota** "There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$20,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of veterans' affairs for the purpose of arranging for department of veterans' affairs accreditation training for all county veterans' service officers in the state, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2011." (See attachment 1 page 8)

Appropriation:	\$20,000.00
Cost	<u>\$14,001.68</u>
Balance	\$ 5,998.32

■ Accreditation Contract costs

■ Contract fee	\$500
■ Travel & per diem	\$7,880.82
■ Office Supplies	\$1,782.74
■ Postage	\$292.55
■ Printing	\$2,307.25
■ Equipment lease	\$1,117.51
■ Misc. supplies	\$25.66
■ Total	<u>\$14,001.68</u>

\*Ongoing cost for postage as ND-DVA sends out accreditation packet applications

\* Cost to stay accredited:

- CVSO must pay \$30 annual dues.
- Must obtain 16 Continued Education Units (CEU)per year (provided by ND-DVA).
- NACVSO does not provide CEU contract training.



\*To obtain accreditation with NACVSO

*new CVSO would have to*

Attend CVSO annual Conference

- Next conference Biloxi MS June 4-11 2011
- Pay \$350-\$400 registration fee
  - member state - MD is a member state*
- Become member \$30
- Pay Travel
  - \$825.49
    - Flight \$446 (Delta out of Fargo)
    - Baggage \$110 (2 bags=\$55 each way-Delta rate)
    - Car rental \$269.49 (midsize for week with tax-Enterprise)
- Pay Hotel
  - \$835.03
    - 7 nights
    - \$106.99 per night plus 11.5% tax and fees= \$119.29
    - Must stay for graduation on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>.
      - Could fly out that night to save \$
- Pay Per diem
  - \$357
    - 7 Days
    - \$51 per day per 2011 DOD Per Diem rates in Biloxi

**\*\*Total: \$2,447.52**

**\*\*Costs based on NACVSO hotel group rate and travel rates researched on October 26, 2010.**

**\*\*Does not include CVSO's salary.**



X **Site Visit Summary**

46 of 53 counties completed

- 207 Recommendations made *including*
  - Locking file cabinets
  - Acceptable Public office space
  - Handicap accessible
  - Outreach
  - Computers
  - Web access and training
  - Evaluations be conducted
- 135 Recommendations have been corrected
  - 14 counties added locking file cabinets
  - 6 CVSO's moved to public office space
  - 10 new computers
  - Additional staff added
  - More hours for CVSO approved
  - More funding approved
  - Many items in budget for 2011
- Pending corrections
  - 35 no evaluations
  - 7 need new updated computers - *DVA recommends don't go over 4 yrs old*
  - Most waiting on next years budget

**The County Commissioners and Auditors have been extremely supportive of the site visit recommendations and their County Veteran Service Officers.**

*\* Above detailed information provided in previous packets.*



# **Attachment 1**

## **Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1057  
(Legislative Council)  
(Public Safety Committee)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 37-18 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to department of veterans' affairs employees; to amend and reenact section 37-14-18 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to county veterans' service officers; to provide for reports to the legislative council; and to provide an appropriation.

### **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-14-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**37-14-18. County veterans' service officer - Appointment - Duties.** The board of county commissioners of each county of the state of North Dakota shall appoint, employ, and pay, on a full-time or part-time basis, an officer to be known as a county veterans' service officer. The veterans'affairs commissioner may work directly with county veterans' service officers. An individual may serve as a county veterans' service officer in more than one county. The appointment must be made with the prior advice of the commissioner of veterans' affairs, and in accordance with veterans' preference as provided in section 37-19.1-02. By August 1, 2011, all county veterans' service officers must be accredited by the national association of county veterans' service officers. It is the duty of the county veterans' service officer to become acquainted with the laws, both state and federal, enacted for the benefit of returning servicemen and servicewomen to assist such returning members of the armed forces in the presentation, proof, and establishment of such claims, privileges, and rights as they have. It also is the duty of the county veterans' service officer to actively cooperate with and to coordinate the activities of the state and federal agencies within the county which the officer serves to facilitate their operation and ensure promptness in the solution of the problems concerned with the establishment of returning servicemen and servicewomen in civilian pursuits. A county veterans' service officer may not serve as a conservator for an individual who is receiving benefits or services from the department of veterans' affairs or the United States department of veterans' affairs, except if the individual is the spouse or an immediate family member of the officer, or unless the conservator is appointed by the county under chapter 11-21.

**SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 37-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Department of veterans' affairs employees - Conservatorship activities prohibited.** An employee of the department of veterans' affairs may not serve as a conservator for an individual who is receiving benefits or services from the department, except if the individual is the spouse or an immediate family member of the employee.

**SECTION 3. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS - TRAINING POSITIONS.** The commissioner of veterans' affairs may use up to two of the department of veterans' affairs' existing



full-time equivalent positions as training officers for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2011.

**SECTION 4. REPORTS TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.** By December 1, 2009, the commissioner of veterans' affairs shall provide to the legislative council a report regarding the number of county veterans' service officers accredited in accordance with the requirements of section 1 of this Act, the agency or organization through which each officer has been accredited, and an accountability report with respect to the use of the funds granted under section 5 of this Act for the training program

H. B. No. 1057 - Page 2

offered through the department of veterans' affairs to county veterans' service officers. The commissioner shall present followup reports to the legislative council by July 1, 2010, and December 1, 2010. By December 1, 2010, the board of county commissioners of each county shall report to the legislative council the status of the county's compliance with section 1 of this Act.

**SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$20,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of veterans' affairs for the purpose of arranging for department of veterans' affairs accreditation training for all county veterans' service officers in the state, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2011.



# Attachment 2

## Accreditation

Last Name	First Name	C V S O	County	A. Legion	AMVETS	D.A.V.	M.O.P.H.	NACVSO	NDDVA	TREA	V.F.W.	V.V.A.
Allen	William	√	Renville	working on T.R.I.P. Certification								
Anderson	David	√	Burke	√	No	<i>pending</i>	<i>pending</i>	√		√	√	√
Ashe	Leslie	√	Traill	√		√		√			√	
Basaraba	Roy	√	Billings	√								
Bear	Jim		3 Affl. Tribes									
Beck	Gerald	√	Mercer	√							√	
Berg	Ronald	√	Pembina	√				<i>pending</i>		√	√	√
Berglund	Chris		Burleigh									
Bergsrud	Brenda		ND-DVA	\				<i>pending</i>				
Boucher	Gordon	√	Rolette	√								
Braun	Dale	√	Ward	√	√	√		√			√	
Braun	Janice		Morton					√				
Clown	Wenelle		Standing Rock	√	No			√		√	√	√
Crowsheart	Thomas Sr.		Fort Berthold									
Daeley	David	√	Benson	√	√	<i>pending</i>	<i>pending</i>	√		√	√	√



## Accreditation



Department of Veterans Affairs Report

**Accreditation**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>C V S O</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>A. Legion</b>	<b>AMVETS</b>	<b>D.A.V.</b>	<b>M.O.P.H.</b>	<b>NACVSO</b>	<b>NDDVA</b>	<b>TREA</b>	<b>V.F.W.</b>	<b>V.V.A.</b>
Hoynes	Francis	√	McHenry	√	not interested in receiving additional accreditations - retiring in 2 years							
Johnson	Dean	√	Wells	√								
Johnson	Michial	√	LaMoure									
Keaveny	Peter "Leo"	√	McIntosh	√								
Knatterud	Alan	√	Eddy	√								
Kubischta	Dennis	√	Griggs/Steele	√	√	pending	pending	√		√	√	√
Landis	Mark	√	Burleigh	√	√	√		√			√	
Lapica	Lisa		Mountrail									
Lende	Chanelle		Cass	√		√	pending	√			√	
McKinnon	Thomas	√	Ransom/Sargent	√	√	pending	pending	√		√	√	√
Morris	Rita		Stutsman									
Nahinurk	Dwight	√	Bottineau	√	No	No	No	No		√	√	√
Nelson	Richard	√	Walsh	√				pending		pending	pending	pending
Ohlhauser	Jeffrey	√	Emmons	√	No			√		√	√	√
Otto	Ronald	√	Morton/Oliver		√	√		√			√	
Paulus	James	√	Sheridan	√	√	pending	pending	√		√	√	√



### Accreditation

Last Name	First Name	C V S O	County	A. Legion	AMVETS	D.A.V.	M.O.P.H.	NACVSO	NDDVA	TREA	V.FW.	V.V.A.
Peschel	William	√	Richland	√	pending			pending		pending	pending	pending
Potter	Marlys		Cass	√							√	
RedTomahawk	Waylon	√	Spirit Lake N.									
Robinett	Kayla		Ward									
Ross	Leslie	√	Stark/Dunn	√	√	pending	pending	√		√	√	√
Sadowsky	Patricia	√	Bowman	√	√	pending	pending	√		√	√	√
Samuelson	Jerry	√	McKenzie	√	No	No	No	No		√	√	√
Schreiner	Todd	√	McLean	√	√	pending	pending	√		√	√	√
Scott	Arnie	√	Adams								√	
Sumers	Thomas		ND-DVA	√	√		√	√	√			√
Swart	Corean	√	Foster		No	pending	pending	√		√	√	√
Swisher	Peggy		ND-DVA	√	No	pending	pending	√	√	√	√	√
Thomas	Alfred	√	Kidder	√	√			√		√	√	√
Tobin	Warren	√	Stutsman	√	√	√		√			√	



Department of Veterans Affairs Report

**Accreditation**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>CVSO</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>A. Legion</b>	<b>AMVETS</b>	<b>D.A.V.</b>	<b>M.O.P.H.</b>	<b>NACVSO</b>	<b>NDDVA</b>	<b>TREA</b>	<b>V.FW.</b>	<b>V.V.A.</b>
Twete	Stacy	√	Nelson	√	√	pending	pending	√		√	√	√
Vandrovec	Michael		Cass	√		√		√			√	
Verwey	James	√	Barnes	√	√	pending	pending	√	√	√	√	√
Wangen	Lonnie		ND-DVA	√				√	√			√
Westensee	Cathy		Grand Forks	√		√		√			√	
Wing	Gene	√	Mountrail	√	pending			pending		pending	pending	pending
Witkowski	Richard	√	Grant									
Zavala	Barbara	√	Grand Forks	√		√		√			√	
Zenker	Kay	√	Hettinger	√								

\*Williams County is in process of hiring a new CVSO.