

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018

RENAISSANCE ORLANDO SEAWORLD HOTEL, ORLANDO, FLORIDA

The Council of Administration met at the Renaissance Orlando SeaWorld Hotel, 6677 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, Florida on Sunday, June 24, 2018 with State Commander Daniel "Danny" Anderson opening the meeting according to the Ritual, including the Prayer led by State Chaplain Harry Seiler followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call of Officers: State Adjutant/Quartermaster Gene Perrino, all were present and accounted for.

State Commander Anderson recognized Past C-I-C John Hamilton and all Past Department Commanders.

National Council Member Dan Duffy touched briefly on the Crisis Management Line. Dan Duffy thanked everyone for their support over the past four years.

State Commander Anderson introduced the newly elected National Council Member Benny Bachand.

State Commander Anderson introduced National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence for a few brief comments. B.J. Lawrence addressed issues for the incoming year with going back to the grass roots. 365 days reporting on members is going away and a 12 month systems will be in-acted. Some changes may need to be by-law changes, but he will do everything he can to make it easier at the Post level. B.J. stated he is going back to the hard bound book for Commanders, Quartermasters and District Commanders. More incentives will be coming forward as well. There will also be incentives for the Department Quartermasters and if they can reach 92% by January 1st they will receive 30/30 level action rifle at no cost to national. Every State Commander through his year will be invited to the Commanders trip but there will be goals that need to be reached. B.J. also stated during his tenor, national will be holding a telethon with the national officers contacting the District Commanders to see what they are and can do to help their department's membership. There will also be awards for Posts and Districts. If you hit membership hard at the beginning of the term it will be a lot less stress at the end of the term. B.J. touched briefly on advertisement of the VFW. Membership (memstats) reporting system was also discussed. B.J. also stated in the last seven years over 600 VFW posts have been lost and only about fifty (50) new posts have been formed in that same time period. The VFW currently has 6400 active posts. National is starting a program for new post development which will help departments form new posts with national recruiter's assistance. More discussion took place.

State Commander Danny Anderson stated the national membership program can be found on the national website and his membership program can be found on the department website.

State Adjutant/Quartermaster Gene Perrino announced State Commander Danny Anderson's appointments as follows:

State Adjutant – Gene Perrino

State Chief of Staff – Mike Clinesmith

State Inspector – Don Bult

State Service Officer Director – Jason Smith

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A motion was made by State Adjutant/Quartermaster Gene Perrino to accept the State Commanders appointments as read, seconded by State Jr. Vice Commander Glen Tilley; motion passed.

State Adjutant/Quartermaster Gene Perrino made a motion to continue the District obligation of \$300.00 for the Departments Youth Program, motion seconded by State Sr. Vice Commander Tony Purdy; motion passed.

Motion made by State Adjutant/Quartermaster Gene Perrino to turn the vehicle over to Past Dept. Commander Ken Corr. Requirements were met according to the contract signed at the June 2017 Convention, motion seconded by State Jr. Vice Commander Glen Tilley; motion passed.

State Commander Danny Anderson signed the 2018-2019 vehicle contract and was presented the keys to his new vehicle by State Adjutant/Quartermaster Gene Perrino.

Motion made by State Adjutant/Quartermaster Gene Perrino to hold the \$10,000 Raffle during the 2018-2019 term with the winner being drawn at the 2019 State Convention, raffle will benefit the VFW Veterans Service Office, motion seconded by State Judge Advocate Dan Duffy; motion passed.

The VFW Rays Days Game will be held on August 26th against the Boston Red Sox's. State Adjutant/Quartermaster Gene Perrino suggested if you don't want to go or can't go to the Rays Game buy the tickets anyways and donate them to a Scout Troop which creates programs under Youth and Community for the Posts.

Gene also stated the Post & District Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year reports are to be sent to the State Chairman. This is a paper report and needs to be completed and sent to the Chairman and is not the same report on the department website under program reporting. Both must be completed in order for the post to receive the credit. The District School of Instruction report is to be completed by the District Commander and sent to Department Headquarters also on the department website under district forms. A copy of the district meeting minutes are to be submitted to Department as well.

State Commander Anderson stated the national membership director will be in attendance at the Department School of Instruction in August and has a wealth of knowledge to present.

State Budget & Finance Chairman Report: Dan Duffy presented the 2018-2019 budget summary numbers. Motion made by Dan Duffy; seconded by State Inspector Don Bult to accept the budget as read; motion passed.

State Membership Directors Report: Kurt Schuh thanked everyone for the work they do. Kurt touched briefly on the membership program for the 2018-2019 term. Kurt recommended starting early in the term instead of waiting until the last quarter to get to work. Kurt requested a monthly report from the District Commanders though-out the term. Kurt set the goal of above 90% in membership by Christmas.

State Inspector Report: Don Bult thanked State Commander Anderson for the appointment. Don stated as leaders they must communicate better with the Posts in their district and with those individuals that need the extra help.

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State Inspector Report Continued:

Post Inspections will begin December 1st and end February 28th, all corrections need to be completed by March 31st. The inspection forms will be posted on the website after the Department School of Instruction. New Post Quartermasters can get on the national OMS after July 1st when national completes their update on the system.

State Commander Danny Anderson discussed the department emails system for the District Commanders; which is to be used for VFW business only between the department and district commanders, do not give your password to anyone else; it is for your use only. The Post has their own emails and the district commanders were asked to send an email to each of their posts requesting a response. If no response is sent back contact that post about accessing their email accounts. That is the main form of communication through-out the department and vital information is being sent out on a regular basis.

Kurt Schuh touched base on information in regards to the VFW Veterans Village discussed at the Thursday Council meeting and by talking with Pam Lotman, Assistant Director at Veterans Village. Kurt Schuh made a motion the VFW Veterans Village must provide monthly financial statements including profit and loss statements, line accountability; detailed expenses to include operating expense to the Department of Florida Council of Administration through the State Adjutant/Quartermaster; additionally the VFW Veterans Village must provide detailed expense reporting to the Council of Administration for all income and expenses or change orders related to all major construction project to include the roof replacement to the Veterans Village. Furthermore the Veterans Village Director will report to the Council of Administration through the State Adjutant/Quartermaster. Motion was seconded, much discussion took place; motion passed.

State Adjutant/Quartermaster Gene Perrino stated when he sends out an email to the District Commanders please answer it by email not by text. The passwords are able to be change and the password is not to be given to anyone. Gene also stated you are responsible for making your own hotel reservations. All department upcoming events are on the department website under announcements (in the light blue section at the top of the page), which is updated on a regular basis.

The following announcements were as follows:

National Convention: July 21-25~ Kansas City, MO

Flying Squadron (Council Only) Saturday night, August 11th and Sunday morning, Florida Hotel, Orlando

Leadership School for new Post Commander: Fri., Aug. 10th and Sat., Aug. 11th, Florida Hotel, Orlando

VFW School of Instruction/Service Officer School of Instruction: Sat., Aug. 11th, Florida Hotel, Orlando

Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming: Sept. 20-23, 2018, Albuquerque, NM

Southern Conference: October 18-21, 2018, Louisville, KY

Fall Conference: October 25-28, 2018 ~ Florida Hotel, Orlando

Mid-Winter Conference: Jan. 31 – Feb. 3, 2019, Westgate Lakes Resort, Orlando

When the VFW starts a new post the VFW Auxiliary rules are they must wait until the Post has its charter which takes ninety (90) days and the Auxiliary will wait six (6) months after the Post receives its charter before considering an auxiliary in that post.

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Gene also stated District Commanders are to make sure their posts are staying out of VFW Auxiliary business. Any problem with the auxiliary contact the District Commander and they will contact department. The Auxiliary is only required to give one (1) financial report and the total of their membership at the beginning of the term. **Example:** We have 137 members and I have \$5,018.00 in my bank account.

Comments from the Council were taken at this time.

There being no further business meeting was closed.