

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING FRIDAY OCTOBER 26, 2018

FLORIDA HOTEL, ORLANDO, FLORIDA

The Council of Administration met at the Florida Hotel, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida on Friday, October 26, 2018 with State Commander Danny Anderson opening the meeting to the Ritual including the Prayer led by state Chaplain Harry Seiler followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: State Adjutant/Quartermaster Gene Perrino conducted the roll call of officers; all officers were present or represented.

State Commander Danny Anderson touched briefly on the devastation that hurricane Michael had on the Florida Panhandle and the VFW posts there. He strongly suggested to the District Commanders to go back and review their policies to be sure they have the proper coverage for such devastation.

State Commander Danny Anderson recognized all Past State Commanders and National Representative Past Commander- in-Chief Tommy Tradewell.

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE/PAST COMMANDER- IN-CHIEF TOMMY TRADEWELL REMARKS:

National Representative Tommy Tradewell recognized National Council Member Benny Bachand. Tommy spoke very highly about Sports Clips and all they do for veterans. In Florida last year, Sports Clips gave out 57 scholarships totaling \$236,000. The Military Assistance Program for 2017-2018 gave 8 map grants for a total of \$20,000. Tommy stated the Adopt a Unit has adopted 230 units but only 74 remain active. He encourages Posts that have a unit to reach out and reconnect with them. Unmet Needs received over \$500,000 last year for the 371 veterans in Florida, and over 2 million nationwide was given to 3,848 vets. Tommy also spoke about the Websites solution program, and stated it is a good way to keep track of the good things that are going on in your post. Over \$876,000 in the past year has been sent to help with natural disasters. Burger King also gave over \$880,000 last year, and the 137 managers Tommy spoke with are excited about Veterans Day again this year to help raise more funds. Tommy also stated that over 9,000 Veterans were helped last year to total over 10 million dollars.

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER REMARKS: National Council Member Benny Bachand stated that it is interesting being able to sit in a National Council Meeting in Kansas City and also have a voice. He stated that they are working with a 93 million dollar budget. Benny also stated that National has recently combined their Disaster Relief fund, which should get money to the Departments quicker, and in turn to the posts. He also spoke about the inactive membership file.

He stated that 31,377 members have been put back on to the rolls of the VFW, and Florida received 1,661 members back. Benny then spoke about being able to view all the different financial reports. He stated that the total liability and equities of the Supreme Headquarters is \$750,401.51 and total membership as of May 31 for MOC is 11,409 with 699 of that in Florida. He stated that MOCA has 4,292 with 330 of that in Florida. Benny also stated that the Auxiliary Membership is 31,255 which is the third largest in the nation. He also spoke about the new VFW logo. He stated that the logo was designed and sent to 330 people for their feedback, and the new logo would be launched on November 6th. He also stated that they will not be doing away with the Cross of Malta.

GUEST SPEAKER REMARKS: State Commander Danny Anderson introduced guest speaker Robert Knott Engineer for the Veterans Roof Project. Robert stated that they are dead on budget with the roof project and the HVAC project. He also stated that there is a 30 year warranty on everything on the roof. Robert introduced John Bud the materials engineer. John stated that he is the person responsible for the 30 year warranty, and he has visited the site 10-12 times, and stated everyone works well as a team. Robert then spoke about the project manual. He stated he will leave the manual for anyone who wants to look at it. He also stated that 65% of the roofs perimeter was rotted, and it was replaced at no additional cost. He stated that the project, weather permitting, should be completed in about two and a half weeks. Robert stated that he and John would be available if anyone had any further questions.

STATE ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER Gene Perrino announced that we ordered 350 podium books and we are sold out. Anyone who wants a podium book needs to order from National. The Rays game results from ticket sales were \$1,750, which was 350 tickets and he thanked all those who attended. Gene stated what has been paid out for the roof project. \$730,949.12 has been paid so far, with \$660,907.80 going to the roofer, and \$70,041.32 for the HVAC. He stated we still owe \$73,434.20, which will be a total of \$804,383.32. Gene then spoke about the history book that was approved in Alan Ayoubee's year but there wasn't any motion made as to where the funds from the book would go. Gene then made a motion that the \$22,360 from PCI for the sales of the history book be put to the Commander's Special Project, which will go back into mutual funds at the end of the year. The motion was seconded by Harry Seiler, and there being no discussion, motion passed. Gene then spoke about our partnership with Guardian Angels, and to date we have received \$1,000 for our portion of the raffle that they do. Gene then made a motion to put the \$1,000 into the general fund. Motion seconded by Don Bult, and with no discussion motion passed. Gene then spoke about Walgreens and a donation program they will be doing in the District 1 area from October 29 to November 11 to help the hurricane victims. When this same program was done in NC they received \$150,000. Next year they are looking to help in the Miami area. Gene encouraged people to stop by their vender table and thank them and get a flu shot.

State Adjutant/Quartermaster Report Continued:

Gene then spoke about tea bags that were donated to the department. Gene stated we received 10 cases of tea with 115 boxes in each case. Gene gave the Veterans Village 7 cases, 1 case to the Auxiliary to give out, 1 case to the VFW, and 1 case is still at Headquarters to hand out. Gene stated that he sent a thank you letter to the company, and they said if we want any more just to let them know. Gene then spoke about the email Kevin Jones sent out to send money for disaster relief. Gene asked the council and they voted unanimously to send \$10,000 to National from our Disaster Relief Restricted Fund.

Gene then spoke about the National website and said there is a grant for 4,000 posts to get the website and to date they still have 3,500 grants. Gene urged people to take advantage of these grants stating it is \$4,500 to set it up and \$360/year, and National is paying for the setup and your first year on the program. Gene also stated that it is available for Departments and Posts. Gene also stated that our website is up and running great and everything we do is on that website. Please use the website, and most things you will need are under resources.

There are nine posts in the department that need 10 or less members to be 100%. Florida is eleventh in legacy membership in the Southern Conference, and that is out of 14 states. The Life Legacy totals are 113 bronze, 21 silver and 149 gold, for a total of 283.

Gene spoke about the Junior Vice CIC Campaign checking account. There will be no individual name on this account so it can remain open. Amber Putnam does all the approvals of what goes out of the account. The beginning balance was \$5,739.30, with \$3,575 spent for campaign handouts, which leaves a balance of \$2,164.30.

The Foundation account balance is \$38,339.16 as of this date.

Gene spoke about the home board meeting at the Veterans Village in September. Gene stated since he is the home board treasurer he needs a signature card for the Village account, and does not remember ever having one. He also stated he needs to see the bank statements. Gene also asked about the individuals at the Veterans Village who handle the money being bonded. These are things that will protect the Village. Gene is still waiting on this information as of October 26. Chester Pyatt is trying to help in getting the information that is needed.

Donation checks need to be made out and sent to the proper place. Commanders Special Project comes to department as well as BWC, VAVS. Veterans Village donations go to the Village. For the National Home send checks to the National Home and Unmet Needs goes to National.

Third Quarter Audits are due in 5 days and there are still 61 posts that have not turned in their audit.

The dress code for the POW/MIA ceremony was discussed, and also the contents of the council folders.

In Ocala on November 9th there is free dental care being offered. You must have an appointment, and be able to show a DD214.

All State Judging has been changed to Friday May 3, 2019.

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT by Chairman Dan Duffy

Dan Duffy recognized the members of the Budget & Finance Committee present.

We the members of the Budget and Finance Committee of the Department of Florida, Veterans of Foreign Wars, do hereby certify that we have this October 26, 2018 examined all books and records of the State Quartermaster and find them to be in order.

Reconciled bank balances as of September 30, 2018 have been verified by bank certification as follows:

<u>ASSETS</u>	
Operating Account	\$ 404,649.40
Money Market Account	243,482.93
Petty Cash	100.00
Dues Reserve (Savings)	110,255.09
DR, Youth, BWC	
Temp and Board Restricted – Disaster Relief	126,571.83
Temp and Board Restricted – Youth Fund	33,156.90
Temp and Board Restricted – BWC	<u>49,489.51</u>
Total DR, Youth Fund, BWC	209,218.24
Accounts Receivable	1,086.00
Fixed Assets	120,198.25
Retirement Home	2,314,509.89
Other Assets-Prepaid Expenses	2,156.08
Investments	<u>5,054,922.28</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 8,460,578.16</u>

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Current Liabilities	30,897.74
Retirement Home M/P-Regions	379,132.13
Fund Balance	7,690,165.50
Net Income	<u>360,382.79</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>\$ 8,460,578.16</u>

Motion made by Dan Duffy seconded by Mike Clinesmith to accept the Budget as read; motion passed.

STATE INSPECTOR REPORT: State Inspector Don Bult talked about audits and stressed they are due in five days. Also the audits that are being turned in are looking good. The inspections are due to be done from December 1, through February 28, 2019. Please make sure your inspectors are verifying things.

STATE MEMBERSHIP REPORT: State Membership Chairman Kurt Schuh stated that we have 22 posts out of 162 that are above 92%. Three posts are at 100%, and one post, 10140, is at 110%. Kurt stressed that the best way to get members is to get out there and talk to people.

NEW BUSINESS:

State Commander Danny Anderson spoke about the Department inspection conducted by National in September. On September 7 the Adjutant General issued a special order #39 to conduct an inspection on the Department of Florida. The team, which consisted of Thomas Gimball, Harold Burke, and David Prohaska, was there from September 25-27. They found the records to be well organized, timely and correct. All funds were accounted for with no funds missing. The audit process works well.

The team stated that there needs to be a voucher system put into place, so all expenditures can be approved by the Department Commander, which is in the National By Laws. This system was implemented and started before the team left the Department.

Commander Anderson spoke of the membership buyout to help the people from the hurricane last year, which was done at the end of the 2017-2018 term. The Commander spoke of the buyout not being done correctly, since it was not approved by the Council. Per capita was paid to all posts involved that wanted to be reimbursed. It was an unplanned expenditure even though it did not cause a budget deficit. Commander Anderson stated that this was a mistake and unfortunately everyone makes them. National Council member Benny Bachand also spoke about the membership buyout.

A motion was then made by Rich Monroe to accept the inspection report from National, seconded by Bill Thompson, with no discussion: motion passed.

Comments from District Commander and State Officers were taken at this time.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.