

**DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO COUNCIL
OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING**

VIA Zoom

February 6, 2021 @ 11:00AM

Council of Administration meeting opened in due form with pledge and prayer on Saturday February 6, 2001 @ 11:00 AM

RECOGNIZE GUESTS:

- National Council Member Len Hampton, Past National Council members and Past State Commanders

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS and POSTS

- Twelve (12) Council Members were present with 2 absent
- Twenty-One (21) Post Commanders were present
- Five (5) Posts had a Representative present
- Thirteen (13) Post Commanders or a Post Representative were not present.
 - o Posts 1131, 1793, 2528, 3221, 3271, 3317, 3370, 4243, 7688, 8703, 9516, 12008 & 12184

READING OF MINUTES:

- Motion by J/A Cathy Brock to suspend reading of the previous minutes since council were provided copies. Proper Second,
- No Discussion
- Motion Passed

TRUSTEES REPORT OF AUDIT:

- PSC & Trustee Vernon Luce briefed on the 3rd & 4th Qtr Audits
- Motion by District 3 Commander Hoschar to accept, Proper second
- No Discussion
- Motions Passed

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Scholarship Chairman Brian Ravak: Briefed on how well the students did this morning with their essay's and how they did overall; very successful. Teacher were also recognized.

- Very limited participation because of COVID-19. Thanked those Posts who were able to go out and get those entries.
- Community Activity Chairman Rusty Coffey: Thirteen Posts have participated and reported so far. Understands under the circumstances. Discussed the reporting process on the department website. Rusty has developed a PowerPoint slide to explain how to use the online reporting. It is on our website. Commander Archuleta discussed activities that can be reported, such as checking on a neighbor, getting them food etc. Anyone need help with reporting on computer, please call the Commander or Rusty for assistance.
- Buddy Poppy Chairman Victoria Haddock: Poppy orders are now being accepted. NCINC Hal Roesch has dropped the requirement for All-American, but we should still do poppy drives if possible. The State total order so far is 14,500.
 - Will not be doing a Poppy Display contest this year.
- Membership Chairman Roy Maldonado: Currently we stand 88.89%. Recognized 5 Posts for reaching 100%
 - Post 2387, 9676, 11999, 10763 & 4384
 - 2 Posts nationally ranked so far 11999 & 4384
 - 4 Posts who need less than 3 members are 4243, 12008, 7688 & 12184. Roy will be calling those Posts.
 - Recognized the top 3 recruiters
 - Jack Lovato, Post 9676 with 7
 - Peter Johnson, Post 11999
 - Steven Robertson, Post 9515
 - Commander requested that Posts pull their unpaid rosters from OMS and call their unpaid members. If you need help call either the State Commander, Adjutant or District Commanders for help.
- Service Office Cynthia Archuleta: Briefed that the Federal Bldg. is closed.
 - Seeing clients at Post 5890 mainly on Wed & Thur.
 - Call Post 5890 for appointments
- VMS: R.E. Bartosiewicz briefed that VMS has a new Director
- Liquor/Gaming: Senate Bill #2 has been introduced in attempt to waive Liquor License fees and is up before the Finance Committee. NMGCB has a form to fill out to request a furlough on gaming licenses until 60 days after allowed to open. House Bill #49 has been introduced to relax the taxation on Social Security and is also up before the Finance Committee.

- Homeless Veterans Chairman Len Hampton: Homeless veteran’s numbers are down. Participated in several food drives. 15,000 lbs in food have been distributed during the Commander’s food drive. Stand downs in Las Cruces and Albuquerque have been cancelled. If you know a veteran in need of shelter or other services, please call the national call center for homeless veterans at 877-424-3838 or the Albuquerque Veteran Outreach Program at 505-265-1711 ext 2784. Goodwill has contacted the Department offering their assistance @ 505-881-6401 ext 1940, ask for Leanna Rivera, Programs Manager for Veterans
- Scouting Chairman Terry Brown: Each year, National sponsors a competition for all scouts.
 - Posts should be communicating with the Scout Troops in their area encouraging participation. Deadline for entries to the Posts is March 1st, then the Districts then to Chairman by April 1st.
- VFW Riders Ed McDaris: Farmington and District 6 Riders been heavily involved in the community food drives. On Facebook vfwridersnewmexico.
- Youth Activity Chairman Rogelio Maldonado: Spoke on ways of sponsoring school openings
- Tori Haddox: Discussed the need in appointing a Chairman for the Military and Veterans Legislative Committee.
 - Point of Order from J/A Brock: Commander can appoint anyone at any time.
 - Commander asked for volunteers: Gary Ludi, Kathie Schiebel plus Roger Baker
 -
 - from Post 3242
 - Sr Vice requested a better job description

OLD BUSINESS:

- Ratify email vote on Post 9676 receiving \$500 for food drive activities
 - Properly Seconded
 - No discussion
 - Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS:

- No New Business

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Scholarship Winners

Patriot's Pen

- 1st - Elias Trujillo, Post 2951, District 6
- 2nd - Hayden Rundell, Post 4384, District 3
- 3rd - Addison R. Ainsworth, Post 9515, District 8

Voice of Democracy

- 1st - Eli Terry, Post 9515, District 8
- 2nd - Cheyenne Gallegos, Post 2951, District 6
- 3rd - Amparo Arrendondo, Post 7686, District 3

Teachers

- High School - Ranah Yaqub, Post 2951, District 6
- Middle School - Christine Hightower, Post 9515, District 8
- Elementary - Tammy Sharp, 9515, District 8

- Cudos out to the Scholarship committee for doing an outstanding job

Comments by Commander

- District Dues are due, payable by the Posts to their respective District. Amounts and payment are up to each District; Not the Department. If a Post has no money, request a deferment from the District.
- Veterans Coalition: Will be filing a lawsuit to get these organizations opened. Department will not be involved at all with the lawsuit or any costs associated with it per National directives.

Comments from Council Members

- Sr Vice Roy: Will be on Zoom Silver City on the 10th to help set up a food bank
- QM Fouse has patches for anyone who wants them

National Adjutant Kevin Jones joined our meeting because our scheduled rep was out sick

- Appreciate the State for doing what we are able due to shut down
- Discussed efforts National has done with workarounds ie. Virtual meetings, changed phone system etc. to continue conducting business.
- National Convention in Baltimore, may be virtual. More info to come.
- Membership is the cornerstone of our organization.
- Question to Kevin about status of the Buddy Poppy program
 - o Had to be flexible, 4-5 assembly centers had restrictions/shut down because of COVID-19. Distributed over 9.3 million poppy parts to Posts across the country for assembly. Have received 8 million back assembled.

Comments from Council Members cont'd

- J/A Brock: Any By-Law changes are due by March 31st

Having no other business, the closing ceremony was conducted with Salute to the Colors, and closing Prayer by Chaplain Tori Haddox

Meeting was Adjourned @ 12:30 PM

Next Meeting will be on March 27th @ 11:00AM on Zoom

Attested by:



**David Fouse
State Adjutant**

Approved by:



**Cynthia Archuleta
State Commander**