

**DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO COUNCIL  
OF ADMINISTRATION AGENDA  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 @ 10AM  
VFW POST 6917; LAS CRUCES**

**OPEN MEETING** at 10:04 with pledge and prayer

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:** 15 council members present; 2 were excused and had 1 vacancy

**ROLL CALL OF POSTS:** Had 13 Post Commanders; 12 Post representatives present; and 2 were excused

**RECOGNIZE GUESTS:**

- National Representative, Past National Commander-in-Chief, Past State Commander Vincent “BJ” Lawrence; Past National Council Members and Past State Commanders

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

- Motion by State Judge Advocate to accept since it was provided in email & in each council packet
  - Proper 2<sup>nd</sup>, No Discussion
  - Motion Passed

**TRUSTEE REPORT OF AUDIT:**

- Briefed by Chairman Raul Sanchez
  - No Discrepancies
  - Read balances
- Commander Ravak briefed on Post 3015 income from auction and current expenses incurred

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **AMERICANISM:** K. James
  - City of Las Cruces sponsored a citizenship ceremony
- **BATAAN:** Len Hampton
  - Saturday March 22, 2025; more info coming
- **BUDDY POPPY:** Don Frias
  - Requirement was lowered to 3 per member

- Legacy Poppy's increased price to \$.26
- Tin Poppy's are \$.13
- Shooting for December 31 to be 100% in ordering
- MUST INCLUDE SHIPPING!
- Start thinking about Buddy Poppy displays
- Special edition Poppy's are available; send request to Dept HQ's
- **COMMUNITY ACTIVITY: Jason Burke**
  - As a whole, Dept is doing good
  - For All-State; 1 submission per month; All-American is 1 per quarter
  - Call Jason for any questions
- **IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN: Jason Burke**
  - Beware of claim sharks and POA sharks
  - Use an accredited service organization for filing VA claims. Do Not attempt to file yourself.
- **HOMELESS VETERANS: Len Hampton**
  - Stand Down in Las Cruces on October 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Stand Down in Albuquerque also on October 18<sup>th</sup>
  - NMDVS has an office called Workforce Connect
- **D.C. LEGISLATIVE: Jim Haddox**
  - Briefed Legislative Priorities
    - Elizabeth Dole Act; HR 8703
    - Unaddressed Toxic Exposure Act
    - Exploring Alternate PTSD Treatment
    - Guard VA Act
    - Tap Protection Act
    - Rep. Gabe Vasquez introduced HR 9301; New Mexico Rural Veteran Healthcare Access Act
- **STATE LEGISLATIVE: Mack Dyer**
  - Submit any recommendations in to Mack by October

- **MEMBERSHIP: Mark Decker**
  - 17<sup>th</sup> place nationally at 7008 members; 83.81%; need 1,322 to make 102%
  - Membership Challenge Winners for July/August
    - Division 1; Post 9517, Shiprock
    - Division 2; Post 3221, Grants
    - Division 3; Posts 10763 Albuquerque & 12184 Roswell
    - Division 4; Post 2951 Santa Fe
    - Division 5; Post 6917 Las Cruces
  - 4 Posts over 100%; 9676 Los Lunas is at 105.83%; Post 12212 Santa Clara is at 104%; Post 2387 Belen is at 100%; Post 7688 Questa is at 100%
  - September/October Challenge will be by total membership %
- **POW/MIA: Mark Bowman**
  - News Posted on Department Facebook page
- **SCHOLARSHIP: Briefed by Commander Ravak**
  - If you do not have access to Scholar App, contact Tori
  - Talk about doing away with the parade of winners in the future
  - Deadline October 31st
- **SAFETY: Paul Golden**
  - Nominations due to Paul by December 31<sup>st</sup>
  - EMT/Nurse; Firefighter or Police Officer
- **SCOUTS: Terry Brown**
  - Now called Scouting America
  - Due dates for applications is March 1<sup>st</sup> to the Post
- **VFW RIDERS: Ted Gray**
  - Check out Riders Group Facebook page
  - In the process of updating Department Riders Policy/SOP
  - Working on a Tri-State joint ride
  - Southern Save Ride On October 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Planning Riders Group meeting at Mid-Winter

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Open Nominations for Chaplain;
  - Raul Sanchez nominates Mark Bowman for State Chaplain
  - Elected by acclamation
- Vote on Department recruiting event at Bataan
  - National will not be sponsoring the event; up to Department, if interested
  - Motion by Len Hampton to fund not to exceed \$10,000
    - Proper 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - Discussion: We can request reimbursement from Membership before March
    - Motion Passed
- Vote on to get a booth at 2025 Balloon Fiesta
  - Cost not available until January; 2024 cost was \$4,000
  - Request reimbursement from Membership Dept.
  - Motion by Jim Haddox, not to exceed \$6,000
    - Proper 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - Discussion: M. Decker commented on insurance
      - Jim Haddox commented on what we can/cannot do
    - Motion Passed
- Vote to Authorize Relief Fund Grant Disbursements
  - Motion by Mack Dyer \$500-\$1,000; not to exceed \$2,000 for special circumstances
  - Proper 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Discussion: Requirements for applying; show proof of primary residence; & fill out application to be submitted to committee.
    - Reaching out to civic leadership to get the word out
    - Report due at end of the month to National
  - Motion Passed

- Vote to donate a 2-acre parcel of property back to the City of Socorro
  - Poper 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Discussion: None
  - Motion Passed
- Installation of Dept Chaplain Bowman & District 7 Commander Burke

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- BJ Lawrence
  - Latest news from National Council
    - Passed budget; Directed QM General to revoke the use of the VFW logo, name etc. to any motorcycle club. (MC)
    - Wearing of VFW cap during attending elections; conventions etc. addressing the media is authorized, cannot speak on behalf of the organization
    - Stay neutral and un-biased
  - As State Advocate
    - Had 12 Post Commanders absent at last council meeting, today we had 25. Unacceptable; read duties of a Post Commander from Podium Book
    - Encourage District Commanders to converse with their respective Post Commanders to attend, this is when critical information is voted on and disseminated
    - Check eligibility during inspections, many throughout the organization are still being found not to be eligible
- Remarks by National Council member Tori Haddox by Jim Haddox
  - Just returned Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> from National Council meeting
    - Spoke on National investments, staffing, Washington D.C. building repairs, newspaper going to 6 issues in 2025, VOD liability issues and looking to move to Valley Forge, social media.
- QM Fouse addressed outstanding QM bonds and eligibility requirements for District officers
- Presented All-America Awards

**COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**COMMENTS BY COMMANDER**

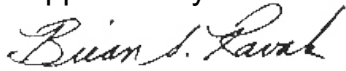
Salute to the Colors

Closing Prayer by Chaplain

Meeting Adjourned at 12:27PM

Next Meeting will be at Mid-Winter on January 18, 2025; 10:00AM at Airport Sheraton Hotel

Approved By:



Brian Ravak, State Commander

Attested By:



David Fouse, State Adjutant