

DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO COUNCIL OF  
ADMINISTRATION MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2025 @ 1:30PM  
Sheraton Airport, Albuquerque  
(written on Jan 29, 2025)

Meeting Opened at 1:30PM with pledge and prayer

**Recognized Guests:**

National Rep Inspector General Gregory Stafford  
Past National Commander in Chief B.J. Lawance  
National Council Member (NCM) Victoria Haddox  
National Veteran Service Officer Cynthia Archuleta  
Western Conference Vice Chairman  
All Past NCM's  
All Past State Commanders

**Roll Call of Officers:** 16 Present; Inspector excused, District 6 excused, covers by Senior Vice J. DeVargas

**Roll Call of Posts:** 25 Commanders present; 3 had a top 4 officer there and 2 had a member present and 8 Absent with 2 excused

**READING OF MINUTES:**

- Motion by AQ Fouse to suspend the reading of last council minutes since they are provided in the packets
  - Proper 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - No discussion
  - Motion Passed

**TRUSTEE REPORT OF AUDIT:**

- Past State Commander Venon Luce gave the report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th Quarter Audit.
  - No motion needed

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Americanism by Comrade K. James was Absent
- Bataan by Chairman Hampton
  - Our booth will be setup on March 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> from 8AM to 6PM, Race on the 22<sup>nd</sup> need recruiters and volunteers. Contact Len to sign up.
- Buddy Poppy by Chairman Le Maire

- Out of 38 Posts, only 23 have ordered their poppies, 15 need to get their orders in.
  - Poppy display during state convention
  - Promoted Poppy Proclamation days for your city
  
- Community Activity by Chairman Burke
  - Reminder to change the date when entering your reports.
  - There has been issues with the dashboard. Let me know if your post was one.
  
- Employment/Homeless Veterans by Chairman Hampton
  - Workforce Connection new name America's job center of New Mexico [www.jobs.state.nm.us](http://www.jobs.state.nm.us)
  - Partnership with the VFW NM Foundation, VFW 10124 held a Homeless stand down
  
- Time & Place by Chairman Lawrence
  - Our goal is to provide the best deal for members and that our issues are addressed. Met with the hotel staff Friday and observes issues with HVAC, Poor service with the restaurant and bar they were addressed
  - Recommended to try to get bids 2 years in advance, to give posts time to get bids
  - Upcoming State Convention
    - Airport Sheraton in Albuquerque
    - Room rates; est. Government rate of \$139.00 + tax
    - Free breakfast burrito, sandwich with juice & coffee in hospitality suite Fri-Sunday
    - May 28<sup>th</sup> - June 1<sup>st</sup>
    - Will have a hospitality suite on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Rio Grande Room
  - Change meeting times to once a quarter.
  - Motion by Lawrence to accept bid
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - No Discussion
    - Motion Passed
  
- National Legislative by Chairman J. Haddox
  - 3 comrades wanting to go the Washington Conference, March 3<sup>rd</sup>-March 6<sup>th</sup>, additional to the National Legislative Committee Chairman, National Council Member and Commander.
  - Comments from Comrade Hampton that new Priorities Flyers are out.
  - Commander Ravak commented on Joint Session Videos Comrade J. Haddox got from our congress members.
  
- State Legislative By Chairman M. Dyer
  - No feedback from our districts on bills they want us to push locally.
  - Working on a claim sharks bill, one Rep that wanted to help hasn't work out and looking for a new one.
  - Get involved with local politics.

- Question from PSC V. Haddox on the Legislative Veterans Day at the Round House. February 19<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 2pm. Encourage participation.

- Loyalty Day

- May 1<sup>st</sup>
- It is a special day for people to reaffirm their loyalty to the United States and to recognize the heritage of American freedom.
- To observe it and bring it back to New Mexico.
- Proclamation with your cities.

- Take a 10-minute break

- Membership by Chairman Decker

- Post that has made 102%
- Los Lunas Post 9676 – 111.65%
- Questa Post 7688– 111.11%
- Silver City Post 12212 – 110%
- Estancia Valley Post 3370– 106.6%
- Aztec Post 614– 105.51%
- Belen Post 2387 –104.16%
- Carlsbad Post 8703– 102.85%

**Need 10 or less member for 102%**

- 3221 needs 4, 4243 needs 3, 5432 needs 3, 1389 needs 3, 1131 needs 3, 1547 needs 7, 1793 needs 9, 3271 needs 5, 9516 needs 1, 12184 needs 10, 2528 needs 7, 9515 needs 8, 3280 needs 3
- Departments 92.25% we need 788 more members

- POW/MIA Chairman Bowman

- DPAA identified 173 service members increase from 158 members the prior year.
- 1 New Mexico Native identified SGT Prince from Clovis in WWII April 25, 2024.
- At Western Conference in Hawaii 25 NM Members were able to do a tour of DPAA Fac.

- Scholarship Chairman V. Haddox

- Putting together with National Council Chair, Voting on the 3 options for moving the Washington Trip for our winners
  - Do nothing and continue with our “Parade of Winner” National Cost \$192,000.
  - Canceled and go virtual Cost \$50,000

- Exchange the D.C. trip to “Founding Forward” trip and move to Valley forge \$107,000.
  - NCM ask that we vote on an option.
  - Motion by Comrade Lawerence makes a motion to “take no action” and NCM be free to move to the convention floor.
    - Proper 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - Discussion about moving to Valley Forge and the differences between.
    - Motion passes as is.
- Public Safety
  - 5 nominations submitted to national- 2 being lifesaver awards
- Scouting Chairman T. Brown
  - March 1<sup>st</sup> is the due date to the post. scouts do all the work.
- Special Project Chairman Bowman
  - “Combat Impact Outdoors”
  - Support the raffles
- VFW Riders Chairman T. Gray
  - Several Rides to include both VA S.A.V.E Rides.
  - Collected over several thousand dollars and delivered Christmas presents in the T or C Veteran homes
  - Planning Bataan Runs
- Youth Activities Chairman J. Knapps
  - Patriotic Art with Aux
  - Youth sports are big for us
- VSO Comrade L. Rossi
  - Past a milestone at national service network 14.6 billion dollars back to veterans.
  - POA 62 POAs
  - 71 totals claims
  - 117 visits
  - 363 Phone calls

- Statements from the floor Comrade Ludi wants training on the changing from Myhealthyvet to ID.me. January 31<sup>st</sup>
- From Guest Comrade C. Archuleta says there is a prompt to move to ID.me

### **Unfinished Business**

- Post 3015
  - Sold all the equipment
  - Property is in disrepair
  - Lean on property to 18,000, going to lose money on the sell.
  - One company interested, waiting to hear on permits.

### **New Business**

#### Dept of California

- Motion by Comrade D. Cruz to send \$1000 to California in Disaster Relief
- Proper 2<sup>nd</sup>
- No Discussion
- Motion passed

#### Dept of North Carolina

- Motion by D. Cruz to send \$1000 to North Carolina in Disaster Relief
- Proper 2<sup>nd</sup>
- No Discussion
- Motion passed

#### Bataan

- Motion by Comrade V. Haddox to set recruiting at \$30 for all members recruited at Bataan that is being placed “Department At Large”.
- Proper 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Discussion by Comrade D. Fouse that we are losing money with Credit Card Fees and declined cards, not being able to locate the member afterwards.
  - \$26 to national 5% in CC so about \$28 total the dept makes about \$2 on each member.
  - Not in the business of making money
- Motion Passes

#### Airshow

- Motion by J. Berdine to participate/ booth for \$3,000 at Kirkland Airforce Base

- Proper 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Discussion by Comrade J. Haddox those dates are the same time as our state convention.
- Discussion by Comrade B.J. Lawrance, Holloman cost nothing to be involved.
- Question by Comrade D. Cruz is this is for recruiting purposes.
- Motion fails

#### Flag poles

- Motion by Comrade B.J. Lawrance to not to exceed \$1,000
- Proper 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Discussion
- Motion passes

#### Canopy

- Motion by Comrade V. Haddox not to exceed \$1,500 on 1 new pop-up canopy.
- Proper 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Discussion by Comrade J. Knapps, why not buy a non VFW Canopy cheaper.
  - Comrade V. Haddox, because these events mandate fire retardant and they are hard to come by.

Motion Passed

#### **Good of the Order**

- Membership Challenges
  - July / August Winners by Division - Presentation of Certificates, Commanders Coin, and \$50 Certificate for the VFW Store for the Post
    - Div 1 – 9517 Shiprock
    - Div 2 – 3221 Grants
    - Div 3 – 10763 Albuquerque
    - Div 4 – 2951 Santa Fe
    - Div 5 – 6917 Las Cruces
  - September / October Winners by Division - Presentation of Certificates, Commanders Coin, and Banquet Meal Tickets for Post Cmdr and QM
    - Div 1 – 7688 Questa
    - Div 2 – 9676 Los Lunas
    - Div 3 – 8874 Los Alamos
    - Div 4 – 10124 Las Cruces
    - Div 5 – 3280 Clovis

- November Winners by Division - Presentation of Certificates, Commanders Coin, and Banquet Meal Tickets for Post Cmdr and QM
  - Div 1 – 5610 Espanola
  - Div 2 – 3370 Estancia Valley
  - Div 3 – 614 Aztec
  - Div 4 – 10124 Las Cruces
  - Div 5 – 6917 Las Cruces

#### All American and All State Report

- 11 posts participate in VOD, PP, Teachers Awards
  - Community Services requirement is to report CS, once a quarter in addition to participate in the “Day of Service”.
    - 25 participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter
    - 20 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter
  - 1 post running a draft copy of the National Bylaws template
  - 1 Post’s insurance is expired
  - 1 Post tried to illegally remove a commander for terminating a bartender.
- Assistant Adjutant to create “how to guide” on how to enter in the All American Dashboard.
    - Comrade Hampton says there is training on VFW.org. under Training and Support.
  - Bylaws charged to be submitted to your district then to Comrade Decker before March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Post 10124 and it’s Auxiliary donated and delivered supplies, Comrade Medaris donated money, and Post 5432 and VFW of New Mexico Foundation donated money to the POW/MIA Park.
  - Post 12184 donated \$4,000 to Commander’s Special Project
  - Comrade Medaris had awards for the department special project \$42,000 last year. We now have a Tori Haddox house, and that money went to help 137 veterans. Big sponsors were post 12184 Mack Dyer and Post 3271 Mark Bowman.
  - Bataan request from Comrade D. Melon on cases of water.
  - Clarification on a motion that was on 06/02/24 on helping the incoming Commander 250 coins from Comrade V. Haddox. It was moved and a check needs to be cut.
  - Post 6917 donated \$1000 for Commander’s Special Project.
  - National Rep Remarks

- Committee Remarks
- Commander Remarks
- Closing Prayer by Chaplain

Salute to the Colors

Meeting Adjourned 4:38PM

Next Meeting will be at the State Convention on May 30, 2024 @ 10:00AM, Sheraton Airport Hotel in Albuquerque

Attested By:



David Fouse

State Adjutant

Approved By:



Brian Ravak

State Commander

DF/th