

DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO  
Council of Administration MEETING  
January 17th, 2026 @ 1342  
Embassy Suites Albuquerque

Meeting Opened at 1342 with pledge by and prayer.

**Recognized Guests:**

Past National Commander In Chief Tim Borland  
Past National Commander In Chief BJ Lawrence  
National Council Member (NCM) Victoria Haddox  
Department of Pacific Areas Comrade Shawn Watson.  
All Past NCM's  
All Past State Commanders

**Roll Call of Officers:** 15 Present; District 4 Excused covered by Senior Vice, District 5 Excused Covered by Senior Vice, and District 6 Absent covered by Senior Vice

**Roll Call of Posts:** 25 Commanders present; 5 had a top 4 officer there and 6 Absent

**Trustee Report:** Was read

**Minutes:** Motion to forgo reading of the minutes by Quartermaster Dave Fouse due to the minutes being provided prior to today's meeting. Motion was Duly Seconded, Motion Passed

**Committee Reports:**

*American:* Comrade Mark Bowman report was given

*Bataan:* Comrade Rel Melon March will be March 19-21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, He is gathering information and will provide a sign up sheet for those wanting to attend. Motion to Sponsor \$6000 for the Bataan Death March discussion was had. Motion Passes

*Employment and Homeless:* Comrade Rel Melon, VFW Post 10124 and VFW New Mexico Foundation hosted a stand down in Las Cruces at 10124, the assisted 60 ( women) homeless both Men and Women. It's grown to the point of needing to relocate to Downtown and thanked everyone for their assistance on providing needed material. Next years standdown is October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*Buddy Poppies:* Comrade Don Frias stated as of today we have 24 VFW Post in New Mexico that have ordered amount of 30,000 est. poppies, we need to strive to get all 13 posts still need to order.

*Community Activity:* Comrade Jason Burke Report 62,000 hours have been reported and that the hours are down from last year, the program it's self is looking at a massive decrease of 12.34% in hours and up 53.58% overall we are down .15% overall

*Convention Chair:* Comrade Bj Lawrence bids from the State Conventions from June. Embassy Suites Room Rate drop room rate from \$149 to \$129 food and brev \$8000 and free parking. The next closest was a hotel in Las Cruces for \$25000 food and brev alone. Motion to accept Embassy Suites Bid. Discussion was had. Motion Passes. Motion was made give the state commander the authority to sign contract for all of the 2027 year with ratification at the State Convention.

*Legislative:* Commander Jim Haddox handed out the talking points from September's advocacy in D.C. there is still no movement on the Major Richard Starr Act. due to it being killed on the floor by the Mississippi Senator. Mostly everything else is still in motion forward.

*State Legislative:* Comrade Mack Dyer says talks about getting in the school, get involved with the school board. Helps with scholarships and Americanism. County Commission helps with recognizing your post one proclamations. Lastly, we have national Priorities, we need to focus on those here in the state.

*Loyalty Day* Comrade Danny Cruz Gave the history of what Loyalty Day Stand for and why it's important to Celebrate it. Please document in the Community Service Dashboard

*Membership-* at last Cof A we had 4 post over 100% today we have 12 post over 100% . we have 2 post over 105% Post 5432 and 11999. Work on annual memberships. Gilbert Romero, Victoria Haddox, Jason Burke, Greg Cranmer, Commander Haddox. Top 5 recruiters, Tori has the lead but Gilbert is on her tail.

*Gaming and Liquor-*

*POW MIA-* Comrade M. Bowman gave the latest on the POW MIA recovery efforts and name some of the locals. 231 Us Service member for 2025 best year since 2019. New DNA Techniques. Be sure to welcome them home.

*Scholarships.:* They are done! She is hoping to maintain the Chairmanship for next year she has a few ideas on how to change the program up so it will work smoother.

*Safety –* Any of the safety awards that aren't for the programs. They can go up at anytime. There is currently 4 entered; 401, 9676, and 9516, some of them where sent back for corrections. Lowest Participation in State's History

*Scouting-* Comrade Terry Brown work with your local Scouts. We are one of the only departments that give out an award for first place. Due Date is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Special Project-* Chairmen are both Auxiliary, Amanda Silva and Jonette Martinez- Pacias. We will do Music Bingo and there is raffle baskets in the hall.

*VFW Riders-* Comrade Ted Gray explained they are their own organization as of the National Convention and will work much like our Auxiliary and Cooties looking to fill positions when they become its own organization. They are actively supporting all the SAVE Rides.

*VSO-* Comrade Louis Rossi absent. IMPSC Ravak to update, outreach in Farmington, 6 individuals in November. Only 1 had filed a claim. National is doing 52 veterans they represent 25 inquires 19 claims 3 pass off to DVS.

*Youth Activities-* Post 2528 is having a Hunting Safety Class. Recommends all members to become instructors and to hold training out of their post.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

-Defunct post of 3015 by Comrade Fouse. Sold the property to Eagles for \$47,000. So we have completed that closure.

- Defunct 6216 by Comrade V. Haddox accepted an offer for 252,000 had so come down from 280,000. Everything is completed and Post is Closed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion to participate into the 2026 Balloon Fiesta by V. Haddox. Duly seconded, discussion was had 98 Comrades recruited and 15 auxiliary members. Additional 11 members recruited through the local post. Motion passes.

Motion to be recruited members at Bataan for at large to be recruited at the reduce rate of \$30 by Comrade D. Melon. Duly seconded. Discussion was had. Motion failed.

Motion to pay for last years All States Covers \$2200 by Comrade B. Ravak. Discussion was has, motion passes.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

**101% Club**

9515 Commander Gary Rediel 104.13%

2951 Commander Gilbert Robmero at 102.3%

9516 Quartermaster Lita Mead at 101.96%

12008 Commander Pete Jaramillo 104.34%

11999 Senior Vice Commander Karen Rounds 105.82%

5432 Senior Vice Commander Terry Brown 105.71%

29 Members that have recruiters,

Greg Cranmer with 16 members

Jason Burke with 19 members

Victoria Haddox with 22 Members

Gilbert Romero with 22 members

Victoria issues a challenge in this department that passes me in recruiting I will give them \$50

IMPSC Brian Ravak presented his All American Awards and cover. 10763, 5610, District 1

Bylaw Committee enter changes by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Remarks by Shawn Watson

Quartermaster Fouse made a motion to \$5000 towards Shawn Watson Campaign, Duly Second, Motion passes.

Quartermaster Fouse announced his retirement, he plans to stick around to mentor the incoming Quartermaster.

Adjutant V. Haddox made a motion to set aside \$2000 for Quartermasters Retirement party. Motion second, motion passes.

Mack Dyer announces for State Commander.

Mark Bowman announces for Senior Vice Commander.

Danny Cruz announces for Junior Vice Commander

Victoria Haddox announces for Quartermaster

Brian Ravak announces for Quartermaster

Jamie Poncho announces for Chaplain

**C of A Remarks were made**

-VFW Post 10124 presented a check for \$500 for the Commander's Special Project.

- District 6 highlight honor guard of unclaimed remains.

-IMPSC Ravak Spoke about the VFW NM Foundation to New Mexico Veterans and Families Assistance Foundation

-Adjutant Haddox We are trying to create training and help us out with what you guys need to see in training.

-Past CiC Comments Recognized the passing of a dear friend of Dept of Nm Charlie Shoemaker. Delivered the CiC's Message.

- Commander Haddox address the room. Thanked them for being present and special shouts to individuals that went above and beyond. He announced that he was elected as Vice Western Conference Chairman. Shout out to Len for running a clean meeting at Western Conference after the chaos of National Convention.

**Next C of A** is on June 12<sup>th</sup> 2026 @ Embassy Suites at 0900am.

**Closing Prayer by Chaplain Salute to the Colors**

**Meeting Adjourned 1621 hrs.**

Attested By:



Victoria Haddox

State Adjutant

Approved By:



James Haddox

State Commander