

**DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO COUNCIL
OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2023 @ 10AM
ELKS LODGE, RIO RANCHO**

Meeting Opened at 10:00 AM with pledge and prayer

Recognized Guests:

- National Council Member (NCM) Len Hampton
- All Past NCM's
- All Past State Commanders

Roll Call of Officers: 13 Present; 4 excused and 1 absent

Roll Call of Posts: 14 Commanders present; 2 had a Post officer and 6 had a member
and 17 Absent

READING OF MINUTES:

- Motion by Sr Vice Ravak to suspend the reading of last council minutes since they are provided in the packets
 - Proper 2nd
 - No discussion
 - Motion passed

TRUSTEE REPORT OF AUDIT:

- Past NCINC BJ Lawrence gave the report of the 2nd & 3rd Quarter Audits and made motion to accept
 - Proper 2nd
 - No Discussion
 - Motion passed

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Americanism by Gary Logsdon

- Haven't seen much traffic going on
- Briefed on the activity reporting procedures
- Bataan by Len Hampton
 - March 16, 2024
 - Less support from National
 - Need volunteers to pass out water etc...
 - Contact Len or Commander
 - Water is being donated
- Buddy Poppy by Don Frias
 - Only 10 Posts have ordered poppy's so far, this time last year had 15-20
 - Order through the Dept QM
 - The tin poppy's are now available, will get credit for the 3 per member
- Community Activity by Rusty Coffey:
 - Data entered won't show up in OMS Dashboard until the end of the quarter
 - Spoke on Dept dashboard entries. Dates are not being entered
 - Commander read off the money totals by Districts
- Employment/Homeless Veterans by Len Hampton:
 - Had a stand down in Las Cruces yesterday at Post 10124
 - Serviced 50-60 homeless veterans
 - Had over 20 vendors to include the VA
 - Please contact Len if you are interested in hosting a stand down
- Legislative by Jim Haddock:
 - Spoke on recent visit to Washington D.C. in September
 - Without a House Speaker, nothing is getting done

- 3 Legislative Priorities
 - Major Richard Starr Act: has been downgraded for now as a priority
 - Tap Protection Act is now a bill: Will require an accredited VSO to be in the Transition Assistance Program Class for active duty fixing to get out of the military.
 - Guard VA Act: Going after attorney's predatory practices on the Pact Act. Please use an accredited service officer
 - Not just a Number Act: To force the VA to review suicide data and determine which programs the veteran was in that may have worked or not worked. Going from regional to executive level.
 - Got to vfw.org and click on advocacy and the legislative
- When representing the VFW/Post make sure you are aware of who you are talking to. When wearing your cover, you are representing the VFW. If approached, best practice is to say no comment.
- Time & Place Chairman BJ Lawrence:
 - Received a bid from Post 6917 to host the Mid-Winter Conference, Jan 19-20, 2024. Rooms will be around \$100 at the Staybridge Suites Hotel at the VFW rate. Also talked on what the Post is offering, such as meals, snacks, etc...
 - As the Chairman of the Time & Place Committee BJ moves to accept bid
 - No Discussion
 - Motion passed
 - Looking at a few hotels for the State Convention, still in negotiations
- Took a 15 min break

- Membership by Brian Ravak
 - Goal is 102%; +1 for All-State
 - 5/8 Districts is meeting the October membership challenge. Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7. District 7 is leading at 99.1%
 - 29/39 Posts is meeting the October Challenge
 - Dept goal is to be 100% by Mid-Winter
 - 100% Posts: Posts 9676, 12008, 10763, and 12184 at 150%
 - Membership is critical to our Department.

- Scholarships by Gary Logsdon
 - Pushing use of the Scholar app. Not many are using it.
 - Most students are using the app for other scholarships
 - Questions, reach out to Gary Logsdon

- Safety/Public Service Award by Paul golden
 - Due by December 31st
 - Good recruiting opportunity

- Scouting by Terry Brown
 - 13th year as Chairman
 - VFW recognizes Eagle Scouts every year
 - Any Post can sponsor an Eagle Scout
 - Must be submitted by March 1st to the Post; then due to chair by April 1st
 - \$1,000 split award from the Department & Foundation

OLD BUSINESS:

- Motion by Dave Fouse to ratify email vote done on August 12, 2023 in which we donated \$3,000
 - Proper 2nd
 - No Discussion
 - Motion Passed

NEW BUSINESS:

- We have a new travel reimbursement policy as recommended by the National Inspection Team
- Motion to accept by Dave Fouse
 - Proper 2nd
 - No Discussion
 - Motion Passed
- Motion by Jim Haddox to accept Louis Rossi as our new Service Officer
 - Proper 2nd
 - No discussion
 - Motion Passed
- Motion by Dave Fouse to donate old Service Office laptop to Post 10763
 - Proper 2nd
 - No Discussion
 - Motion Passed
- Mark Decker briefed on the status of the now defunct Post 2182
 - Will need a letter for Mark Decker to inquire on all accounts with Citizen's Bank and close the accounts.

- He will also get with the City Clerks office on a title check
- Commander took pics of all inventory
- Posts can submit bids on any items they want to purchase
- Motion by Mark Decker to permit the committee to sell all items left over on the property & to sell the bldg.
 - Proper 2nd
 - Discussion on what is left
 - Motion Passed

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- National Council Member Len Hampton remarks
- Gary Ludi expressed concern over telemarketers calling his members.
 - QM Fouse explained that we do have a fundraising company from Frontline
 - If they don't say that they are from Frontline, hang up
- Motion by Brian Ravak to endorse Len for Vice Chairman of the Western Conference
 - Proper 2nd
 - No Discussion
 - Motion Passed
- Presentation of Awards
 - Buddy Poppy Contest award to Post 6917 Auxiliary
 - All American Awards to: Districts 2, 3, & 4. Posts 614, 3274, 5432, 5890, 6917, 9515, 9517, 10124, 10763, 12008, 12184, & 12212
 - Community Service Award to Post 5610
- Moment of silence for Comrade Orlando Saavedra

- VFW Riders Chair Ted Gray talked on recent Rider events
- Commander discussed change to the All-State Program
 - The requirement to submit a Jr. ROTC of the year, Member of the Year and Employer of the Year is now voluntary. Will be used as extra credit in the event of a tie.
 - Removed the requirement for donations to VMS since the minimum for All-American is \$100

Closing Prayer by Chaplain Gary Logsdon

Salute to the Colors

Meeting Adjourned @ 12:30PM

Next Meeting will be at the Mid-Winter Conference on Jan 19-20, 2024 @ 10:00AM; Post 6917, 5845 Bataan Memorial West, Las Cruces

Attested By:

David Fouse
State ADJ/QM

Approved By:

Tori Haddox
State Commander