

DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS

Minutes – CONVENTION

12 - 13 June, 2017, Ban Chan, Thailand

Opening Ceremonies: Department Commander John Gilbert called the Department of Pacific Areas Convention to order at 0900, 12 June 2018, in Ban Chang, Thailand. Opening ceremonies were held according to VFW ritual.

Appointments: Officer of the Day – Jerry Soules.

Distinguished Guests: Commander Gilbert introduced the guests into the Convention, escorted into the Convention by the Officer of the Day, bio read by Adjutant Chaplin – Past National Commander-in-Chief Edward Banas Sr.; National Council Member Shawn Watson; Military Order of the Cootie Grand Commander, Bill Bradford.

Commander Gilbert then recognized the Past National Council Member Robert Zaher. He introduced Past Department Commanders: Robert Zaher, Rhett Webber, Larry Lyons, and Shawn Watson. He also introduced the Past Grand Commanders Kevin Mitchell and Shawn Watson. Commander Gilbert recognized all active duty military that were present. Commander Gilbert recognized our World War II Veteran, Wendell Newman, and mentioned his current medical status.

Roll Call of Officers: Adjutant Chaplin called the Roll Call of Officers as follows:

Department Commander: John Gilbert - Present
Senior Vice Commander: Michael Verville - Present
Junior Vice Commander: Rick Farris - Present
Quartermaster: Pete Callaghan - Present
Judge Advocate: Bill Wichmann - Excused
Surgeon: Mike Napsey - Present
Chaplain: Warren Maxson - Present
Chief of Staff: Shawn Watson - Present
Inspector: Bill Bradford - Present
Service Officer: Don Melendy - Excused
Jr. PDC: Robert Moses - Excused
District I Commander: Willie T. Brandon - Present
District II Commander: Randell Himes - Present
District III Commander: Ron Davis - Present
District IV Commander: Jim Ascencio – Excused SVC Daniel Roberts - Present
District V Commander: Kenneth Stein - Present
District VI Commander: Shawn Watson - Present
District VII Commander: Charles Spain - Present
Adjutant: Gerald Chaplin - Present

Rules of Order: Chief of Staff Watson explained the Rules of Order including voting and speaking privileges. Copy of the Rules were made available in the Adjutant's folder handed out prior to the Convention Meeting. Motion was made and seconded to accept the rules as distributed and posted on DPA website. **Motion Passed.**

Minutes of the Mid-Term C of A: Adjutant Chaplin read the Minutes of the Mid-Term Council of Administration, 9 December 2017. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes as read. **Motion Passed.**

Reports:

Quartermaster: Quartermaster Callaghan gave a written and oral report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the financial statement as of 31 May 2018, as presented, subject to audit. (Attachment A)

Quartermaster mentioned the upcoming changes in regards to the Quartermaster's bond, the importance of DPA email addresses, and for authorized Members to contact him with DPA Form 11 (reimbursements of expenses).

Audit Committee: No report.

Senior Vice Commander /Membership / Veterans Assistance Committee: Sr. Vice Commander Verville gave oral reports.

Junior Vice Commander / Buddy Poppy / Community Activities Chairman: Jr. Vice Commander Farris gave written and oral reports. (Attachment B)

National Council Member/ Chief of Staff / Webmaster / Student Veterans Liaison: Council Member Watson gave oral reports.

Commander District I: Commander Brandon gave a written and oral report. (Attachment C)

Commander District II/National Home Chairman: Commander Himes gave oral report.

Commander District III: Commander Davis gave written and oral reports. (Attachment D)

Commander District IV: Senior Vice Commander Roberts gave a written and oral report. (Attachment E)

Commander District V: Commander Stein gave an oral report.

Commander District VI: Commander Watson gave a written and oral report. (Attachment F)

Commander District VII: Commander Spain gave a written and oral report. (Attachment G)

Chaplain: Chaplain Maxson gave a written and oral report. (Attachment H)

Honored the Members who have passed away since the Mid-Term C of A (December 2017), announcing all the names and the names displayed on a banner. Led the Convention in a Prayer for our Fallen Comrades and bell ring three times.

Surgeon: Surgeon Napsey gave a written and oral report. (Attachment I)

Judge Advocate: No report.

Service Officer: Assistant Department Service Officer Larry Williams gave a written and verbal report. (Attachment J)

Inspector: Inspector Bradford gave a written and oral report. (Attachment K)

Junior Past Department Commander: No Report.

Grand Commander: MOC Grand Bradford gave a written and oral report. (Attachment L)

Americanism / Loyalty Day: Adjutant Chaplin read the written report from Chairman William Russell (Attachment M)

POW/MIA: Chairman Friend gave an oral report.

VOD/PP/Teachers: Acting Chairman Merenda gave an oral report.

Safety / EMT / Fire Fighter: Chairman Merenda gave an oral report.

Legislative: Chairman Brazee gave an oral report. He spoke on the effects of the Legislative process; campaign promises, Congressional Legislation and the consequences to Veterans. Emphasized the need to keep our Congressman informed of what we feel important. Encouraged Members to read the "Action Corps Weekly" to remain informed of what is being done in Washington, D.C. is being done in Washington DC.

Roving Ambassador: Comrade Mitchell gave a written and oral report. (Attachment N)

Clark Cemetery: Chairman Collins gave a written and oral report with the update to Cemetery control by ABMC (American Battle Monuments Commission). (Attachment O)

Typhoon Editor: SVC Verville gave an update on the status and commended the work of Typhoon Editor, Lenne Zaher.

NVMS/National Recruiter: Chairman Lyons gave a written and oral report. (Attachment P)

Chairman Lyons announced names of Members recruiting 3 to 5 new Members. Gift Certificates and Pins were presented by Past National Commander-in-Chief Banas and DPA Commander Gilbert.

Legacy Life Membership: Chairman Zaher gave a written and oral report. (Attachment Q)

Life Membership: Adjutant Chaplin read the written report provided by Chairman Wilsey. (Attachment R)

Youth Activities / Scouting: Chairman Lutman gave a written and oral report. (Attachment S)

Employment: Chairman Nurriddin gave an oral report.

Outreach: Adjutant Chaplin read the written report provided by Chairman Crist. (Attachment T)

Convention: Chairman Holub gave an oral report and update on events and issues.

Commander Gilbert recessed the Convention at 1113 hours for lunch. Convention reopened at 1300 hours. Commander Gilbert acknowledged the presence of Past National Council Member and Past Department of Alaska Commander – Nick Nelson.

Past National Commander-in-Chief, Ed Banas, provided an update on a previous VFW Post (10268) in the Republic of Vietnam. Discussion followed with PNCIC Banas providing what additional information he had obtained.

Comrade or Family Member in Distress: Brother of PDC Larry Lyons; Mike Tierney of Post 12130; World War II Veteran Wendell Newman; PDC Robert Moses; PDC Joe Carsley; DPA Judge Advocate Bill Wichmann

National Home prayer: Chaplain Maxson delivered the prayer. Offered prayer to the victims and survivors of the USS Fitzgerald.

Unfinished Business:

- No Unfinished Business brought forward at this time.

New Business:

Nominations of officers:

Chief of Staff Watson gave the rules for nominations and elections for the 2018-2019 Department of Pacific Areas Officers.

The following Comrades were nominated and accepted their nominations:

Commander: Michael Verville

Senior Vice Commander: Rick Farris

Junior Vice Commander: Kenneth Stein and Brian Merenda

Quartermaster: Peter Callaghan

Chaplain: Ronald Davis

Judge Advocate: Robert Moses

Surgeon: Brian Hamic and Michael Napsey

Note: Adjutant Chaplin received a written email from Comrade Robert Moses, dated 28 May 2018, that if he (Moses) was nominated for the position of Judge Advocate, he accepts the nomination. (Email on file).

Commander Gilbert announced that nominations would remain open until tomorrow. He then had the Officer of the Day prepare the room to salute the colors and called a recess at 1455 hours to reconvene tomorrow, 13 June 2018, at 0900 hours.

Commander Gilbert reconvened the convention at 0900 hours, 13 June 2018.

Commander Gilbert reopened Nominations of Officers:

Commander: Michael Verville

Senior Vice Commander: Rick Farris

Junior Vice Commander: Kenneth Stein and Brian Merenda

Quartermaster: Peter Callaghan

Chaplain: Ronald Davis

Judge Advocate: Robert Moses

Surgeon: Brian Hamic and Michael Napsey

All delegate letters had been received. Quartermaster Callaghan announced the number of delegates and number of votes each Post was entitled to. Verified by each Post Commander or representative. Total of 408 delegate votes with 205 being a majority.

There were **no** other nominations for the positions of Commander; Senior Vice Commander; Quartermaster; Chaplain; and Judge Advocate. Motions were made and seconded to close the nominations for those positions and the Adjutant cast one unanimous vote for the nominated Member. **All Motions Passed.**

For the position of Junior Vice Commander and Surgeon, the voting was deferred until Posts, if necessary, could conduct their respective caucuses. Commander Gilbert recessed the Convention for 10 minutes while Posts conducted their caucuses.

Polling of the Posts was conducted by Quartermaster Callaghan and Adjutant Chaplin. All twenty-six (26) Posts numbers and one (1) separate delegate vote (Michael Verville) were placed in a hat and the numbers were drawn at random. The drawn Posts were asked to answer the result of their delegate vote and/or caucus.

Polling of Posts delegate votes continued until one of the nominees for Junior Vice Commander received a minimum of 205 delegate votes. At that time polling stopped as Kenneth Stein had received 205 delegate votes and was elected DPA Junior Vice Commander.

Polling of Posts delegate votes continued until one of the nominees for Surgeon received a minimum of 205 delegate votes. At that time polling was sopped as Brian Hamic had received 227 delegate votes and was elected DPA Surgeon.

Commander Gilbert announced a 10 minute recess to congratulate all the newly elected DPA Officers.

New Business:

- DPA By-Laws: Comrade Delbert Marohl provided comments and update as to propose changes to the Department of Pacific Areas By-Laws. The changes included Sections 503, 702, 1002, 1103, 1202, 1305, 1306, and 1402. A copy of these proposed changes was included in the Adjutant's package handed out prior to the start of the Convention. Motion was made, and seconded, to forward the amended DPA By-Laws to VFW National for approval. **Motion Passed.**
- VFW National By-Laws: Comrade Marohl provided comments and update as to propose changes to National By-Laws. The changes included Section 719 to National By-Laws and Section 803 of National Manual of Procedures. A copy of these proposed changes was included in the Adjutant's folder. Motion was made and seconded to forward these proposed amendments to VFW National for consideration. **Motion Passed.**
- Adjutant Chaplin presented a National Resolution, "Equitable Education Benefits For Dependents". He briefed that Patrick Murray, Associate Director, National Legislative Service, VFW, had requested that Department of Pacific Areas resubmit this Resolution.

This Resolution was approved by Post 2485 and District VII. Motion was made and seconded to submit the Resolution to VFW National. **Motion Passed.**

- Adjutant Chaplin presented a National Resolution, “Bells of Balangiga”. This Resolution was approved by Post 2485 and District VII. Motion was made and seconded to submit the Resolution to VFW National. Following considerable discussion, at times emotional, during which Commander Gilbert was obliged to limit a Member’s time speaking on the subject, “call for vote” was made. **Motion Passed.**
- Quartermaster Callaghan made a presentation for Saipan, Post 3457 and District VI, to host the 2019 Department Convention in June. Dates to be determined. Motion was made and seconded. **Motion Passed.**

Good of the Order:

- Commander Elect Verville advised the In-Coming C of A would begin at 1300 hours today and he would make announcements of his appointments for the 2018-2019 Term. He would also make other announcements concerning the Department Service Officer and the VOD/Patriot’s Pen/Teacher’s Awards Programs.
- Comrades Webber and Nurridin spoke briefly of the possibility of organizing a new VFW Post in Davao City, Philippines.
- Adjutant Chaplin announced the receipt from Commander-in-Chief Harmon of the DPA 100% Membership achievement streamer to be placed on the Department Flag.
- Adjutant Chaplin announced the candidacy of Jonathan Hoomanawanui, Dept. of Hawaii, for position of Western Conference Vice Chairman. He announced the candidacy of Timothy Peters, Dept. of Montana, for position of Western Conference Vice Chairman. He announced the candidate of Tom Black, Dept. of Idaho, for Western Conference Treasurer. Finally, announced the candidate of Arlene Birkle, Dept. of Wyoming for the position of Trustee, District 11, for the National Home for Children.
- Commander Gilbert invited Past National Commander-in-Chief Edward Banas Sr. for any remarks or comments. PNCIC Banas thanked the Department for a “job well done” and emphasized the need to continue all efforts.

There being no further business to come under the Good of the Order, Commander Gilbert called a recess at 1045 hours to reconvene at 1800 tonight at the installation ceremony.

Commander Gilbert reconvened the Convention at 1800 hours. Following dinner, Commander Gilbert called upon Jr. Vice Commander Rick Farris to be Master of Ceremonies for the Evening Session. Past National Commander-in-Chief Banas and DPA Commander Gilbert presented the DPA Awards. Jr. Vice Commander Farris called upon Commander Gilbert for his final words as Department Commander. Commander Gilbert addressed those gathered and then called upon Past National Commander-in-Chief Banas to perform the Installation of officers for the ensuing year. All officers were installed. PNCIC Banas then installed Michael Verville as the new Department of Pacific Areas Commander. Commander Verville was introduced and gave a few words.

There being no further business to come before the Department of Pacific Areas Convention, Commander Verville asked the newly installed officers to remain in order to conduct some final business then he conducted the closing ceremonies according to VFW Ritual.

By order of:

Gerald Chaplin
Adjutant
Department of Pacific Areas

John Gilbert
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas

Distribution:
Council Members (w/o attachments)
National Adjutant General (w/o attachments)