

**DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS**  
**Minutes – C of A Mid-Term**  
**9 December, 2017, Cebu City, Philippines.**

**Opening Ceremonies:** Department Commander John Gilbert called the Department of Pacific Areas Mid-Term Council of Administration to order at 0930, 9 December 2017, in Cebu City, Philippines. Opening ceremonies were held according to VFW ritual.

**Appointments:** Officer of the Day – Lou Holub

**Distinguished Guests:** Commander Gilbert introduced the guests into the C of A Mid-term – Past Commander-in-Chief, William Thien; National Council Member Shawn Watson; Military Order of the Cootie Grand Commander Bill Bradford. He also introduced National Surgeon, Patrick Higgins.

Commander Gilbert then recognized Past National Council Member Bob Zaher and acknowledged Past National Council Member, Nick Nelson. He introduced Past Department Commanders: Bob Zaher, Rhett Webber, Larry Lyons, Shawn Watson, Robert Moses, and Nick Nelson. He also introduced the Past Grand Commanders Kevin Mitchell and Shawn Watson. Commander Gilbert recognized our World War II Veteran. Commander Gilbert recognized all active duty military that were present.

**Roll Call of Officers:** The Adjutant called the Roll Call of Officers as follows:

Department Commander: John Gilbert - Present  
Sr. Vice Commander: Mike Verville - Present  
Jr. 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 – Present  
District I Commander: Willie T. Brandon - Present  
District II Commander: Randell Himes - Present  
District III Commander: Ron Davis - Present  
District IV Commander: Jim Ascencio - Present  
District V Commander: Ken Stein - Present  
District VI Commander: Shawn Watson - Present  
District VII Commander: Charles Spain - Present  
Adjutant: Gerald Chaplin - Present

**Rules of Order:** Chief of Staff Shawn Watson explained the Rules of Order. Motion was made and seconded to accept the rules. Motion Passed.

**Minutes of the Convention, June 2017:** Adjutant was asked to read the Minutes of the Convention, 13-14 June 2017. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes as distributed. Motion Passed.

**Minutes of the Incoming Council of Administration June 2017:** Adjutant was asked to read the Minutes of the In-Coming C of A, 14 June 2017. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes as distributed. Motion Passed.

### **Reports:**

**Audit Committee:** Chairman Burnett gave the report of audit, conducted 8 July 2017. (Attachment A) Motion was made and seconded to accept the audit as presented. Motion Passed.

**Quartermaster:** Quartermaster Callaghan gave a written and oral report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the financial statement as of 30 November 2017, as presented, subject to audit. Motion Passed. (Attachment B)

**Sr. Vice Commander/Veteran's Assistance Committee Reports:** Sr. Vice Commander Verville gave written and oral reports. (Attachment C & D)

**Jr. Vice Commander/Buddy Poppy/Community Service:** Jr. Vice Commander Farris gave written and oral reports. (Attachments E, F, G)

**National Council Member/Chief of Staff/Webmaster:** National Council Member Watson gave written and oral reports. (Attachments H, I, J). He also mentioned upcoming meetings with Student Veterans.

**Commander District I:** Commander Brandon gave written and oral report. (Attachment K)

**Commander District II:** Commander Himes gave written and oral report. (Attachment L)

**Commander District III:** Commander Davis gave written and oral report. (Attachment M)

**Commander District IV:** Commander Ascencio gave written and oral report. (Attachment N)

**Commander District V:** Commander Stein gave an oral report. He spoke of the eight (8) District Posts located in three (3) countries on two (2) continents. He mentioned the use of video conferencing to conduct District meetings. Stated the difficulties with the VA FMP (Foreign Medical Program) and TRICARE, one issue is direct billing and late receipt of compensation.

**Commander District VI:** Commander Watson gave written and oral report. (Attachment O)

**Commander District VII:** Commander Spain gave an oral report.

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

Honored the Members who have passed away since June 2017, announcing the names and the display of a wall banner with the names of fallen Comrades. Led the Prayer for our Fallen Comrades.

**Surgeon/Hospital:** Surgeon Napsey gave a written and oral report. (Attachment Q)

**Judge Advocate:** Advocate Wichmann – No report. Excused. Commander Gilbert advised of the appointment of PDC Robert Moses as Assistant Judge Advocate.

**Service Officer:** Adjutant Chaplin read DSO Melendy's report. (Attachment R)

**Inspector:** Inspector Bradford gave an oral report.

**Jr. Past Department Commander:** JPDC Moses gave written and oral report. (Attachment S)

**Grand Commander:** MOC Grand Commander Bradford gave oral report.

**Americanism/Loyalty Day Chairman:** Chairman Russell, Commander Post 9612, recently appointed.

**POW/MIA:** Chairman Friend gave oral report.

**VOD/PP/Teachers:** Acting Chairman Merenda gave an oral report and announced the Department winners. Stated the competition was very close and commended those participants.

**Legislative:** Chairman Brazee gave an oral report.

**National Home for Children:** Chairman Himes gave written and oral report. (Attachment T)

**Historian:** Chairman Metherell. No report.

**Roving Ambassador:** Comrade Mitchell gave written and oral report. (Attachment U)

**Clark Cemetery:** Chairman Smith gave a written and oral report. (Attachment V)

**Typhoon Editor:** Chairman Mortimer expressed his thanks to all Department members.

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

Chairman Lyons announced names of Members recruiting 3 to 5 new Members. Pins and dollar gift certificates were presented to the recipients by Past National Commander-in-Chief Thien and Department Commander Gilbert.

Chairman Lyons spoke of other recruiters within the Department and the importance of ongoing recruiting efforts.

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

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

**Life Membership:** Chairman Wilsey. Adjutant Chaplin read the report. (Attachment Y)

**Youth Activities/Scouting:** Chairman Lutman provided an electronic report. Not read at this C of A. (Attachment Z)

**Employment:** Chairman Nurriddin not able to give a report due to his medical condition.

**Outreach:** Chairman Crist provided a written report. (Attachment AA)

**Mid-Term C of A Chairman:** Chairman Nurriddin not able to give report due to his medical condition.

**Convention Chairman:** Chairman Holub gave a detailed update of the June 2018 Convention preparations in Ban Chang, Thailand. Included a power point presentation.

**Comrade or Family Member in Distress:** Post 12130 Commander Yusuf Nurriddin – medical condition; Comrade Mike Tierney, Post 12130 – hospital treatment; DPA Judge Advocate Bill Wichmann – medical; PDC Jim Malott – surgery.

### **Old Business:**

- Adjutant Chaplin reported the Email balloting sent to the Department Council of Administration, on September 2, 2017, for motion to donate \$1,000 to the VFW Texas relief effort. Motion was made by Chief of Staff Watson and seconded by Chaplain Maxson. This motion failed to attain the 9 votes required for passage following a 14 day voting period.

- Adjutant Chaplin reported the Email balloting sent to the Department Council of Administration, on September 19, 2017, for motion to donate \$1,000 of Department budgeted Disaster Fund to the VFW National Emergency Relief Fund. This motion was made by Quartermaster Callaghan and seconded by Adjutant Chaplin. On September 22, 2017, this motion received ten (10) affirmative votes and was passed.

**New Business:** No new business brought forward.

**Good of the Order:**

- Announcements for intent to seek Department Officer positions at the DPA Convention, June 2018:

Brian Merenda – Candidate for Junior Vice Commander

Ron Davis – Candidate for Chaplain

Kenneth Stein – Candidate for Junior Vice Commander

Adjutant Chaplin made the announcement of the Department receiving the “Buddy Poppy 2016-2017 Divisional Competition Award. Plaque and Certificate for “Outstanding Department Buddy Poppy Chairman” were presented.

There being no further business to come under the Good of the Order, Commander Gilbert asked Military Order of the Cootie, Bill Bradford, for his comments.

Commander Gilbert asked Past National Commander-in-Chief, Bill Thien for his comments.

PCIC Thien spoke of various issues within the VFW and Veterans community. Thanked the Department Members for their service.

Commander Gilbert thanked the Mid-Term Council of Administration Chairman, Yusuf Nurridin, and Post 12130 for hosting this C of A.

There being no further business to come before the Department of Pacific Areas, Mid-Term Council of Administration, Commander Gilbert conducted the closing ceremonies according to VFW Ritual.

The next scheduled Department meeting is the Department Convention, 10-14 June 2018, in Ban Chang City, Thailand.

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)