



**Department of Pacific Areas  
Minutes of the 50th Annual Convention  
Chiang Mai, Thailand  
5-9 June 2016**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

The opening ceremonies of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention were held beginning 1000 hours on Monday, June 6, 2016. Department Commander Homer Kemper asked everyone to be seated after the Salute to the Colors, and officially opened the convention.

Adjutant Hudson introduced the following VIPs:

VFW Senior Vice Commander in Chief Brian Duffy  
Deputy Chief of Mission, Amembassy Thailand, Larry Dinger  
Veterans Affairs Commission of Republic of China Counselor, Nick Chang  
Deputy Governor, Chiang Mai Province, Mr. Songkhol Syuksai  
U.S. Consul General, Chiang Mai, Michael Heath  
National Council Member - Pacific, Jerry Kraus  
Past Supreme Commander Military Order of the Cootie, Marty Ellingwood  
Commander, Grand of the Pacific, Military Order of the Cooties Frank Hilliard

Emcee Hudson then asked the true VIPs – our active duty military – to stand and be recognized. Also recognized was our WWII Vet.

Emcee Hudson next introduced the following Past Department Commanders (PDCs):

Jerry Kraus, Bob Zaher, Bill Wichmann, Rhett Webber, Shawn Watson & Bear Hudson

Next, he introduced the following Past Grand Commanders (PGCs):

Bill Wichmann, Kevin Mitchell & Shawn Watson

The head table guests addressed the members with a few words of greeting. The Convention went into recess for the VIP Luncheon with the First Business Session scheduled to begin at 0900 hours on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**FIRST BUSINESS SESSION**

**Opening Ceremonies:** Commander Kemper re-opened the Convention at 0900 hours, Tuesday June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 IAW VFW Ritual. He appointed Comrade Casey Roberts as Guard and Officer of the Day.

**Distinguished Guests:** Adjutant Hudson introduced:

VFW Senior Vice Commander in Chief, Brian Duffy  
National Council Member -Pacific Jerry Kraus  
Supreme District 15 Council Member, Military Order of the Cootie, Marty Ellingwood  
Grand Commander Pacific Areas, Military Order of the Cootie, Frank Hilliard

He then introduced the following PDCs: Jerry Kraus, Bob Zaher, Bill Wichmann, Rhett Webber, Shawn Watson & Bear Hudson

Finally, he introduced the following PGCs: Bill Wichmann, Kevin Mitchell, Shawn Watson

Rules of Order: Judge Advocate Wichmann informed the convention that the Rules of Order were published and distributed. Motion to accept was made, seconded and carried to accept the rules as published.

Roll Call of Officers: The Adjutant conducted the following Roll Call of Officers:

Commander	Homer Kemper	Present
Senior Vice Commander	Robert Moses	Present
Junior Vice Commander	John Gilbert	Present
Quartermaster	Pete Callaghan	Present
Judge Advocate	William H. Wichmann	Present
Surgeon	Patrick Higgins	Present
Chaplain	Brian Merenda	Present
Chief of Staff	Bob Zaher	Present
Inspector	Shawn Watson	Present
Jr. PDC	Bear Hudson	Present
Commander, D1	Willie Brandon	Present
Commander, D2	David Wycks	Present
Commander, D3	Michael Napsey	Present
Commander, D4	Jim Ascencio	Present
Commander, D5	Fred Berg	Present
Commander, D6	Ed Tudor	Present
Commander, D7	Carl Burke	Present
Adjutant	Bear Hudson	Present

The Roll Call of all Committee Chairpersons and Posts was also conducted.

Minutes: The Adjutant informed all that the minutes of the 2015 Convention and 2014 Mid-Term Council of Administration had been electronically distributed to the Council Members on two different occasions and that no corrections had been received. Adjutant Hudson moved to accept the minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

Quartermaster's Report: Quartermaster Callaghan reported that the Department once again had a good year financially and produced an Income/Expense Report (Attachment Z). The next audit will be conducted in July. He also advised that the Budget Committee had unanimously recommended a Veteran's Assistance Fund for needy Veterans not to exceed \$6,000 total with a maximum of \$500 per each needy requirement. This would be voted on by the installed incoming Council of Administration.

Correspondence: Adjutant Hudson read the following:

a. Letter from the National Office appointing the following Comrades to National Committees:

Barry Moshinsky - Post 10217	Veterans Service Resolutions
Larry Lyons - Post 12146	National Military Services Committee
Pete Callaghan - Post 3457	Finance and Internal Organization

b. Letter from the National Office appointing the following Comrades to National Unpaid Committees:

Bob Zaher - 2485	National Deputy Chief of Staff
Fred Berg - 10217	National Special Aide-de-Camp
Michael Lutman - 1054	Assistant Inspector General

Louis Holub – 12146  
Gasper Delise - 9985  
Ronald Davis - 10216  
Ed Tudor – 3457  
Mike Verville - 11447  
Lawrence Senato - 124  
Ed Labenne - 2485  
Butch Malone – 9612  
Michael Napsey – 8180  
Randell Himes - 9612

National Aide-de-Camp  
National Aide-de-Camp  
National Aide-de-Camp  
National Aide-de-Camp  
National Aide-de-Camp  
National Aide-de-Camp  
National Aide-de-Camp  
National Aide-de-Camp  
National Aide-de-Camp  
National Aide-de-Camp

- c. Letter from Comrade Tim Borland asking for support for his bid for Natl. JVCIC in 2020
- d. Letter from Comrade Debra Anderson asking for support for her bid for Natl. Quartermaster General
- e. Letter from Comrade Kirk Rosa asking for support in his bid for Western Conference Vice Chairman
- f. Letter from National announcing the DPA had two early bird winners for the Washington D.C. Legislative Conference and they are Larry Senato and Joseph Catucatan, both from Post 124.

Comrades or a Family Members of a Comrade in Distress were remembered:

- Frank Sass is hospitalized with serious medical condition. Rhett Webber and others volunteered to keep contact with his wife and comrades and keep us advised of his status and help or assistance that might be needed.

National Home was Remembered.

Officer and Chairperson Reports: Officers, District Commanders and Chairpersons gave their reports as follows:

**Senior-Vice Commander/Membership Chairman:** Senior-Vice Commander Moses reported that the Department is presently leading National in membership in a close race with Louisiana.

**Junior-Vice Commander/Programs Chairman:** Junior-Vice Commander Moses stated that Community Service Program reporting for the year had been a great success. Awards will be given out later in the Convention. He also advised that through assistance from SVCIC Duffy, direct contact had been made with the Tricare rep. out of Hawaii and promises to help with some of the Tricare difficulties. Additionally, SVC Gilbert announced that Post 2485 in Angeles City had been selected for the National Community Service Award for its support of Clark Cemetery.

**National Council Member:** Comrade Krause provided an oral and written report. (Attachment Y) He also thanked everyone for their support and felt he had worked hard on behalf of the Department of Pacific Areas during his term as National Council Member.

**District Commanders' Reports:**

District I –Commander Brandon reported on Post's Community Service, and stated that all reports were submitted and inspections were successfully completed (Attachment A)

District II – CDR Wycks reported on the (Attachment B)

District III – CDR Napsey reported on community projects within District III (Attachment C)

District IV – CDR Ascencio gave a report on the District activities (Attachment D)

District V – CDR Berg stated that District V (Attachment E)

District VI – Commander Tudor reported (Attachment F)

District VII – Commander Burke reported on his District (Attachment G)

**Chaplain:** Chaplain Merenda reported and provide a very touching bell ceremony for our departed comrades (Attachment H)

**Surgeon:** Surgeon Higgins presented a written report. (Attachment I)

**Judge Advocate:** Judge Advocate presented a written report to the Adjutant and gave an oral report on the handout given to all present. In the oral report he made motions as follows: (Attachment J)

1. Motion made to support Post 10217 Resolution on Herbicide Exposure in Thailand by Bill Wichmann out of committee. Seconded. Motion Passed"

2. DPA bylaws committee recommended a few changes to Department By-laws, including sections 802 and 803, which were approved (attachment J)

3. Motion made and passed to continue Resolution no.1 on Clark Veterans Cemetery

**Service Officer:** ADSO Moshinsky presented a thorough oral report and also reminded everyone of the Service Officer Training session scheduled. (Attachment K)

**Chief of Staff:** An oral report was given by Chief of Staff Zaher. The Convention Book was a big success as the only Department fund raiser.

**Department Inspector:** Department Inspector Watson informed membership that all Posts and Districts in the Department had been successfully inspected. (Attachment L)

**Jr Past Department Commander:** JPDC Hudson presented a written report (Attachment M) He reminded everyone of the importance to use the Department Email addresses to conduct department business and for Posts and Districts to submit their General Orders to the DPA Adjutant

**Grand Commander:** Grand Commander Hilliard presented an oral report. He thanked everyone for their outstanding support during the term.

**Buddy Poppy Chairman:** Buddy Poppy Chairman Gilbert presented a written report. (Attachment O)

**Americanism/Loyalty Day Chairman:** Chairman Ron Davis presented an oral and written report. (Attachment P)

**National Home:** Chairman Himes provided a written report. (Attachment Q). A check for over \$2,000 was presented as a gift to the National Home by Post 1054.

**Historian:** Historian Bergam provided a written report stating Post histories are not as good as they should be, due to lack of updating. (Attachment R)

**Roving Ambassador:** No report

**Clark Cemetery Chairman:** Clark Cemetery Chairman Burke provided a written report on the status of the Cemetery. (Attachment S). There have been challenges in working with the American Battle Monuments Commission.

**Typhoon Editor:** Typhoon Editor Mortimer presented an oral report. He is very concerned over the lack of inputs to the Typhoon and Around the Pacific/Rim of Fire. Inputs need to be submitted to him no later than 5<sup>th</sup> of each month of publication.

**National Military Service Chairman:** Chairman Lyons sent a written report on the National Military Service Program. As part of his report, he advised how successful this year has been for receiving and putting to good use, grants from National. (Attachment T).

**National Recruiter:** CNR Lyons provided written report. (Attachment U.) It discussed among other things, the Korea-wide Beach Bash scheduled for July and new Community Activity cash stipends provided by National.

**Legacy Life Membership Chairman:** Chairman Zaher presented an oral report presenting the numbers of Legacy Members within the Department. Department of Pacific Areas is number 1 nationally.

**Safety Chairman:** Chairman Webber provided an oral and written report. (Attachment V)

**Hospital Chairman:** Chairman Bradford provided an oral and written report. (Attachment W)

**Life Membership:** Chairman Wilsey provided an oral and written report. (Attachment X)

**Audit Committee:** Asst. Chairman Owens provided a written report indicating that there were no problems with the DPA Financial Accounts and the audit was successful and all in order.

**Women Veterans:** No report

**Youth Activities:** No Report

**Veteran's Assistance:** Chairman Verville reported that a plan has been made to be able to disburse some funds to Veteran's determined to be in significant need. This is being coordinated with the DPA Cdr. And QM for implementation.

**Scouting:** No Report

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** Judge Advocate Wichmann went over the rules for election of officers. Nomination and election of Officers were held with the following results:

Commander	Robert Moses (Unopposed)
Senior-Vice Commander	John Gilbert (Unopposed)
Junior-Vice Commander	Casey Roberts (Brian Merenda also nominated)
Quartermaster	Pete Calaghan (Unopposed)
Surgeon	Mike Napsey (Unopposed)
Chaplain	Warren Maxson (Unopposed)
Judge Advocate	William Wichmann (Unopposed)
Natl. Council Member	Shawn Watson (Unopposed)

**Convention Host 2017:** District 7 presented a request to host the 51st Department Convention in June 2017. Convention voted to hold the 2017 Annual Convention in District 7 at Subic, Philippines.

**Good of the Order:**

1. All State Selections were announced:  
Posts: 1054,9612, 8180, 9985, 10033, 12147, 9951, 10217, 12146,2917, 3457, 124, 2485, 11447 & 12130  
Districts: 2, 3 & 7
2. Program Chairmen were given National certificates for their efforts
3. Commander Kemper made a few closing remarks complimenting the Department for its hard work and keeping Department of Pacific Areas ranked at the top within VFW.

Commander Kemper adjourned the meeting until 1800 hours in the Banquet Room for the Awards/Installation Banquet.

**Incoming Council of Administration:**

Commander elect Moses convened the meeting according to VFW Ritual at 1530 on Wednesday 8 June 2016. Chaplain elect Maxson led us with a prayer. Commander elect Moses welcomed SVCIC Duffy to the meeting The National Home was remembered.

**New Business:** The Veteran's Assistance Fund (VAF) was discussed and approved for QM to budget \$6,000 for the VAF with individual disbursements not to exceed \$500. This will be voted on following the Installation of Officers.

The location for the mid-term Council of Administration was discussed and Angeles City, Philippines bid for the selection and was selected unanimously by the Council. This will be held during the first week in December, 2016.

**Good of the order:**

JVC-elect Roberts briefly advised all that he would work hard to make the term a top one and would work closely with all on Community Relations.

SVC Gilbert discussed the task & challenges in front of us to exceed the great membership success of the 2015-2016 term. It was very important to get off to a quick start in recruiting.

Commander-elect Moses announced many of his committee chairmen for the term. He then gave his vision for the term and encouraged all of us to get off to a solid and fast membership drive. He also advised that the All State program would be essentially the same with a few numbers changes. He wished all gathered a great 2016-2017.

Commander-elect Moses declared the incoming Council of Administration closed.

**Awards/Installation Banquet:**

Commander Kemper reconvened the assembly according to VFW Ritual at 1800 hours. Chaplain Merenda said grace before the dinner was served and Commander Kemper invited all to partake. After dinner, Master of Ceremonies Hudson introduced the Head Table and VIPs present and called Junior Vice Commander Gilbert for the presentation of any additional annual awards which were then provided

Commander Kemper gave a heart-felt outgoing speech thanking all the DPA Comrades and especially the District and Post Commanders for their outstanding support during the 2015-2016 term. He asked them to support incoming Commander Moses with the same effort and enthusiasm. He then called SVCIC Duffy forward to address the assembled audience and to then install the Officers for the 2016-2017 term.

After the Installation, Commander Moses gave an enthusiastic and motivating acceptance speech and was presented his "Commander's Warrant" by SVCIC Duffy. Immediately following that, the newly installed Council of Administration voted and approved the Veteran's Assistance funding previously recommended. Commander Moses then closed the convention.

By order of:

//signed//  
William Hudson  
Adjutant  
Department of Pacific Areas

//signed//  
Robert Moses  
Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas

Attachments (on file)

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