

# **DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS**

## **Minutes – CONVENTION**

### **11 - 12 June, 2019, Saipan**

**Opening Ceremonies:** Department Commander Michael Verville called the Department of Pacific Areas Convention to order at 0900, 11 June 2019, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Opening ceremonies were held according to VFW ritual.

**Appointments:** Sergeant at Arms - Charles Justin Howe.

**Distinguished Guests:** Adjutant Chaplin introduced the guests into the Convention, escorted into the Convention by the Sergeant at Arms; VFW National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Hal Roesch II, bio read by Adjutant Chaplin; National Council Member Shawn Watson.

Adjutant Chaplin introduced Military Order of the Cootie Grand Commander, Bill Bradford.

Adjutant Chaplin then recognized the Past National Council Members Jerry Kraus, Robert Zaher, and Nick Nelson. He introduced Past Department Commanders Jerry Kraus, Robert Zaher, Larry Lyons, Shawn Watson, John Gilbert, and Nick Nelson (Alaska). He also introduced the Past Grand Commanders Kevin Mitchell and Shawn Watson. Adjutant Chaplin recognized all active duty military that were present. Adjutant Chaplin introduced VFW National Director, Membership, Rick Butler.

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

Department Commander: Michael Verville - Present  
Senior Vice Commander: Ricky Farris - Present  
Junior Vice Commander: Kenneth Stein - Present  
Quartermaster: Peter Callaghan - Present  
Chief of Staff: Shawn Watson - Present  
Judge Advocate: Robert Moses - Excused  
Chaplain: Ron Davis - Present  
Surgeon: Brian Hamic - Present  
Inspector: Bill Bradford - Present  
Junior Past Department Commander: John Gilbert - Present  
District I Commander: Paul Zackeroff - Present  
District II Commander: Michael Lutman - Present  
District III Commander: Warren Maxson - Present  
District IV Commander: Scott Ellinger - Excused      SVC Tony Hu - Present  
District V Commander: Delbert Marohl - Excused      SVC Randy Riggs - Present  
District VI Commander: Michael O'Kelley - Present  
District VII Commander: Alexander Fores - Present  
Adjutant: Gerald Chaplin - Present

**Rules of Order:** Judge Advocate Moses stated that the Rules were posted on the Department website and included in the May Typhoon newsletter. Copy of the Rules were made available in the Adjutant's folder handed prior to the opening of this Convention Meeting. Motion was made and seconded to accept the rules as distributed and posted.  
**Motion Passed.**

**Minutes of the Mid-Term C of A:** This was accomplished during the Out-Going C of A, 10 June 2019, see the Minutes for the Out-Going C of A, 10 June 2019.

**Adjutant:** Adjutant Chaplin read Citation from VFW National Commander-in-Chief, Vincent "B.J." Lawrence, congratulating Hafa Adai Post #1509, Yigo, Guam, on its Golden Anniversary (50 Years) of service as a Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The Citation and Commemorative Plaque were present to Past Department Commander, Jerry Kraus, (Post 1509 representative), by Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Roesch and Department of Pacific Areas Commander Verville.

Commander: DPA Commander Verville presented to District II Commander, Mike Lutman, and to all of District II, his District of the Year Award.

## **Reports:**

**Quartermaster:** Quartermaster Callaghan handed out the Department of Pacific Areas Income/Expense budget for 2018-2019 (as of 31 May 2019) at the Out-Going C of A, 10 June 2019. He will present the DPA Income/Expense budget for 2019-2020 for approval at the In-Coming C of A, 12 June 2019.

**Senior Vice Commander / Membership / Veterans Assistance Committee:** Sr. Vice Commander Farris read his report. (Atch A)

**Junior Vice Commander / Buddy Poppy / Community Activities Chairman:** Jr. Vice Commander Stein gave a verbal report. He spoke about the DPA Awards program (winners to be announced at the Installation Banquet). He briefed the winner of the Outstanding Community Service Award, submitted to VFW National, Post 12146, BanChang, Thailand. Buddy Poppy – all 26 Posts purchased required Poppies.

**National Council Member / Chief of Staff / Webmaster / Student Veterans Liaison:** Council Member Watson gave oral report. He spoke of the new VFW logo/brand; Cross of Malta; monies for DPA Service Officer; and accolades for our Department; Chief of Staff report: (Atch B); Webmaster report (Atch C);

**Commander District I:** Commander Zackeroff read his report. (Atch D)

**Commander District II:** Commander Lutman read his report. (Atch E)

**Commander District III:** Commander Maxson read his report. (Atch F)

**Commander District IV:** Senior Vice Commander Hu read the report. (Atch G)

**Commander District V:** Senior Vice Commander Riggs read the report. (Atch H)

**Commander District VI:** Commander O'Kelley read his report. (Atch I)

**Commander District VII:** Commander Fores gave a verbal report.



**Chaplain:** Chaplain Davis read his report. Offered Prayer to ALL our departed Comrades. (Atch J)

**Surgeon/Public Relations Chairman:** Surgeon Hamic read his report. (Atch K) Chairman Hamic read his Public Relations report. (Atch L)

**Judge Advocate:** Judge Advocate Moses read his report. (Atch M)

**Hospital:** Chairman Grimm – No report.

**Service Officer:** Department Service Officer Verville gave a verbal report and update. He spoke of the funding issues; VARO in Manila and in Pittsburgh and Service Officer interactions with those two VA Regional Offices; mention the ADSO in Japan and the resignation of the ADSO in Thailand; Administrative Assistant at the DSO office in the DPA office at Post 2485, Angeles City, Philippines.

**Inspector:** Inspector Bradford read his report. (Atch N)

**Junior Past Department Commander:** JPDC Gilbert read his report. (Atch O)

**MOC Grand Commander:** Grand Commander Bradford provided verbal comments about the Grand and its 50<sup>th</sup> Grand Scratch.

**Americanism / Loyalty Day:** Chairman Russell read his report. (Atch P)

**POW/MIA:** Chairman Rogers – No report.

**VOD/PP/Teachers:** Chairman Kelley gave a verbal report. All required reports and notifications have been forwarded to National. DPA winners received their recognition during the National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Chairman Kelly has provided numerous articles and updates on the DPA website and the Typhoon Newsletter.

**Legislative:** Adjutant Chaplin read the report from Chairman Brazee. (Atch Q)

**National Home for Children:** Adjutant Chaplin read the report from Chairman Himes. (Atch R)

**Historian:** Chairman Maness – No report.

**Roving Ambassador:** Comrade Mitchell read his report. (Atch S)

**Clark Veterans Cemetery:** Chairman Collins read his report. (Atch T)

**Typhoon Editor:** Commander Verville commended the work of our Typhoon Editor, Lenne Zaher. He asked Comrade Zaher to pass on to her our thanks for a continuing job “well done”.

**Veterans & Military Support Programs:** Chairman Lutman read his report. (Atch U)

**Legacy Life Membership:** Chairman Zaher read his report. (Atch V)

**Life Membership:** Adjutant Chaplin read the report from Chairman Wilsey. (Atch W)

**Women’s Veterans Programs:** Chairman Jessica Martinez gave a verbal report.

**Safety / EMT / Fire Fighter:** Chairman Aukshun – No report. DPA winners were announced at the Mid-Term C of A, December 2018.

**Youth Activities:** Chairman Robbins – No report.

**Scouting:** Chairman McCann – No report. The DPA winner for Scout of the Year is Colton D. Jones, submitted by Post 1509, Yigo, Guam, and District VI. His winning package has been submitted to VFW National for inclusion in the National judging.

**Employment:** Chairman Clark – No report.

**Outreach:** Chairman Crist – No report.

**Convention 2019:** Chairman O’Kelley read his report. (Atch X)

**Certified National Recruiter:** PDC Lyons announced the names of DPA Recruiters receiving 3-5 Recruiting Pins and those receiving Gift Certificates. These recruiting awards were presented by Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Roesch and DPA Commander Verville. (Atch Y)

Commander Verville recessed the Convention at 1100 hours for lunch. Convention reopened at 1300 hours.

A short recess in Convention business was taken at 1320 hours and DPA Quartermaster Callaghan introduced the Honorable Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, Representative to the U.S. Congress, House of Representative, for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana islands, who gave our Convention an update on Veterans issues within the U.S. Congress and other issues affecting Veterans and his work within the Congressional sessions.

**Comrade or Family Member in Distress:** None reported.

**National Home Prayer:** Chaplain Davis delivered the prayer for the National Home for Children.

**Unfinished Business:**

- No Unfinished Business brought forward at this time.

**New Business:**

**Nominations of DPA Officers for 2019-2020:**

The following Comrades were nominated and accepted their nominations:

<b>Commander:</b> Ricky Farris	nominated by Comrade Gilbert
<b>Senior Vice Commander:</b> Kenneth Stein	nominated by Comrade Callaghan
<b>Junior Vice Commander:</b> Kevin Mitchell	nominated by Comrade Moses
<b>Quartermaster:</b> Peter Callaghan	nominated by Comrade Zaher
<b>Chaplain:</b> Ronald Davis	nominated by Comrade Hamic
<b>Judge Advocate:</b> Robert Moses	nominated by Comrade Mitchell
<b>Surgeon:</b> Brian Hamic	nominated by Comrade Kelley

Commander Verville announced that all nominations would remain open until tomorrow's business session, (12 June 2019). He then had the Sergeant at Arms prepare the room to salute the colors and called a recess at 1430 hours to reconvene tomorrow, 12 June 2019, at 0900 hours.

Adjutant Chaplin reminded the Convention Members of the "Membership Training" to be conducted by National Director, Membership, Rick Butler, starting at 1500 hours.

**Commander Verville reconvened the convention at 0900 hours, 12 June 2019.**

Commander Verville reopened Nominations of Officers for 2019-2020:



**Commander:** Ricky Farris  
**Senior Vice Commander:** Kenneth Stein  
**Junior Vice Commander:** Kevin Mitchell  
**Quartermaster:** Peter Callaghan  
**Chaplain:** Ronald Davis  
**Judge Advocate:** Robert Moses  
**Surgeon:** Brian Hamic

For each of the above Officer positions, Commander Verville asked if there were any other nominations. No further nominations were made for any of the above positions. For each position, motions were made and seconded to close the nominations for those positions and the Adjutant was directed to cast one unanimous vote for the nominated Member. **All Motions Passed.**

Commander Verville announced the new DPA elected officers as those listed above and the Convention extended their congratulations to the newly elected DPA officers.

**New Business:**

- Adjutant Chaplin presented a National Resolution, "Equitable Education Benefits For Dependents". He briefed that Anthony Lowe, Associate Director, Economic Opportunity, National Veterans Service, VFW Washington Office, had requested that Department of Pacific Areas resubmit this Resolution. (Atch Z)

This Resolution was approved by Post 2485, Angeles City, and District VII (Philippines).

Motion was made and seconded to submit the Resolution to VFW National. **Motion Passed.**

- Adjutant Chaplin made a motion, which was seconded, for proposed Amendments to DPA By-Laws. These proposed amendments were previously presented at the Mid-Term C of A, December 2018, by PDC Gilbert. (Atch AA)

Add Section 504; Section 504 – Residence Requirement: All members of the Council of Administration must reside within the Geographic area of the Department of Pacific Areas. Those changing their primary residence during the year will forfeit their position and the position declared vacant.

Section 604- Term of Office: paragraph a; add section 504 to sentence

Section 702 – Removal of Elective Officers or Committee Members: add paragraph 3 - Forfeited their position through change of primary residence outside the Department area.

Section 1404 – Consolidation of Posts: add into the sentence "following consultation with and concurrence of DPA Commander".

Following brief discussion. **Motion Passed.**

- Adjutant Chaplin made a motion, which was seconded, for proposed Amendments to DPA By-Laws. These proposed amendments were made by DPA Quartermaster Callaghan. (Atch BB)

These changes in wording involve Article VIII, Section 803 – Duties of the Quartermaster; and changes in Article XII, Section 1202 – Audits  
No discussion. **Motion Passed.**

- Adjutant Chaplin made a motion, which was seconded, for proposed Amendments to DPA By-Laws. These proposed amendments were made by District V Convention. (Atch CC)  
These proposed amendments involve Article IV, Section 401 – Composition; Article V, Section 501 – Elected Officers; Section 502- Appointed Officers; and Article IX, Section 901 – Composition

Following much *spirited* discussion, it was decided to take each proposed Section amendment separately for clarity as to what amendment was being voted upon.

Section 401: Motion was made and seconded to add the Department Service Officer to the Composition and add paragraph (f) in the absence of the DSO. **Motion Passed.**

Section 501 and 502: Motion was made and seconded to remove the Judge Advocate and Surgeon from Section 501 “Elected Officers” and place them in Section 502 “Appointed Officers”. **Motion Failed.** Judge Advocate and Surgeon positions will remain as “Elected Officers”.

Section 901: Motion was made and seconded to leave the Inspector and Surgeon in the C of A Composition and to add the Department Service Officer to the Composition. **Motion Passed.**

- District V Senior Vice Commander, Randy Riggs, gave an outstanding power point presentation bid for Post 9951 and District V to host the June 2020 DPA Convention, at the Windsor Suites Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand, June 2020. No other Convention bids were presented. Motion was made and seconded to accept the bid from District V and Post 9951 to host the DPA Convention in Bangkok, Thailand. **Motion Passed.**

#### **Good of the Order:**

- Adjutant Chaplin announced the District Commanders/Quartermasters and Post Commanders/Quartermasters to receive their All-State VFW caps. Six (6) Districts and eighteen (18) Posts received their caps at this time, which were presented by Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Roesch and DPA Commander Verville.
- Adjutant Chaplin acknowledged the outstanding performance by Convention appointed Sergeant at Arms, Justin Howe.
- QM Callaghan, Convention Chairman O’Kelley, and District III Commander Maxson gave some closing comments.
- Commander Verville invited Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Roesch for any remarks or comments. JVCinC Roesch thanked the Department for a commendable year and emphasized the need to continue all efforts. He mentioned a recent change (in the past few days) to the VFW All American program.




There being no further business to come under the Good of the Order, Commander Verville called a recess at 1045 hours to reconvene at 1800 tonight for the Installation Ceremony and dinner banquet.


Commander Verville reconvened the Convention at 1800 hours.

Following dinner, Commander Verville called upon Adjutant Chaplin to be Master of Ceremonies for the Evening Session. Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Roesch and DPA Commander Verville presented the DPA Awards. Adjutant Chaplin called upon Commander Verville for his final words as Department Commander. Commander Verville addressed those gathered and then called upon Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Roesch to perform the Installation of officers for the ensuing year. JVCinC Roesch then installed Ricky Farris as the new Department of Pacific Areas Commander. Commander Farris was introduced and provided his opening remarks, expectations, and words of encouragement.

There being no further business to come before the Department of Pacific Areas Convention, Commander Farris 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 F. Chaplin  
Adjutant  
Department of Pacific Areas

  
Michael R. Verville  
Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas

Distribution:

Council Members (w/o attachments)

National Adjutant General (w/o attachments)