**DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS**

**Minutes** – **Mid-Term Council of Administration**

**9 December 2023, Saipan**

**Opening Ceremonies:** Department Commander Alex Fores called the Department of Pacific Areas, Mid-Term Council of Administration, to order at 0932, 9 December 2023. Commander Fores appointed Terry Ashby as Officer of the Day.

Commander Fores introduced Mayor of Saipan Ramon Camacho. Mayor Camacho addressed the Council of Administration.

**Distinguished Guests:** Jr Vice Commander in Chief Carol Whitmore

Commander Maxson then recognized distinguished Members in attendance: DPA National Council Member, Ken Stein; MOC Grand Commander, David Gley; Past National Council Member Shawn Watson; Past Department Commanders, Rhett Webber, Larry Lyons, Shawn Watson, Ken Stein, Kevin Mitchell, Warren Maxson; Past Grand Commanders, Kevin Mitchell, Shawn Watson, and Warren Maxson.

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

Department Commander: Alex Fores - Present

Senior Vice Commander: Michael Lutman- Present

Junior Vice Commander: John “Jack” Farrell- Present

Adjutant/Quartermaster: Shawn Watson – Present

Chief of Staff: Don Kelley - Present

Judge Advocate: Delbert Marohl – Present

Chaplain: Robert Chatman - Present

Surgeon: Louis “Lou” Holub - Present

Inspector: Barry Larson - Present

Immediate Past Department Commander: Warren “Max” Maxon – Present

District II Commander: Murray Simpkins - Present

District III Commander: Thomas Robertson- Present

District IV Commander: Tony Hu - Present

District V Commander: Emmanuel Guarnuccio - Present

District VI Commander: Gary Hendrix - Present

District VII Commander: James Collins - Present

**Rules of Order:** Judge Advocate, Bert Marohl,explained the Rules of Order. Motion was made by Comrade Marohl, seconded by Comrade Sr Vice Lutman, to accept the rules. **Motion Passed.**

**Minutes of the DPA Convention, June 2023:** Adjutant Watson stated the minutes were sent to the Council and posted on the website. Comrade Watson made a motion to accept the minutes subject to correction, seconded by Comrade Lutman. **Motion Passed.**

**Reports:**

**Audit Committee:**  AuditChairman Beck gave the report of audit conducted the first week in July 2023, in Angeles City.(Atch A)

**Quartermaster:** Quartermaster Shawn Watson provided a written and oral updated financial statement as of 5 Dec 2023. Sr Vice Lutman made a motion to accept the QM report 2nd by Chief of Staff Kelley. **Motion Passed** (Atch B)

**Adjutant:** Adjutant Watson – Nothing to report at this time.

**Comrade or Family Member in Distress:** Draping of the Charter for PDC Gilbert and Moses. Ed Pickens and James Gilmore have passed. Tomas Ross, Jim Rogers and Veron Lask.

**Sr. Vice Commander / Membership:** Senior Vice Commander Lutman gave written and oral reports. (Atch C)

Past Commander Maxson and Jr Vice Commander in Chief handed out the All American awards from the 2022-23 year.

**Jr. Vice Commander /Buddy Poppy / Community Service / Programs:** Junior vice Commander Farrell gave written and oral reports. (Atch D)

**National Council Member:** NationalCouncil Member Stien gave oral reports and stated he has resigned due to health reasons. (Atch E)

**Chaplain:** Chaplain Chatman read his report. (Atch F)

**Surgeon:** Surgeon Hulob read his report. (Atch G)

Commander Fores called for a 10 min break 1052-1103

**Judge Advocate:** Advocate Marohl read his report. (Atch H)

**Chief of Staff/VMS:** Chief of Staff Kelley read his report. (Atch I)

**Inspector:** Inspector Larson read his report. (Atch J)

**Immediate Past Department Commander:** Jr Past Commander Maxson read his report (Atch K)

**Department Service Officer:**  DSO Fitchett read his report (Atch L)

**Commander District II:** Commander Simkins read his report. (Atch M)

**Commander District III:** Commander Robertson read his report. (Atch N)

Commander Fores called for a break for lunch 1131-1300

**Commander District IV:** Commander Hu read his report. (Atch O)

**Commander District V:** Commander Guarnuccio read his report. (Atch P)

**Commander District VI:** Commander Hendrix read his report. (Atch Q)

**Commander District VII:** Acting Commander Colins read his report. (Atch R)

**VOD/PP/Teachers:** Chairman Gley read his report. (Atch S)

DPA winners as follows:

This year’s DPA Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen and Teachers Award winners are:

Patriot’s Pen is Peeradon Bauman, from District 4, Post 12146.

Voice of Democracy is Gwendolen Troy, from District 7, Post 2485.

Teachers Award 1st – 5th grade is Shelia Fitch, from District 4, Post 9723.

Teachers Award 6th – 8th Grade is Alexis Wilson, from District 4, Post 9723

Teachers Award 9th-12th grade No entry.

**Legacy Life Membership:** Chairman Lyons read his report. (Atch T)

**National Recruiter:** Chairman Lyons read his report. (Atch U)

**National Home:** Chairman McGlynn read his report. (Atch V)

**Webmaster:** Commander Fores read Chairman Augie’s report. (Atch W)

**Mid-Term:** Chairman Ruszala gave his report.

**Grand of the Pacific:** Commander Berg gave his report. (Atch X)

**Auxiliary:** Rowena Lancelot gave a report on the Auxiliary.

**Old Business:**  None

**New Business:** None

**Good of the Order:**

* Commander Baka asked if people had time to visit the War Memorial.
* Comrade Waston gave his thanks to Department for this the support.
* Comrade Maxson made a motion to revert back to pdf registration. 2nd by Chief of Staff Kelly. **Motion passed**
* The following Member announced their candidacy, for the DPA positions indicated:

Don Kelley– DPA Junior Vice Commander

James Collins – DPA Junior Vice Commander

Randy Riggs - DPA Junior Vice Commander

Louis Hulob– DPA Surgeon

Scott Ellinger - DPA Chaplain

Robert Chatman – DPA Chaplain

Shawn Watson – DPA Quartermaster

Ken Stien – National Council Member

* Commander Forss thanked Jr Vice Commander in Chief Carol Whitmore for her kind words and presence at our Mid-Term C of A and presented her with a gift.
* Commander Fores gave thanks to the Comrades for their hard work this year and to keep going strong.
* There being no further business to come before the Department of Pacific Areas, Mid-Term Council of Administration, Commander Fores conducted the closing ceremonies according to VFW Ritual and closed the Meeting at 1431 hours.

The next scheduled Department meeting is the Out-Going Council of Administration and the Department Convention, 12-16 June 2023.

By order of:

Shawn Watson

Adjutant

Department of Pacific Areas

Alex Fores

Commander

Department of Pacific Areas

Distribution:

Council Members (W/O attachments)

National Adjutant General (W/O attachments)