

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
DEPARTMENT COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
OCTOBER 2012**

Friday, 5 October 2012

Raleigh, NC

The autumn meeting of the Council of Administration was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by State Commander Ted Briggs with prayer and a salute to the colors. Commander Briggs welcomed everyone to Raleigh.

Roll call was conducted by Adjutant/Quartermaster Bruce Edwards. The following persons were absent: Surgeon Sandra Clagett, Past State Commander Jason Schoolcraft, District 3 Commander Ken Schmitz, District 1 Commander Nathaniel Degraffenreaidt, and District 17 Commander William Hall. All were excused except District 10 Commander Degraffenreaidt. The District 3 Judge Advocate and the District 10 Chaplain sat in their commanders' applicable seats without vote.

The following special guests were present:

National Council Member James Goins reported that he had attended a National Council of Administration meeting and had received a great deal of information, which he was willing to share with anybody. He said the department was at 80.6% on membership at this time, and noted that the VFW is the only veterans' organization that goes to Vietnam to help recover remains.

Ken Siragusa, the Director of the North Carolina Veterans Employment Service of the Division of Workforce Solutions (formerly the Employment Security Commission), reported that his office was working hard, but unemployment among veterans remains high.

Angel Alvarez, Assistant Director of the Veterans Training Service of the U.S. Department of Labor, said that their situation was similar to Director Siragusa and brought the greetings of Director Evon Degregorio.

Tim Wipperman, the Director of the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs, said that snags had developed on the two new veterans' homes in Black Mountain and Kinston. However, Black Mountain admitted its first veteran on 4 October and will have a grand opening on 25 October. Kinston will hopefully open at the first of the year. He also said to watch out for Aid and Attendance scams.

Diana Williard of the VA Regional Center in Winston-Salem reported that they have 700 employees who serve 800,000 veterans at the rate of \$2.3 million per month. They completed 1.2 million claims last year.

The following state officers gave reports:

State Senior State Commander Ernie Allis reported on his travels and membership efforts throughout the state. He called on the following programs directors to report:

*Voice of Democracy (VOD) Chairman Walter Glance said that program was proceeding fine, and that to remember to obtain the jacket size on every district winner.

*Patriot Pen Chairman Michael Ayscue reported that the Department entries for Patriot Pen judging were due to him no later than 10 December, and judging would take place at Department Headquarters on 15 December.

*Teacher of the Year/Americanism Chairman Jack Goin said his entries must be at Department no later than 15 December. He also said all 17 districts should have entries this year, as all 17 did not last year.

Junior Vice Commander Jack Goin called on National Children's Home Chairman Jeff Friar, who stated that the basement windows in the North Carolina Cottage have been all repaired. Community Activities Chairman Bruce Edwards said that the online reporting system was working fine, and must be used to get credit for service.

Judge Advocate Dean Harris said the draft disciplinary guide for the department was completed and ready for additions, deletions, or comments.

Inspector Glenn Phelps turned in his written report to the Adjutant, and made several comments on inspection techniques.

The state commander announced that the State Commander and State President's Homecoming will commence at 6:00 p.m. in the Department Hospitality Room.

The session was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. to be resumed on Sunday.

Saturday, 6 October 2012

Raleigh, NC

The Joint Session of the VFW, Ladies Auxiliary, and Men's Auxiliary was called into session at 9:00 a.m.

State President Ginger Amos and Ladies National Council Member Helen Bell of South Carolina were introduced by Commander Briggs. The following speakers were heard in order:

State Secretary Lynn Edwards presented the giant check for \$5000 to Commander Briggs in the name of Wal-Mart. \$1000 is to go to the Ladies VAMC and Women's Veterans programs, and \$4000 is to go to the VFW Department Canines 4 Warriors service dog program.

Buddy Poppy Chairmen Lin Moore and Bruce Edwards reported on the success of the Buddy Poppy King and Queen program this year. Certificates for having outstanding Buddy Poppy programs were presented to Post 10346 and Ladies Auxiliary 1142.

Brigadier General (Retired) Mabry “Bud” Martin, Pat McCrory’s Veterans’ Coordinator, spoke to the assembly about Mayor McCrory’s experiences and beliefs. It was explained by Adjutant/Quartermaster Edwards that Lt Governor Walter Dalton’s camp was contacted as well, but replied that they didn’t have anybody in the campaign that knew anything about Dalton’s stance on veterans. BG Martin referred the attendees to a website called www.veteransformccrory.com.

Betty Goolsby, Director of the Fayetteville VA Medical Center (VAMC), spoke to the assemblage about the improvements being made at her facility.

Darlene Lauder, Chief of Volunteer Services at Asheville VAMC, reported on that facility’s family placement program and caregiver respite program.

Charlie Sloan, the Department’s Medicare Coordinator, reported on recent changes to the Medicare system.

Chaplain Steve Smith addressed the attendees on his upcoming programs.

The State Commander announced that all hospitality rooms will close from 6:30 pm to 8:30 p.m. because of the Buddy Poppy King and Queen Reception.

The Joint Session adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, 7 October 2012

Raleigh, NC

The Council reconvened at 9:00 a.m. Roll call revealed the following absences: Surgeon Sandra Clagett, Inspector Glenn Phelps, Past Dept. Commander Larry Flood, and District 3 Commander Ken Schmitz. Clagett and Schmitz were excused for medical reasons.

National Council of Administration member James Goins told the comrades about some of the decisions of the recent Council meeting, and gave Adjutant Edwards a copy of the VFW National Budget to distribute to all Department council members.

Further officer reports:

Chaplain Smith expressed his concern about the homeless veterans, and referred the comrades to the VA’s website and its Homeless tab.

Budget Committee Chairman Ernie Allis spoke the Billy Ray Cameron and Otis N. Brown scholarship programs and how they were faring. He also brought the comrades up-to-date on the Canines 4 Warriors service dog program. A motion was made,

seconded, and passed to allocate \$2800 to pay for and finish up the first set of dogs in the possession of District 17 Commander Hall. Veterans have already been found for these dogs, once they are trained.

Long Range Planning Committee Chairman John Shelander said they are working on a Grasshoppers' baseball game for the state convention in June in Greensboro. They are also working on a bus for the 17 VOD and 3 Patriot pen winners to get transported around Greensboro, and want to attract VFW Riders to the state convention.

Golf Committee Chairman Jason Schoolcraft announced that the 2013 State Golf Tournament would be in Statesville, and that District 14 Commander Allen Payne was the POC for the event.

State Membership Chairman Jack Campbell reported on ways to increase membership. State Commander Briggs instructed the district commanders to have phone trees ready to go into effect at every post no later than January. The department will pay the first month's fees for small posts that cannot afford the beginning fees.

National Guard Coordinator Frances Crawford reported that she was at the Yellow Ribbon event last weekend and signed up 7 new members from the National Guard there. It was announced that MAP actions for Guard and Reserve units should go through the chain of command, so that District Commanders could get a grip on the events in their districts.

District 15 Commander Doug Blevins asked if there was a list of district commander duties. Adjutant Edwards said that, other than the National By-Laws, there was no such list, but he would work on supplying one.

Unfinished Business:

Adjutant/Quartermaster explained that the department by-laws change concerning Men's Auxiliaries was turned down by National, but suggested that a Council SOP was now the way to go. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that the Council agreed with this plan, and asked Adjutant Edwards to have a draft SOP ready at the next Council meeting.

District 17 Commander Skip Hall gave a detailed report on the progress of the Canine 4 Warriors program. The dogs will be kept in kennels being constructed on the grounds of Wittier Post 8013. A comrade with a camper will camp at the site during the training period to insure the dogs are cared for after hours. It was announced that VA has cut off funding for the service dog program, so that the organization Warrior Dogs out of the Asheville VAMC has no funding. Comrade Harry Smith, who will receive one of the first service dogs, was introduced and thanked the Department.

New Business:

Adjutant/Quartermaster Bruce Edwards discussed a veteran who needs his truck payments caught up due to his PTSD. It was pointed out that Commander Briggs had not already made this decision because he wanted the Council to reaffirm the process for Unmet Needs payments at the Department level. A dual motion was made, seconded, and passed to assist the soldier in question and to reaffirm the policy that the Quartermaster could pay Unmet Needs funds if payback from National was certain, and that the Commander could approve payments of such relief funds when payback from National was not certain.

The District Commanders all gave their individual district reports.

Good of the Order:

The following awards were issued:

*All American hats, certificates, and pins to Posts 4542, 6018, and 9133.

*All State hats to Post 12107.

*Golden Anniversary certificate to Post 5202.

*Perpetual Charter to Post 11119.

*Gold Star Donor (National Home) to the Department.

Steve Amos of Winston-Salem, Jessie Bellflowers of Hope Mills, Van Raper of Wilson, and Victor Letourneaut of Swansboro all announced they would run for State Junior Vice Commander in June 2013.

Past State Commander Jason Schoolcraft announced that he would be running for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief in 2018. A motion was made and seconded to authorize individuals, posts, and auxiliaries to run fund-raisers, starting immediately. The money will be all sent to the Department Headquarters, where it will be accounted for in the Department accounting system under its own sub-account numbers (income and expense). At this time, Past State Commander Goins introduced a motion to table, which cannot be discussed or amended. The tabling motion was voted upon and defeated. The main motion was then voted on and passed.

After prayer and a salute to the flag, the council meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Bruce Edwards
State Adjutant/Quartermaster