

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

**Friday, 3 February 2012**

**Raleigh, NC**

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

Roll call was conducted by Adjutant/Quartermaster Bruce Edwards. The following persons were absent: Chief of Staff Glendale Young (excused), Past State Commander Larry Flood (excused), Past State Commander Douglas Seay (unexcused), District 9 Commander Anthony Hall (excused), District 13 Commander Tony McMahan (excused), and District 14 Commander Leon Ijames (excused). The District Senior Vice Commanders of Districts 9, 13, and 14 were present with voting rights.

The following special guests were present:

National Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief John Hamilton gave his opening remarks and welcomed all to the conference.

National Council of Administration member Frank Fogner of South Carolina gave short remarks.

Candidates of National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief from the Southern Conference Brian Duffy of Kentucky and Hal Roche of Virginia asked for the council's support for their campaigns. Also present were their traveling companions, Karl Kaelin and Dan Boyer.

There was no representative from the North Carolina Veterans Employment Service.

There was no representative from the North Carolina Division of the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans Employment Service.

George Ray of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Center at Winston-Salem was present. He reported that the best thing VA can do to help veterans at this time is reduce the backlog of disability claims. The current timeframe for BDD claims is 172 days, and one year for Quick Start claims. There were many questions for Mr. Ray.

Tim Whipperman, Director of the Division of Veterans Affairs in the state of North Carolina reported that his office has submitted 1300 new claims and 1500 reopened claims to VA. They have a 72.5% granted rate. They have also given out 398 scholarships to children of North Carolina veterans.

The following state officers gave reports:

State Commander Schoolcraft announced that he would not entertain a motion to support either Comrade Duffy or Comrade Roche until Sunday morning, as this would give them time to campaign and meet the comrades.

Senior Vice Commander and Voice of Democracy Chairman Briggs had arrived by this time after taking care of the Voice of Democracy winning students. He reported that all 17 districts had participated in the VOD program, and it was very successful. Hew then called up Patriot Pen Chairman Michael Ayscue and Americanism Chairman Jack Goin for their reports.

Patriot Pen Chairman Ayscue was not present, as he was still with the Patriot Pen winning students. However, it was reported that all 17 districts also had participated in the Patriot Pen program.

Americanism and Teacher of the Year program Chairman Goin stated that 12 of the 17 districts participated in the Teacher of the Year program.

Junior Vice Commander Allis gave short remarks, and then called on National Home for Children Chairman Jeff Friar, Community Activities Chairman Bruce Edwards, and Scouting Coordinator Terry Middleton to give their reports.

National Home Chairman Friar stated that the North Carolina Cottage needed to replace the basement windows from our restricted Cottage Fund. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to allocate \$1500 from our department's Cottage Fund for these repairs.

Community Activities Chairman Edwards stated the new internet reporting system is working very well for its first year of operations. Already, 52% of posts are utilizing the system. District commanders were urged to contact their posts and tell them to send paper copies of reports to the district for inclusion in the internet reporting system if the posts could not enter the data themselves.

Scouting Coordinator Middleton was no present.

Judge Advocate Goin gave short remarks.

Surgeon Sandra Clagett announced that VA will have tables in the pre-function area on Saturday, and all comrades may take advantage of the services offered. She also said a rodeo was being planned in North Carolina to help veterans and more information on that would be forthcoming.

Inspector Steve Amos reported that 84% of all inspections were completed, but had not yet been placed on the internet reporting system database. He said that the number of canteen inspections is not as high as it should be.

State Commander Schoolcraft stated that he would allow comrades to declare their intentions to run for state office in June 2012 at this time in order to allow them to begin campaigning at this Council meeting. The following people announced at this time: Ted Briggs for Commander, Ernie Allis for Senior Vice Commander, Jack Goin for Junior Vice Commander, Bruce Edwards for Quartermaster, Dean Harris and Roland Rochester for Judge Advocate, Saundra Clagett and Chris Sikes for Surgeon, A.G. Parker for Chaplain, and Jason Schoolcraft and Jim Goins for National Council Member. State *VFW Leader* Editor Bruce Edwards cautioned them that, if they want to run an ad in the newspaper, have it to him by end of February.

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

**Saturday, 4 February 2012**

**Raleigh, NC**

The Joint Session of the Comrades and Ladies was opened at 9:00 a.m. by State Commander Schoolcraft, who formally announced that Chaplain Parker had been transported to the hospital for treatment. Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain Janice Holm gave the opening prayer, and the pledge of allegiance was pronounced. An admin announcement was made that Patriot Pen certificates for both posts and ladies auxiliaries were being distributed to the district commanders.

National Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Hamilton gave his remarks to the comrades, followed by National Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain Ann Panteleakos.

Terrence Walker, the National Military Liaison for Phoenix University spoke about his schools system, which is a for-profit college. He said they have many programs and opportunities for veterans.

CSM (Ret) Andrew Jackson of the North Carolina National Guard's Transition Office, spoke to the assembly about his office's efforts to have combat National Guardsmen integrated back into the civilian community, and how the VFW can help.

Terri Stober of the North Carolina Chapter of Pets For Vets gave a presentation on her organization, which trains "Kill Shelter" dogs to assist veterans with PTSD. She did not desire any funds from the VFW, but only a partnership to get the word out to veterans on Pets For Vets' programs.

Brian Boze of Indian Trail Post 2423 gave a briefing on the Vietnam Moving Wall being hosted by his post. He asked for assistance if any posts or districts felt like contributing time, efforts, or funds for this expensive project.

Charlie Sloan, the Medicare Expert for the Departments of North Carolina and Virginia, briefed the assembly on changes to Medicare and various eligibility dates involved.

The Joint Session was adjourned at 10:30 a.m., and the next business session scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

**Sunday, 5 February 2012**

**Raleigh, NC**

The business session was opened at 10:00 a.m. by State Commander Schoolcraft. An opening prayer was given by Comrade Richard Rice, and the pledge of allegiance pronounced. National Senior Vice Commander Hamilton gave his final remarks.

Adjutant/Quartermaster Edwards called the roll with the following results: Past State Commander Larry Flood was excused, Past State Commander Douglas Seay was absent, District 7 Commander Allen Daniels was absent, District 14 Commander Leon Ijames was excused. District 14 Senior Vice Commander Ben Harman sat on the Council in Commander Ijames' place with voting rights.

Long Range Planning Committee Chairman John Shelander said he had 12 members at his committee meeting. He asked all district commanders to speak to their post commanders at their next meeting on what they want to see at Council meetings and at the State Convention. He said the idea was floated to give post commanders a free room night at State meetings if it could be afforded. It was conceded it would be very expensive, since all non-state officer attendees were already receiving \$.20/mile reimbursement, whether they drove or not.

Golf Committee Chairman David Joe Duncan was not present. Commander Schoolcraft announced that the 2012 State Golf Tournament would be hosted by Sanford Post 5631, but no date had been set.

State Membership Chairman Lewis Hunt delivered information on the upcoming Vietnam Veterans Homecoming celebration in March at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. He is heading a membership team for that event, and will coordinate it with various posts and comrades.

Old Business: State Commander Schoolcraft asked if there was any old business to be discussed.

Budget Committee Chairman Ernie Allis gave a report on the progress of the 2011-2012 state budget. He reported that the department had received its first installment of \$50,000 from Ms. Clark's will (total \$600,000). A motion was made and seconded to increase mileage reimbursement for state officers back to \$.40/mile from the present \$.30/mile, effective Friday, 3 February. It was passed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to reimburse VFW recruiters on Membership Chairman Hunt's Charlotte Speedway team \$.20/mile. A motion was made to reimburse the Sparta Post 7034 a total of \$850 because of mistakes made on their reinstatement as a tax-exempt non-profit. It was seconded and passed.

State Adjutant/Quartermaster Edwards reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft of the State Canteen SOP was receiving comments back from posts, and would be ready to present to the Council by June. State Commander Schoolcraft appointed a committee to do a final

check of the draft in May. It will be chaired by State Inspector Steve Amos, and consist of comrades Jeffrey Friar, William Smith, Greg Stafford, Victor Letourneaut, and Ronald Lief.

New Business: State Commander Schoolcraft asked if there was any new business to be brought before the Council.

State Adjutant/Quartermaster Edwards asked if the three Conferences had decided on if they wished to have the Flying Squadron training at Conference level, and if so, what host posts and dates had been picked. It was announced that Eastern Conference would be at Mt. Olive Post 9959 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on 4 August. Central Conference would be at the Department Headquarters from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on 11 August. Western Conference would be at Statesville Post 2031 from 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 18 August. Post and Auxiliary officers were urged to come. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to pay each district and each post a stipend of \$.30/mile for one vehicle from each entity. Only one vehicle from a post and district will receive the stipend, so people are encouraged to carpool. Another motion was made, seconded, and passed to pay each host post a stipend of \$500 to the post to assist their hosting expenses, such as lunch. It was explained that instructors at the training would be state-level officers.

Reports from the District Commanders were received at this time. A suggestion was made to try and get a separate report and column in the internet reporting system under posts and districts for participating in funeral services. The State Adjutant/Quartermaster said he would check into the possibility of doing this.

Good of the Order: State Commander Schoolcraft asked if there were any subjects to be brought up under Good of the Order. He emphasized that spending of funds cannot be approved under Good of the Order.

The following awards were given out:

\*2011 National Outstanding Community Service Award to Swansboro Post 9960.

\*Golden Anniversary Award to Candler Post 9939.

\*Golden Anniversary Award to Forest City Post 5204.

\*Onslow County Certificate of Appreciation to Holly Ridge Post and Auxiliary 9983.

\*Onslow County Certificate of Appreciation to Swansboro Post 9960.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to form a partnership with Pets For Vets to inform veterans about the services offered by that organization.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to more formalize the Gold Medal program for EMT, Firefighter, and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, and have posts submit their nominees to their district for checking and further submission to department.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to assist former VFW National Programs Chairman Mike Gormalley with trying to find photo's of North Carolinians

who were on the Vietnam Wall in Project Call For Photo's.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to support the Wall to Wall Cross Country Ride, but without expenditure of Department funds. Posts that the Ride will go through will be informed of their options.

State Adjutant/Quartermaster Edwards announced, that despite rumors to the contrary, he was not voluntarily retiring anytime in the next several years.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to endorse Brian Duffy of Kentucky for the position of National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Comrade Duffry presented a genuine Louisville Slugger bat to the Department as a token of his appreciation.

State Commander Schoolcraft asked if there were any other comrades who wished to announce that they are running for a state-level office in June, who didn't already announce on Friday, the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mark Bergman announced he was running for Junior Vice Commander. A letter was read by Stephen R. Smith of Jacksonville Post 9133 that he would run for the office of State Chaplain, and expressed deep regret at the passing of State Chaplain A.G. Parker.

The business session was adjourned at 12:00 noon with a prayer and a salute to the flag.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Bruce Edwards  
State Adjutant/Quartermaster