

Veterans of Foreign Wars
District 2
Minutes
Date: August 8, 2010
Location: Anaheim Post 3173
Call to Order at: 0933 hours

I. Opening Ceremonies

A. Commander opened the meeting and led the District through the traditional opening ceremonies.

B. Commander called for the “Draping of the Charter” ceremony in honor of Comrade John Kesler.

II. Adjutant

A. Roll Call of Officers

Adjutant read the roll of elected officers. Adjutant reported to the Commander that Junior Vice Carrasco and Surgeon Art Peck were absent, all other officers were present.

B. Roll Call of Posts

Adjutant read the Roll of Call of Posts. Adjutant reported the following Posts absent: Post 3670 – Garden Grove, all other Posts were present.

III. Distinguished Guests

A. Commander announced that James Lopez, District 9 Commander and current Department Junior Vice Commander Earl Fulk were present.

B. Commander acknowledged present Past District 2 Commanders.

IV. Reading of Minutes

Commander stated that the minutes of May 9, 2010 had been previously distributed and asked for any corrections.

Comrade Mueller stated that the Resolutions accepted by the District should have been attached to the minutes (Good of the Order #1).

Comrade McKee noted that he advised the membership of the Civil War Cannon Salute (Good of the Order #13).

V. Quartermaster

A. Report of the audited budget was provided by Quartermaster Manes.

Motion: Approve the audited budget. Maker: Jordan, 2nd: Chermak, carried by voice.

B. Communications

1. Quartermaster Manes stated that past due post dues need to be forwarded to the District Quartermaster.

2. Quartermaster Manes presented and described the proposed 2010-11 budget. Questions from the floor ensued asking about the budget. Quartermaster Manes provided explanations regarding specific line items including the application of interest from CDs. Comrade Clouse stated that \$300 for the VA Hospital was not enough.

District 2 Meeting

August 8, 2010

Page 2 of 6

Comrade Mueller stated that the budget as presented has a planned deficit against anticipated revenues.

Motion: Comrade Clouse moved to increase the VA Hospital line item from \$300 to \$800. 2nd by Comrade Turrill.

Discussion: Quartermaster Manes stated that an increase from one line item means a deduction from another to achieve a balanced budget.

Comrade DeShields stated that \$250 towards the difference can come from the Football Pool.

Comrade Romano asked shouldn't the budget include more for recruitment.

Comrade Rude recommended taking \$500 from the General Fund to the Hospital line item.

Comrade Mueller stated that his post would fit the bill for the difference.

Comrade DeShields suggested amending the line item for the Football Pool from \$1500 to \$1000.

Commander called for the vote. Motion carried by voice.

(Note: the amendment was not amended to include any of the discussion above)

C. Bills to be Paid

Quartermaster Manes stated that there was one bill to paid for postage in the amount of \$4.81 and asked for a motion to pay.

Motion: Pay the outstanding bill of \$4.81. Maker: Chermak, 2nd: Jordan. Passed by voice.

VI. Service Officer Report

Service Officer McKee reported the following:

1. The VA is very busy because they have relaxed the rules regarding post-traumatic distress (ptd).

2. If a comrade has a need they should leave a message at (310) 235-7127 or 7128 at the LA office. If a comrade lives in Orange County, they need to call the San Diego office. Mark Berret or Terry Jogenson has those files. Comrade Feller stated he has the San Diego numbers to call. Another number to call is Nick Guest at Department, 310/235-7129. His staff member is "Maria".

3. Watch for Chisters' rest homes.

4. There are 3 new presumptions for Agent Orange in the Code of Regulations and how to file for same.

5. If a comrade is applying for a pension, it's better to start at the Service Officer level versus going directly to the VA.

VII. Communications

The Adjutant reported no communications.

VII. Chaplain: Comrades in Distress

1. Chaplain McKee asked for contact information of any deceased District comrades when any District comrades learn of same.

2. He reported no known comrades in distress. Comrade Jordan reported that the past Anaheim commander was out of the hospital in West Virginia.

District 2 Meeting

August 8, 2010

Page 3 of 6

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Membership

Chair Jordan provided a printout of membership.

B. Buddy Poppy

The Officer of the Day Fulk suggested that Buena Park's Post poppies could be purchased with the relief fund. He also stated that if a post can't use their poppies that they should give them away to a post that can. He also stated that the Service Department needs help.

C. Ways and Means

Chair Jordan stated that the School of Instruction was held last week. He also stated that Service Officer training will be conducted within the next month.

D. Citizenship Education

Chair Peck had no report.

E. National Home

Commander stated there was no report as there is no Chair.

F. Youth Activities

Chair DeShields had no report.

G. Veteran's Service & Military Assistance

Chair McKee reported on military assistance and Operation Uplink.

H. Legislative

1. Chair Manes reported he distributed Green Sheets for all posts.
2. He advised that if any Post or comrade does anything on legislation to file a report.
3. (State Political) Elections are coming. If anyone thinks that the VFW should support any candidate, please inform the Chair.
4. The Chair provided a Sacramento update. He stated that there are many new veterans' bills but no new money.
5. Chair Manes stated that the VFW is still trying to get 8.4 million dollars for veterans' services.
6. Chair Manes discussed specific items on the Green Sheet.
7. It was reported that a member of MAC 39 recently died in Afghanistan.

I. Loyalty/Veterans/Memorial Day

Regarding reporting to National, Commander explained how to submit Form 12s. They go to the Chair, not Department and who to include reports to at District.

IX. Senior Vice report

1. Chair Jordan reminded the posts to pay \$25 for Service Officers.

District 2 Meeting

August 8, 2010

Page 4 of 6

2. He encouraged posts to get their reports in.
3. He instructed the posts to get their Patriot's Pen efforts moving.
4. He stated he will start inspecting the north posts next month.

X. Junior Vice Report

There was no report.

XI. Chief of Staff Report

Chief of Staff DeShields reported that the Senior Vice will inspect the north and the soon to be elected Junior Vice will inspect the south posts. As Chief Inspector DeShields will inspect all reports. Inspections need to be done prior to December 31.

Commander recessed the meeting at 1115 hours.
Commander reconvened the meeting at 1130 hours.

XII. Unfinished Business

1.a. Awards: Commander had the Officer of the Day call up the All-State award winners. Pins and certificates were handed out to those called.

The Commander halted the Awards Ceremony and announced the entrance of the Women's Auxiliary.

1.b. Awards were distributed for:

All-State: John Mueller & Curtis Turrill,
All-State Team – Post Commander: John Mueller and Curtis Turrill,
All-State Quartermaster: Robert Richardson,
National Military Service: Jack Davis, Harold Short, Tony Romano,
National Outstanding Post Patriot's Pen Chair: Robert Fowler,
National Outstanding Post Patriot's Pen Program Activities: Robert Fowler,
100% Membership 2009-2010: Robert Fowler, Richard Enroth, Richard Latham, Curtis Turrill, and
\$50 Gift Certificate: William Seibert.

Past Commander Tucker was presented with his Commander's Pin.

2. Comrade Faulk stated that if a Post submits a by-law change or a procedure, the process is that it must go through the Post, District then through Department. Please submit these early because if you submit in April and expect it to show up in Sacramento in May, that wouldn't happen.

XIII. New Business

1. Commander called for nominations for Junior Vice. Comrade Faulk nominated Comrade Mueller. Comrade Mueller accepted. Commander called for any other

District 2 Meeting

August 8, 2010

Page 5 of 6

nominations. Hearing none he directed to the Adjutant to declare a unanimous vote for Comrade Mueller for Junior Vice Commander. The adjutant did so.

Commander called for the installation of new officer Junior Vice Mueller by the Officer of the Day. The installation ceremony was executed and the Junior Vice was properly installed.

2. Senior Vice Jordan reiterated what Comrade Faulk stated earlier regarding submitting by-law changes and added that three copies of by-laws and reports must be submitted.

Commander stated that per the School of Instruction training, Posts are not required to have by-laws. However, if a Post chooses to have by-laws, then they must go through the chain of approval. Otherwise Post by-laws will default to the National by-laws.

Comrade DeShields stated that if a Post uses the National by-laws, the Post should insure it has the most current edition.

3. Comrade McKee stated that there is a letter from Attorney General Brown regarding RFF1 that is causing confusion regarding whether Posts need to incorporate. He stated the Department is looking in to it for clarification.

Comrade Clouse asked why the Posts may be required to incorporate. Commander stated he does not have an answer at this time.

Comrade Clouse asked how much it costs to incorporate. Several members stated \$20.

Comrade Manes stated the steps to incorporate.

Junior Vice Commander of Department Faulk stated that if any Posts have questions regarding this matter, they should ask Jim Rowoldt directly.

XIV. Good of the Order

1. Comrade Hal Short called upon the comrades to support the process of returning the bodies of those that died and their families. He stated that his Yorba Linda Post has had numerous casualties and it's a terrible time for the families. Comrade Short stated that he as a Korean veteran received an invitation from the Korean Consulate General to honor the 60th anniversary of the Korean War.

2. Comrade Fowler stated National will provide to the family of someone killed in combat will provide a holder that has a certificate in it. Applicants must provide some lead time and specific information for the certificate.

Commander stated sometimes the families don't want to release such information because of groups that may choose to protest or otherwise disrupt such ceremonies.

3. Comrade Jordan congratulated the Yorba Linda Post for the tremendous job they have done supporting and organizing fallen comrades' funeral ceremonies.

District 2 Meeting

August 8, 2010

Page 6 of 6

4. Comrade Clouse asked about burial plots acquired by District 2 and how does one obtain one. Commander stated that there is not an application process that he is aware.

5. Comrade McKee stated that a plaque and flag can be placed on graves at private cemeteries now at no cost. If a family would like to have that service provided, contact Scott McKee.

Comrade McKee also stated that he gets less than 24 hours notice of troops returning to Los Alamitos because of security reasons. Therefore, those wishing to be present and support those troops need to respond as soon as possible.

6. Commander stated that he passed out fliers regarding the beginning of the construction of the Irvine Memorial. They have asked for the VFW to support fund raisers. He stated that the closest Posts are Mission Viejo and Santa Ana should they have interest in being involved.

7. Commander stated that the Form 12 on-line reporting seems to straight forward. However if anyone has any questions, please contact the Commander.

8. Commander introduced and gave the floor to James Lopez, Commander District 9. Comrade Lopez addressed the need for continued recruitment.

XV. Closing Ceremonies

Commander ordered the closing ceremonies.

Commander adjourned the meeting at 1227 hours.

Next meeting: 0930 hours

October 9, 2010

Anaheim Post 3173