

VFW Delegate to UVCRI Report for end-of-year report for VFW State Convention 05 June 2021

Because of the COVID-19 virus most of our activities have been restricted. We have met in person and on Zoom for the last year. We normally meet nine (9) months of the year. There are no meetings in June, August and December each year.

We had two (2) guest speakers at our May meeting. They were the Kasim Yarn, the Director of Veterans Services and Ted Blickwedel, former VA/Vets Center Counselor.

At these meetings, as the UVCRI Legislation Committee Chairman, I give veterans legislation updates on local and National legislation. We also discuss any upcoming hearings on legislation and the Veterans of Foreign Wars position on the legislation. The UVCRI legislation committee is made up of the legislation person from each member organization.

All the veteran organization representatives, give a report on what is currently happening in their organizations, such as VIP visits, state conventions and member recruiting efforts.

At the May meeting as the VFW delegate, I spoke about our Council of Administration meeting and the upcoming one day State Convention.

As the Secretary of the UVCRI I email a copy of the minutes of the UVCRI meetings to each member organizations line officers. For the VFWRI Department that would be our State Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Adjutant, Legislative Officer and One Delegate at Large. As the Secretary I have been including our Junior Vice Commander.

The Officers of the UVC progress I/A/W the UVC bylaws. For the year July 2021 thru June 2022 the President is from the Disabled American Veterans and the Vice President is from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The President is Alan Conca, DAV and the Vice President is John Gallo, VFW.

As representatives from the nine (9) State Veteran Organizations we also have monthly meetings with Director of the RI Office of Veterans Services. At these meetings we have discussions on a variety of veterans' programs and our suggestions have helped shape some of these programs. At these meetings we also discuss many veterans' issues.

The Director gives us an update on the status of the veterans' home, the veterans' cemetery and Veterans Resource Center. The representatives from the Providence VA Medical Center and VA Regional Office give us an update on veterans' programs and issues from their respective venues.

Respectfully Submitted,

John P Gallo Sr., VFW Delegate
United Veterans Council of RI