

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021

MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM. THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 18 COMRADES IN ATTENDANCE FROM 9 VFW POSTS.

STATE COMMANDER RAY BLANDA SPOKE BRIEFLY TO THE MEMBERSHIP IN ATTENDANCE ABOUT HIS HEALTH AND ASKED FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING.

OPENING CEREMONIES:

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER DORA VASQUEZ-HELLNER OPENED AND CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:03 A.M. THE OPENING PRAYER WAS CONDUCTED BY CHAPLAIN RAYMOND DENISEWICH AND THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS CONDUCTED BY THE OFFICER OF THE DAY PSC WILLIAN SIANO. HE ALSO CONDUCTED THE "SALUTE TO COLORS" AFTER CHECKING EVERYONES ELIGIBILITY TO REMAIN.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

STATE ADJUTANT PSC ALLEN WAGONBLOTT CALLED THE ROLL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND PAST STATE COMMANDERS. ABSENTEE'S WERE NOTED AND THERE WAS A QUORUM PRESENT.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

THE READING OF THE JANUARY 17, 2021 COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MINUTES WERE WAIVED ON MOTIONS OF STATE ADJUTANT PSC ALLEN WAGONBLOTT AND SECONDED BY CHAPLAIN RAYMOND DENISEWICH. THE MINUTES HAD BEEN EMAILED EARLIER AND WERE ALSO POSTED ON THE VFWRI.ORG WEBSITE. PASSED.

QUARTERMASTERS REPORT:

The STATE QUARTERMASTER MENTIONED THE FOLLOWING:

- CASH ON HAND AS OF THE END OF MARCH 31ST WAS \$31,930. ONE YEAR AGO, THE DEPARTMENT HAD \$71K.
- MENTIONED WAS THE UPCOMING BOWLING FUNDRAISER AND GOLF TOURNAMENT.
- .TRUSTEE REPORTS NEED TO BE IN BEFORE THE STATE CONVENTION. LAST DAY FOR GETTING THOSE REPORTS TO DEPARTMENT WILL BE 15 MAY. A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE QUARTERMASTERS REPORT WAS MADE BY DISTRICT ONE COMMANDER TONY FRONSECA, SECONDED BY PAST STATE COMMANDER MIKE CARTER. PASSED.

NCM REPORT:

-THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN BALTIMORE HAS BEEN CANCELED. NEED TO CANCEL HOTEL RESERVATIONS. NATIONAL IS LOOKING AT OTHER LOCATIONS FOR EITHER AN IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL CONVENTION IN JULY. NOTE: IT WAS ALSO MENTIONED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A NATIONAL MEETING WITH THE SENIOR VICES VIA ZOOM ON THURSDAY.

COORESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS: BELOW ARE ADDITIONAL NOTES PRESENTED BY COMMITTEE CHAIRS. RECV'D COMMITTEE REPORTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE VFWRI.ORG WEBSITE.

AWARDS, CITATIONS AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION:

- POSTS NEEDED TO SUBMIT THIER ENTRIES.

BUDDY POPPY: NTR.

BYLAWS:

- AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY POWERPOINT BRIEFING ON THE NEW PROPOSED DEPARTMENT BYLAWS WAS PRESENTED. OF NOTE WAS MOVING FROM THREE TO TWO DISTRICTS.
- WILL BE VOTED ON AT THE STATE CONVENTION.
- DAVE AINSLIE ASKED HOW IT WOULD EFFECT PROGRAM LEADS BY GOING TO 2 OR EVEN NO DISTRICTS.
- MIKE CARTER MENTIONED THAT THIS WOULD ENPOWER THE STATE COMMANDER TO SETUP SPECIFIC COMMITTEE'S.
- SENIOR VICE DORA VASQUEZ-HELLNER MENTIONED SHE WOULD TAKE FOR ACTION/THE LEAD.
- GUYDE LOMBARI MENTIONED HAVING A STRAW VOTE TAKEN ON WHO WOULD LIKE NO DISTRICTS. IT WAS IGNORED.
- DAVE AINSLIE HAD A QUESTION ON VOTING DURING THE STATE CONVENTION AND HOW IT WAS GOING TO RUN.
- MENTIONED WAS THE CINC'S GENERAL ORDER NO 1. AND STILL BEING IN EFFECT. THAT SOME MEMBERS MAY BE SICK AND CANNOT ATTEND OR DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES BUT WOULD STILL LIKE TO ATTEND BY USING ZOOM.
- ADJUTANT WAGONBLOTT MENTIONED THAT THE STATE COMMANDER'S DECISION IS TO HAVE AN IN-PERSON (FACE-TO-FACE) STATE CONVENTION.

CONVENTION/COMMUNITY ACTIVITY AND YEARBOOK:

- THE DEPARTMENTS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE POST

NOMINATION SENT TO NATIONAL PROGRAM DEPARTMENT WAS POST 152 NORTH KINGSTOWN MEMORIAL.

- YEARBOOK HAS BEEN PUT ON HOLD.
- CONVENTION COMMITTEE MET ON MARCH 12TH AND 26TH.

THERE WILL BE NO CONVENTION DELEGATE FEE'S THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID.

THE QUARTERMASTER SENT A LETTER TO EACH POST COMMANDER WITH THE NUMBER OF DELEGATE VOTES THEY HAVE AND THE DELEGATE NAMES WERE TO BE FILLED-IN AND SENT BACK TO THE DEPARTMENT. MET WITH COZY CATERS FOR THE STATE CONVENTION LUNCHEON. CONVENTION DOORS WILL OPEN AT 0900 AND MEETING STARTS AT 1000. THERE WILL BE COFFEE, TEA, JUICES, WATER AND BAGELS/ASST MUFFINS AT \$2.35 PP IN THE A.M. AN APPROX HEAD COUNT GIVEN WAS 50 WITH A FINAL HEAD COUNT DUE 7 DAYS PRIOR. LUNCHEON WILL BE A SANDWICH BUFFET WITH CHIPS, PASTA SALAD, COOKIES AND BROWNIES AT \$9 PP. CATER WILL PROVIDE THE SERVERS.

EMPLOYMENT: NTR

HOSPITAL/HOMELESS VETERANS AND BLOOD PROCUREMENT: ALSO SEE CHAIRPERSONS ONLINE REPORT.

- CONTINUE PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AND HIS WIFE.
- THANK YOU TO VFW AND AUXILARY ON A JOINT BLOOD DRIVE BACK IN MARCH. 12 PINTS WERE DONATED.
- KNOW A HOMELESS VET, CALL 1-800-424-3838...THE NATIONAL CALL CENTER.
- VAMC PROVIDENCE IS HAVING A DRIVE THROUGH COVID VACCINE CLINIC TODAY.

INSPECTOR: NTR

LEGISLATIVE: THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE MENTIONED. THE UVCRI REPORT, NATIONAL VETERANS' LEGISLATION AND RI GENERAL ASSEMBLY VETERAN BILLS. SEE CHAIRPERSON'S ONLINE REPORTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

MEMBERSHIP/TEACHERS AWARD:

DISCUSSION ON SVC CONFERENCE TO INCLUDE PANDEMIC GRANTS, BUDDY POPPIES AND THE ALL-AMERICAN PROGRAM.

- "OPERATION SEPTEMBER FREEDOM" AUGUST 1ST THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH. DREAM FLIGHTS FOR WWII VETERANS. DEADLINE ON 24 MAY 2021.
- RHODE ISLAND DAR WILL HONOR ALL VIETNAM ERA VETERANS ON 18

JULY 2021.

- HEALTHY AGING PRESENTATION OPEN TO ALL VFW MEMBERS AND SPONSORED BY VFW POST 152 WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM ON THURSDAY APRIL 29TH FROM 7-8 P.M.

- THE TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM IS COMING BACK. THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE TEACHER AWARD VICE THE THREE IN THE PAST. SEE CHAIRPERSONS ONLINE REPORT AND UNDER "GOOD OF THE ORDER" FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND INFORMATION.

NATIONAL HOME: NTR

PATRIOTS PEN/VOICE OF DEMOCARY (PP/VOD):

- THE 2020 VOD/PP RI WINNERS WERE
CAMPBELL M. GLADSKI, GRADE 10, SPONSORED BY VFW POST 8955. SHE RECV'D A \$1000 REWARD FROM NATIONAL.
EMMA MARTIN, GRADE 7, SPONSORED BY VFW POST 5392. SHE RECV'D A \$500 REWARD FROM NATIONAL.

- THE 2021 VOD AND PP ESSAY THEMES ARE
VOD "AMERICA: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE"
PP "HOW CAN I BE A GOOD AMERICAN"
DEADLINE FOR BOTH CONTESTS WILL BE OCTOBER 31ST, 2021.

POW/MIA:

- THERE IS A LARGE REPORT ONLINE AND CAN BE SEEN ON THE DPAA.MIL WEBSITE.

SAFETY:

- GET YOUR COVID 19 VACCINATION
- CAREFUL USING OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT
- WATCH FOR MOTORCYCLES AND BIKE RIDERS
- IF IT LOOKS UNSAFE, REPORT IT
- SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY
- ENJOY THE WARMER WEATHER AND STAY SAFE.

STUDENT VETERANS' ASSOCIATION (SVA):

- CHAPTER VIRTUAL LOUNGES
- URI STUDENT VETERANS LOUNGE

VA VOLUNTEER SERVICES (VAVS): NTR.

VETERANS MILITARY SERVICE:

- EMAIL DAVE BY MONDAY YOUR VMS REPORTS FOR THE LAST THREE

MONTHS. HE NEEDS TO SEND HIS REPORT TO NATIONAL. VFW POST 152 IS THE ONLY ENTRY SO FAR.

VETERANS SERVICE/OUTREACH: DISCUSSED WERE

- NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE DSO MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT
- SERVICE OFFICE WORK QUENE, CASE AND FINANCIAL DATA
- SERVICE OFFICE VETERANS OUTREACH, STAFF AND ACTIONABLE CONTACTS
- VETERANS OLDIES DINNER DANCE SET FOR AUGUST 7TH AT 6 P.M. AT SMITHFIELD ELKS.
- REDEDICATION OF VFW POST 272 ON SEPTEMBER 11TH. RENAMING POST TO “SGT ADAM S. DECICCO WARWICK VETERANS MEMORIAL POST”
- BANNER MOTORCYCLE, HOTRODS AND ANTIQUE CAR RUN SCHEDULED FR OCTOBER 2ND AT WARWICK TRI-CITY ELKS.

SEE CHAIRPERSONS ONLINE REPORT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

WAYS AND MEANS:

- INAUGURAL BOWLING RALLY ON MAY 22ND TO KICK OFF THE NEWLY DEDICATED RI PURPLE HEART (PH) TRAIL. IT WILL HONOR ALL PAST AND PRESENT PH RECIPIENTS
- PURPLE HEART TRAIL DECALS ARE AVAILABLE AT \$2 EACH.
- SATURDAY AUGUST 7TH IS NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY AND ITS GRAND OPENING WITH A MOTORCYCLE RUN.
- A HEAD- UP ON AVAILABLE GRANTS FOR POSTS.

SEE CHAIRPERSONS ONLINE REPORT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

YOUTH AND SCOUTING ACTIVITIES:

- NEW CHAIR IS ERIC DUKAT FROM VFW POST 152.
- SCOUT OF THE YEAR SELECTION HAS BEEN MADE AND SENT TO NATIONAL. HE’S FROM TROOP 152.
- WILL BE REACHING OUT TO THE NAVY LEAGUE IRT THE NAVAL SEA CADETS.

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS:

DISTRICT ONE: COMMANDER READ HIS DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP REPORT AND 100% POSTS. DISTRICT OFFICER ELECTIONS WERE COMPLETED.

DISTRICT TWO: COMMANDER DINIZ IS CURRENTLY RECOVERING FROM A COVID SHOT REACTION. DISTRICT OFFICER ELECTIONS WERE COMPLETED ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21ST.

DISTRICT THREE: COMMANDER MASON MENTIONED HAVING A STRAW VOTE ON THE NEW PROPOSED REDISTRICTING. HE STILL NEEDS TO HAVE DISTRICT OFFICER ELECTIONS.

NATIONAL HOME RECOGNIZED: AT 1125.

OLD BUSINESS:

- DEPARTMENT BYLAWS ARE ON HOLD UNTIL THE CONVENTION AT WHICH TIME IT WILL BE VOTED ON.
- ALL COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS WILL BE OUT ON THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE ALONG WITH THE MINUTES TO REVIEW.

NEW BUSINESS:

- THE NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS FOR THE UPCOMING NATIONAL CONVENTION WERE SENT OUT TO COUNCIL MEMBERS AND POST COMMANDER TO REVIEW. THERE IS NO ACTION REQUIRED AT THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION OTHER THAN TO DISCUSS, DEBATE AND DIRECT THE RESPECTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.
- THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN BALTIMORE HAS BEEN CANCELED. NATIONAL IS LOOKING AT OTHER VENUES. IF YOU MADE HOTEL RESERVATION AT THE HOTEL YOU NEED TO CANCEL THEM SOONEST.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- CONGRADULATIONS TO SR VICE HELLNER AND RACHEAL GARCIA. THEY WERE BOTH RECOGNIZED AS THE "WOMEN VETERAN OF THE YEAR FOR 2020 AND 2021, RESPECTIVELY.
- VFW POST 152 IS HAVING THEIR FIRST OF SEVERAL ZOOM SEMINARS STARTING NEXT THURSDAY AT 7 P.M. THE FIRST SEMINAR WILL BE "HOW TO PREPARE FOR RETIREMENT".
- DISCUSSION ON THE FOURTH OF JULY PARADE AND HAVING A FEMALE VETERAN FLOAT.
- VFW POST 152 IS HAVING A COMMUNITY EVENT CALL "RUN TO REMEMBER" AT THEIR 9/11 CEREMONY. TO INCLUDE A 5K RUN, BAND, ETC.
- SENIOR VICE HELLNER FOLLOWED WITH THE BELOW COMMENTS:
 - THIS PAST THURSDAY BOTH MYSELF AND RACHAEL GARCIA WERE RECOGNIZED BY PROVIDENCE VA REGIONAL BENEFITS OFFICE AS

WOMEN VETERANS OF THE YEAR. MY AWARD WAS FOR THE YEAR 2020 BUT UNFORTUNATELY WAS DELAYED DUE TO THE INTERNATIONAL PANDEMIC. RACHAEL IS THIS THE YEAR'S WOMAN VETERAN OF THE YEAR. I GREATLY APPRECIATE ALL THOSE WHO TOOK THE TIME OUT OF THE SCHEDULES TO ATTEND OUR VIRTUAL EVENT.

- THIS PAST YEAR HAS PRESENTED MANY CHALLENGES BUT I WAS ABLE TO CONTINUE TO REPRESENT DEPT OF RI VFW ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS. AUG 2020 VFW MEMBERS AND SVA PARTICIPATED IN A HISTORICAL HIKE AT WOLF HILL SMITHFIELD. I WAS ABLE TO HIGHLIGHT THE EVENT IN OUR APT 2021 VFW MAGAZINE. MY OBJECTIVE WITH THIS ARTICLE WAS TO BROADCAST OUR JOINT TASK FORCE WITH ALL DEPARTMENTS WITHIN VFW. MOST RECENTLY OUR JTF PARTICIPATED IN A SECOND HIKE WITH SEVERAL SVA MEMBERS MAINTAINING OUR WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR YOUNGER VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

- I ALSO REPRESENTED OUR DEPT WHEN I TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RI PURPLE HEART TRAIL. OUR JVC TIGER PATRICK SPEARHEADED THIS ACTIVITY. WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING THE EYE-CATCHING PURPLE HEART SIGNS INSTALLED ALONG ROUTES 4 AND 1, FROM EAST GREENWICH TO WESTERLY. TIGER HAS WORKED ENDLESS HOURS IN SEEING THIS PROJECT TO THE END. I MUST SAY WE DO MAKE A GOOD TEAM.

- ON A WEEKLY BASIS I AM A REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR TO WBLQ VETERANS HOUR THAT IS CURRENTLY HOSTED BY COMRADES BILLY SIANO, DAVE LOWE AND KEN BURTON. UP UNTIL RECENTLY RAY BLANDA ALSO HOSTED THIS EVENT.

- AS EACH OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF, I STRIVE TO REPRESENT OUR DEPT FOLLOWING THE VFW MOTTO, "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR OUR VETERANS."

- I LOOK FORWARD IN CONTINUING MY MISSION WITH TIGER BY MY SIDE AS WE BUILD THE BRIDGE IN WELCOMING A DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP TO OUR DEPT THIS COMING YEAR. DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY.

- OUR MISSION: TO FOSTER CAMARADERIE AMONG UNITED STATES VETERANS OF OVERSEAS CONFLICTS. TO SERVE OUR VETERANS, THE MILITARY AND OUR COMMUNITIES. TO ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF ALL VETERANS.

- THANK YOU

CLOSING CEREMONIES: COLORS WERE RETIRED AND THE CLOSING PRAYER WAS DELIVERED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 1200.

SR VICE COMMANDER DORA VASQUEZ-HELLNER: THANKED ALL WHO ATTENDED.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE STATE CONVENTION ON SATURDAY, JUNE 5TH, 2021 AT POST 2812 IN CRANSTON, RI STARTING AT 1000. DOORS OPEN AT 0900.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

ALLEN C. WAGONBLOTT JR
(PNCM/PSC)
STATE ADJUTANT

COPY TO:
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS/APPOINTEE'S
DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS
VFWRI WEBSITE
DEPARTMENT COA FILE(S)