

**COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION  
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020**

MEETING WAS HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS. THERE WERE 14 COMRADES IN ATTENDANCE FROM 9 POSTS.

**OPENING CEREMONIES:**

COMMANDER MIKE CARTER OPENED AND CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:00 A.M. THE OPENING PRAYER WAS CONDUCTED BY SENIOR VICE BLANDA AND THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS CONDUCTED BY THE STATE COMMANDER. OFFICER OF THE DAY, WILLIAM SIANO PREPARED THE GROUP FOR THE "SALUTE TO COLORS" AFTER VERIFYING TELEPHONICALLY EVERYONES ELIGIBILITY.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:**

STATE ADJUTANT PSC ALLEN WAGONBLOTT CALLED THE ROLL. ABSENTEE'S WERE NOTED AND THERE WAS A QOURUM.

COMMANDER MIKE CARTER RECOGNIZED ONE GUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY, DUANE SARIMENTO NATIONAL INSPECTOR AND CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER IN 2021-2022. ALSO RECOGNIZED WAS OUR NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER JOHN GALLO AND SIX PAST STATE COMMANDERS IN ATTENDANCE.

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

READING OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WERE WAIVED ON MOTIONS OF STATE SENIOR VICE RAYMOND BLANDA AND SECONDED BY DISTRICT ONE'S PSC ERNIE FRAPPIER. THE MINUTES HAD BEEN EMAILED AND WERE POSTED ON THE RHODE ISLAND WEBSITE.

**QUARTERMASTERS REPORT:**

WAS GIVEN BY STATE QUARTERMASTER GUYDE LOMBARI. MOTION TO ACCEPT THE QUARTERMASTERS REPORT WAS MADE BY STATE SENIOR VICE RAYMOND BLANDA, SECONDED BY DISTRICT THREE COMMANDER ROBERT MASON. PASSED.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- THERE WAS NO COMMUNICATIONS.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ALL COMMITTEES BELOW IS AVAILABLE IN THE FLYERS AND NOTICES RECV'D BY THE DEPARTMENT.

AWARD AND CITATIONS – NTR.

BUDDY POPPY – NTR.

BYLAWS – ARE “READY TO GO”. PLAN IS TO BRING UP FOR A VOTE AT THE BUSINESS SESSION DURING THE STATE CONVENTION (IF WE HAVE ONE). ALSO NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS AND THE SWEARING OF NEW DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WILL BE AT THE STATE CONVENTION.

CITIZENSHIP/EDUCATION AND LOYALTY DAY: NTR

CONVENTION/COMMUNITY ACTIVITY AND YEARBOOK:  
DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS AND THE STATE RESTRICTIONS ON GATHERINGS IT LOOKS LIKE THE STATE CONVENTION WILL BE CANCELLED. THE WYNDHUM HOTEL POC (MAC) HAS NOT BEEN RETURNING MY CALLS. THIS WAS DUE A NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES WERE LET GO AND JUST A SKELETON CREW IS MANNING THE HOTEL. ACTIVITIES PROGRAM REPORTS NEED TO BE FILLED OUT AND SENT INTO THE DEPARTMENT AT LEAST QUARTERLY. MAKE SURE TO LIST TOTAL PROJECTS, NUMBER OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING, HOURS SPENT AND DOLLAR AMOUNTS EXPENDED ON THE REPORTS. THE YEARBOOK HAS BEEN PUT “ON HOLD”. THE DEPARTMENT HAS ONLY RECV'D THREE ADS. ERNESTINE IS WORKING THE ISSUE AND UNLESS WE RECV MORE ADS, SHE WILL BE RETURNING THEIR CHECKS.

EMPLOYMENT – NTR.

ED NOTE: THE CHAIRMAN HAS BEEN RECVING A NUMBER OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES ON A DAILY BASIS FOR BOTH THE STATE AND IN SOUTHERN MASS.

GOLF TOURNAMENT – HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS.

HOSPITAL/HOMELESS VETERANS AND BLOOD PROCUREMENT: NTR

INSPECTOR – NTR

LEGISLATIVE – SEE REPORT POSTED ON WEBSITE. ATTENDING THE MONTHLY UVC MEETINGS AND HOSTING GUEST SPEAKERS.

ATTENDED THE LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE AND VOD/PATRIOTS PEN AWARDS CEREMONY IN WASHIGTON, DC LAST MONTH. VISITED AS A DELEGATE OUR SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN DURING THE CONFERENCE. 1782 BILLS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED, 33 ARE VETERAN RELATED.

MEMBERSHIP – SEE CHAIRMANS REPORT. DEPARTMENT IS AT 86.05%. STILL NEED 400 MEMBERS FOR 100%. DISTRICT ONE IS AT 83.45%. DISTRICT TWO IS AT 87.17% AND DISTRICT THREE IS AT 86.90%. THERE IS CURRENTLY TWO POSTS OVER 100%. A NUMBER OF POSTS NEED 10 OR LESS MEMBERS TO BE 100%

NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN – A LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO THE NATIONAL HOME IS ONLY \$50. THE TRIBUTE BLOCKS ARE \$100 EACH.

PATRIOTS PEN/VOICE OF DOMOCARY (PP/VOD) – NTR.  
NOTE: OUR STATE VOD WINNER RECV'D A \$1500 SCHOLARSHIP AT THE VOD/PATRIOTS PEN AWARDS CEREMONY IN WASHINGTON, DC.

POW/MIA – THERE HAS BEEN 48 NEW MIA RECOVERY'S.

SAFETY – NTR.

STUDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION (SVA) – THE JUNIOR VICE GAVE THE REPORT FOR RACHEL GARCIA. SHE IS ATTENDING THEIR WEEKLY MEETINGS VIA ZOOM. MAINTAINING A WORKING RELATIONSHIP AND BRINGING THEM INTO THE ORGANIZATION WILL GREATLY BENEFIT EVERYONE.

TEACHER AWARDS AND WAYS AND MEANS: THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE FUNDRAISER AT THE CHINESE RESTAURANT IN WESTERLY AND THE CALENDAR RAFFLE. ALL THREE TEACHER AWARD WINNERS CAME FROM VFW POST 152.

VA VOLUNTEER SERVICES (VAVS) – NTR.

VETERANS MILITARY SERVICE – NTR.  
THE STATE COMMANDER MENTIONED THE RI NATIONAL GUARD SUPPORT AT THEIR TEST SITES AROUND THE STATE, CURRENTY PROVIDING COFFEE AND DONUTS. ALSO PROVIDING MEALS TO E4 AND BELOW. DONATIONS ARE REQUESTED. PLEASE SEND DONATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT AND EARMARK THEM “NATIONAL GUARD FOOD PROGRAM”. VFW POST 152 (AND SOON POST 916) CURRENTLY SUPPORTS.

VETERANS SERVICE/OUTREACH: NTR.

IT WAS MENTIONED THAT CHAIRMAN DENISEWICH PROVIDED A LARGE AMOUNT OF FROZEN FOOD WHICH HE DONATED AND DROPE-OFF AT THE PROVIDENCE VAMC. GREAT WORK!

YOUTH AND SCOUTING ACTIVITIES – NTR.

**DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS:**

**DISTRICT ONE** – NTR.

**DISTRICT TWO** – POST 237 IS IN THE PROCESS OF STARTING AN AUXILIARY.

**DISTRICT THREE** – FOUR POSTS INSPECTED. REST ARE ON HOLD DUE TO COVID-19. TWO POSTS HAVE BEEN SENT IN WITH ONE PENDING.

**NATIONAL HOME RECOGNIZED:** AT APPROX. 1035.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- TESTIMONIAL DINNER MONIES HAVE BEEN RETURNED.
- YEARBOOK MONIES ARE BEING RETURNED. ONLY RECV'D THREE ADS SO FAR.
- GOLF TOURNAMENT WAS CANCELED AND MONIES RETURNED TO PLAYERS.
- STILL HAVE COPIES OF 2020 NATIONAL BYLAW AND MANUEL OF PROCEDURE AVAILABLE.
- COPIES OF THE DEPARTMENT 2019-2020 PHONE DIRECTORIES AND MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM BOOKS ARE STILL AVAILABLE.
- COPIES OF THE "ALL AMERICAN" DASHBOARD FOR POST AND DISTRICT ADJUTANTS ARE AVAILABLE OR VIA THE VFW.ORG WEBSITE.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- THE STATE COMMANDER INTRODUCED DUANE SARIMENTO, NATIONAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY WHO WAS RUNNING FOR NATIONAL JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF 2021-2022. DUANE COMMENDED THE STATE COMMANDER FOR THE JOB HE'S DOING. HE IS A RETIRED POLICE OFFICER AND IS A 30 YEAR MEMBER OF THE VFW. HE HAS 2 CHILDREN IN THE MILITARY, ONE IN THE MARINES AND ONE IN THE NAVY. HE SPOKE ON PARTNERSHIPS BEING THE "BIG THING". THAT THE DAV, VFW AND AMERICAN LEGION NEED TO JOIN FORCES NATIONALLY. HE WANTS TO BRING BACK THE OLD "VFW TRAINING". HE ASKED "WHAT DO WE DO WELL AND WHAT

CAN WE DO EVEN BETTER”. LASTLY, SENIOR VICE RAY BLANDA MADE A MOTION THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND ENDORSE AND SUPPORT DUANE SARIMENTO FOR NATIONAL JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF 2021-2022. MOTION CARRIED AND APPROVED BY THE COA.

- THE STATE COMMANDER SPOKE ON THE DEPARTMENTS VACANT POSITIONS. HE MENTIONED THAT SINCE THE SENIOR AND JUNIOR VICES WILL AUTOMATICALLY MOVE UP TO THEIR NEXT POSITIONS THIS NOW LEAVES THE JUNIOR VICE POSITION “OPEN” (VACANT). JUNIOR VICE DORA VASQUEZ-HELLNER NOMINATED JOSEPH “TIGER” PATRICK FROM VFW POST 916 IN WAKEFIELD FOR THE “OPEN” JUNIOR VICE 2020-2021 POSITION. HIS BIO WAS THEN READ. HE WAS HIGHLY ENDORSED. THE MOTION WAS THEN SECONDED BY DISTRICT THREE COMMANDER ROBERT “BOB” MASON AND PASSED.
- STATE ADJUTANT ALLEN WAGONBLOTT NOMINATED RAYMOND DENISEWICH (STATE SERVICE OFFICER) FOR THE POSITION OF STATE CHAPLAIN. COMRADE RODNEY LEIGHTON WAS DROPPING-OUT OF THE POSITION SO RAY COULD HAVE IT.
- THE STATE ADJUTANT ALSO MENTIONED THAT STAYING IN HIS POSITION WAS GUYDE LOMBARI AS THE STATE QUARTERMASTER.
- THE STATE COMMANDER MENTIONED THAT DUE TO THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, THE STATE CONVENTION HAD TO BE CANCELLED AND THAT A FORMAL ELECTION/SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF LINE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS WOULD TAKE PLACE AT A LATER DATE TBD. (POSSIBLY AT THE COA IN MID JULY).
- THE STATE ADJUTANT MENTIONED THAT THE VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION IN RENO, NEVADA HAD BEEN CANCELLED.
- THE JUNIOR VICE MENTIONED THAT THE CHAPLAIN SHOULD COMPILE A LIST OF DECEASED VETERANS DURING COVID-19 AND SEND THE FAMILIES CONDOLENCE CARDS. SHE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE SURGEON SHOULD COMPILE A LIST OF ACTIVITIES OUR MEMBERS ARE SUPPORTING DURING THE COVID-19 TIMEFRAME.
- THE STATE COMMANDER SPOKE ON THE RI NATIONAL GUARDS COVID-19 TESTING SUPPORT TO INCLUDE FOOD TRUCK(S), MEDIA COVERAGE, AND FUNDRAISING. HE ASKED FOR DONATIONS TO BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- “HAPPY BIRTHDAY” WAS SONG TO THE STATE ADJUTANT AS IT WAS HIS BIRTHDAY TODAY.
- A QUESTION FROM JOSEPH “TIGER” PATRICK ON “CARE TAKING”. HE SPOKE ON VENDORS AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION AND INFO NEEDED TO CONTINUE THEIR SERVICES.

- THE JUNIOR VICE WILL FORWARD INFO ON THE “RESOURCE FAIR” NOW SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>, FROM 830AM – 1PM. “CALLING ALL VETERANS” WILL BE HELD IN THE RYAN CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND, 1 LINCOLN ALMOND PLAZA, KINGSTON, RI. ELDER INFO IS HOSTING THIS RESOURCE FAIR FOR VETERANS OF ALL AGES. IT WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ON VITAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE COMMUNITY. FREE ADMISSION! FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 401.585.0509 OR EMAIL [deb@rielderinfo.com](mailto:deb@rielderinfo.com), VISIT [rielderinfo.com](http://rielderinfo.com). THE ORIGINAL DATE FOR THIS RESOURCE FAIR HAD BEEN SATURDAY, MAY 9TH.
- PSC BILL DONNELLY SPOKE ON OUR ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATE DUANE SARIMENTO FOR NATIONAL JUNIOR VICE CINC.
- DISCUSSION ON DEPARTMENT ENDORSEMENTS OF BOTH THE NATIONAL AND EASTERN CONFERENCE OFFICERS.
- JOHN GALLO MENTIONED THE DEPARTMENTS WEBSITE. LOTS OF GOOD INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE SITE TO INCLUDE LEGISLATIVE REPORTS, PAST COA MINUTES, EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS, ETC.
- A QUESTION ON POST DELEGATE FEE’S FOR THE STATE CONVENTION THIS YEAR. ANSWER: THERE WILL BE “NO” FEE’S COLLECTED BECAUSE OUR CONVENTION HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

**CLOSING CEREMONIES:** MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1120. CLOSING CEREMONY’S CONDUCTED BY OOD BILL SIANO AND THE STATE COMMANDER.

**COMMANDER MIKE CARTER:** THANKED ALL FOR CALLING IN; AND THAT THE NEXT COA WOULD BE HELD IN MID JULY. THE DATE AND A LOCATION TBD. (LOOKING AT A LARGE POST POSSIBLY)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

ALLEN C. WAGONBLOTT JR  
STATE ADJUTANT

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DEPARTMENT LINE OFFICERS  
DEPARTMENT APPOINTEE’S  
VFWRI WEBSITE  
DEPARTMENT COA FILE(S)