

Department of Pacific Areas
Minutes of the 43rd Annual Convention
14 – 18 June 2009
Oasis Hotel, Angeles City, Philippines

OPENING CEREMONIES

The opening ceremonies of the 43rd Annual Convention were held beginning 1000 hours on Monday, June 15, 2009. Department Commander Laurence L. Lyons asked everyone to be seated after the Salute to the Colors, and officially opened the convention with a short greeting. Commander Lyons introduced Department Junior Vice Commander James Oden as Master of Ceremonies. Emcee Oden introduced the following VIPs: Larry Lyons, Commander, Department of Pacific Areas; Comrade Preston “Nick” Nelson, NCM District 16, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US; LTC Frederick Ricker, JUSMAGPHIL; Jeff McGowan, Veterans Affairs – Regional Office (Manila); Steve Mason, Past Supreme Commander, Military Order of the Cootie; Supreme Council Member, District 15 and SVC James Malott; Kenneth Swierzewski, Commander, Grand of the Pacific. Emcee Oden then asked the true VIPs – our active duty military – to please rise and be recognized. Emcee Oden next introduced the following Past Department Commanders (PDCs): Thomas Elliott, Joseph Carsley, Gerald Kraus, Robert Zaher, Emory Russell, William Wichmann, Richard Keeley, Ronald Teets, Kenneth Schaefer and Rhett Webber. Next, he introduced the following Past Grand Commanders (PGCs): Emory Russell, James Malott, William Wichmann, Gerald Prinz, Ronald Teets and Richard Keeley.

The head table guests addressed the members with a few words of greeting. The Convention adjourned for the VIP Luncheon with the First Business Session scheduled to begin at 0900 hours on Wednesday, June 17, 2009.

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

Opening Ceremonies: Commander Lyons re-opened the Convention at 0900 hours, Wednesday, June 17, 2009, IAW VFW Ritual. He appointed Comrade O’Connor as Guard and Comrade Watson as Officer of the Day.

Distinguished Guests: Commander Lyons introduced Preston “Nick” Nelson, NCM District 16, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US; MOC Supreme District 15 Councilman Malott; Steve Mason, Past Supreme Commander, MOC. He asked them to speak later in the program under Good of the Order. He then introduced the following PDCs: Kraus, Elliott, Carsley, Zaher, Russell, Wichmann, Keeley, Teets, Schaefer and Webber. Finally, he introduced the following PGCs: Russell, Malott, Wichmann, Prinz, Teets, Keeley, Swierzewski and the present Grand Commander Mitchell.

Rules of Order: Judge Advocate Wichmann informed the congregation that the Convention Rules of Order were published and distributed. Motion to accept was made, seconded and carried.

Roll Call of Officers: The Adjutant conducted the following Roll Call of Officers:

Commander	Laurence L. Lyons	Present
Senior-vice Commander	James D. Malott	Present
Junior-vice Commander	James Oden	Present
Quartermaster	Anthony C. Power	Present
Judge Advocate	William H. Wichmann	Present
Surgeon	Francis Hunter	Present
Chaplain	Kenneth Swierzewski	Present
Chief of Staff	Robert Zaher	Present
Inspector	Richard Kinneman	Present
Service Officer	Peter Scalzo	Present
Jr. PDC	Rhett Webber	Present
Commander, D1	Dwayne Ash	SVC Brandon
Commander, D2	Bernie Kenna	JVC Mortimer
Commander, D3	Jeffrey Herndon	SVC Coleman
Commander, D4	Orville D. Humfleet	Present
Commander, D5	William Hudson	Present
Commander, D6	William Bradford	Present
Commander, D7	Frank Hilliard	Present
Adjutant	Richard A. Keeley	Present

The Roll Call of all Committee Chairpersons was also conducted.

Minutes: The Adjutant informed all that the minutes of the Mid-Term Council of Administration had been electronically distributed to the Council Members and that no corrections had been received. Adjutant Keeley moved to accept the minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

Audit Committee Report: Chairman Brandon read the Audit Committee's Report of the Department Quartermaster's books. He stated that all entries were found to be correct and in good order and he thanked the Quartermaster for having all records on hand and ready for audit. (Attachment A)

Quartermaster's Report: Quartermaster Power reported that the Department once again had a good year financially. Quarterly audits were very good though some were slow in arriving. All Post QMs were bonded and had purchased their required Buddy Poppies. (Attachment B)

Correspondence: Adjutant Keeley read the following:

a. Letter from the National Office appointing the following Comrades to National Committees:

Ronald D. Teets	General Resolutions
William Wichmann	National By-Laws/Manual of Procedures
Robert Zaher	National By-Laws/Manual of Procedures
Richard A. Keeley	Finance/Internal Organization
Peter Scalzo	Veterans Service Resolutions

Kenneth Swierzewski

National Military Assistance Program

b. All-State Commanders:

Orville Humfleet	Commander, District IV
Frank Hilliard	Commander, District VII
Michael Holmes	Commander, Post 12074
David Miller	Commander, Post 10217
Frank Hilliard	Commander, Post 9892
Mariano Fajardo	Commander, Post 3457
John F. Johnson, Jr.	Commander, Post 9612
Michael Lutman	Commander, Post 1054

c. All-State Quartermasters

Morris Sapp, Jr.	Post 12074
Edward Medlin	Post 10217
William Bradford	Post 2917
Peter Callaghan	Post 3457
Art Scholl	Post 9957

d. Adjutant Keeley read the consolidation orders for Posts 1054/9467 and 9723/11435.

e. The following All-American Commanders and Posts were announced:

Commander, District VII - Hilliard
Commander, Post 12074 - Holmes
Commander, Post 9892 - Hilliard

Comrade or a Family Member of a Comrade in Distress:

Post 11447 – Comrade Billman died.
Post 10216 – Comrade Sass is hospitalized.
Post 9892 – Comrade Harmon is home-bound.
Post 1054 – Comrade Castro’s brother died.
Post 10033 – Comrade Hudson had heart surgery.
Post 2485 – Comrade Foster is hospitalized.

National Home was Remembered.

Officer and Chairperson Reports: Officers, District Commanders and Chairpersons gave their reports as follows:

Senior-vice Commander/Membership Chairman: Senior-vice Commander Malott reported that the Department is presently considerably lower than we had expected. He also spoke on the recruiting awards which were handed out with the assistance of NCM Nelson and DPA CDR Lyons. (Attachment C)

Junior-vice Commander/Programs Chairman: Junior-vice Commander Oden stated that program reporting for the year had been a great success. He stated that the Posts within the

Department had been utilizing the online Community Service Reporting system developed by Webmaster Kenna. He then passed out National Citations of Recognition with the assistance of NCM Nelson and DPA CDR Lyons. (Attachment D)

Commander Lyons presented National Certificates to JVC Oden for his outstanding job as Program Coordinator for the Department.

District Commanders' Reports:

District I – Senior-vice Commander Brandon reported on Posts' Community Service, and stated that all reports were submitted and inspections were successfully completed. He also spoke on the consolidation of Posts 9723 and 11435. (Attachment E)

District II – JVC Mortimer stated that the District was at 103% and that three Posts had also attained 101%. He also spoke on the consolidation of Posts 1054 and 9467. (Attachment F)

District III – SVC Coleman gave a report on community projects within District III. (Attachment G)

District IV – Commander Humfleet gave a rousing report on the many community programs the Posts in Taiwan organized and took part in throughout the year. (Attachment H)

District V –Commander Hudson elaborated on the many activities the Posts in Thailand participated in during the past year. (Attachment I)

District VI – Commander Bradford stated that District VI currently had a membership of 100% led by Post 3457 at 105%. He also stated that the Posts in District VI had done an outstanding job in the area of Community Service. (Attachment J)

District VII –Commander Hilliard stated that all Posts within District VII were at or over 100% in membership. He went on to elaborate on some of the projects and accomplishments throughout the past year. (Attachment K)

Chaplain: Chaplain Swierzewski reported that a number of Comrades had passed away this past year. The Last Roll Call was conducted by Chaplain Swierzewski with Comrade Hunter giving a memorial rendition on the bagpipes. (Attachment L)

National Military Service Chairman: Chairman Swierzewski gave an oral and written report on the National Military Service Program. (Attachment L-1)

Grand Commander: Grand Commander Swierzewski gave an oral and written report of the current state of the Grand of the Pacific. (Attachment L-2)

Surgeon: Surgeon Hunter presented an oral and written report. (Attachment M)

Judge Advocate: Judge Advocate Wichmann moved to adopt the following proposed revisions to the Department By-Laws:

1. Section 1101 – Department Dues and Fees, delete first sentence and add “The Department annual membership dues shall be \$9 per member effective date January 1, 2010. No second required. Adopted by 2/3rd majority vote.

2. Section 1101 – Admission Fees, by deleting the first sentence and adding “The admission fee as prescribed in Section 104 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure shall be \$1 for new annual members that the Post QM shall transmit directly to the Department QM. No second required. Adopted by 2/3rd majority vote.

3. Commander Holmes, Post 12074 motion “That the Department’s 43rd Convention adopts the resolution titled “Inclusion of Overseas Veterans All-Inclusive Medical Service under the Foreign Medical Program (FMP). Seconded and adopted by majority vote. (Attachment N)

Service Officer: DSO Scalzo presented a thorough oral and written report. (Attachment O)

Chief of Staff/Convention/Convention Book Chairman: Chief of Staff/Convention/Convention Book Chairman Zaher presented an oral and written report. (Attachment P & P-1)

Department Inspector: Department Inspector Kinneman informed membership that all Posts and Districts in the Department had been successfully inspected with the exception of Posts 8180 and 9985. (Attachment Q)

Jr Past Department Commander: JPDC Webber gave an oral and written report. (Attachment R)

Life Membership Chairman: Life Membership Chairman Wilsey presented an oral and written report. The following Posts won a free life membership to be paid by the Department: Posts 11575, 3457 and 12074. (Attachment S)

Buddy Poppy Chairman: Buddy Poppy Chairman Brandon gave an oral and written report. (Attachment T)

Americanism/Loyalty Day Chairman: Chairman Dozier gave no report.

VFW PAC Chairman: PAC Chairman Herndon gave no report.

VOD/Patriot’s Pen/Teachers Award: Chairman Fajardo announced that the VOD winner was Marcus Sattler (Post 9612) and the Patriot’s Pen winner was Noel Bien Tan Carlos (District VI). He also announced that all Teachers’ Awards were from District VI – Elementary: Ms. Angie Susuico; Jr. High School: Ms. Martha Castro; and High School: Mr. Steve Hollister. (Attachment W)

Commander Lyons presented the National Teacher’s certificates to District Commander.

POW/MIA Chairman: Chairman Schaefer gave an oral and written report. (Attachment X)

Safety Chairman: Chairman Sass gave no report.

National Home: Chairman Pearson presented no report.

Historian: Historian Combs gave a written and oral report. (Attachment AA)

Roving Ambassador: Roving Ambassador Teets gave an oral and written report. (Attachment AB).

Clark Cemetery Chairman: Clark Cemetery Chairman Heilhecker informed membership of donations received (\$9,390) and expenditures (\$5,695) for the upkeep of the cemetery. He also stated the Grave Digger membership currently stands at 869. (Attachment AC)

Webmaster: Webmaster Kenna gave a detailed oral report and written report. (Attachment AD)

Typhoon Editor: Typhoon Editor Hilliard presented an oral and written report which he published in the June edition of the Typhoon. (Attachment AE)

Strategic Asset Management Chairman: Chairman Elliott presented a detailed oral and written report from the committee on recommendations for the Department finances. (Attachment AF)

National Recruiter: CNR Mortimer gave an oral and written report. (Attachment AG)

Old Business: None.

New Business: Judge Advocate Wichmann went over the rules for election of officers. Nomination of Officers was held with the following results:

Commander	Malott
Senior Vice Commander	Oden
Junior Vice Commander	Hirshbein/Swierzewski/Davis
Quartermaster	Power/Hilliard
Surgeon	Combs
Chaplain	Darkus
Judge Advocate	Wichmann

Comrade Chris Polombi briefed membership on health care with the Pacific Areas.

END OF FIRST SESSION

BEGIN SECOND SESSION

Commander Lyons called the meeting to order IAW VFW Ritual.

1. The first order of business was the final nominations and Election of Officer for the upcoming year. The following Officers were duly elected for the 2009-2010 year:

Commander	Malott
Senior Vice Commander	Oden
Junior Vice Commander	Hirshbein
Quartermaster	Power
Surgeon	Combs
Chaplain	Darkus
Judge Advocate	Wichmann

2. A motion and a second were made to hold the 2010 Annual Department Convention in Bangkok, Thailand, hosted by Post 9951 and Camp Humphrey, South Korea, hosted by Posts 11016 and 10223. Bangkok, Thailand was selected.

Good of the Order: The following was discussed under Good of the Order:

1. It was stressed for all to be careful when visiting unknown websites (viruses, signature authority, etc).
2. Past Post 11447 Commander Jim Billman's burial will be the 21 June 2009.
3. CDR Lyons recognized two active duty personnel from Post 9892.
4. New Typhoon Editor Mortimer talked about monthly input to the Typhoon.
5. Adjutant Keeley reminded all new council members and chairmen to get with the outgoing person to change email passwords.
6. PDC Russell thanked Historian Combs for the outstanding job he did on this year's history.
7. American Legion Commander Skolton addressed the membership and stressed that we are both here to serve the veterans.
8. Comrade Connor donated \$200 to "Operation Smile".
9. Distinguished guests:
 - a. Past Supreme Commander Mason gave a short and to the point "thank you" to all.
 - b. District 16 Council Member Nelson congratulated DPA for their professionalism and spoke briefly to the membership.
 - c. Commander Lyons thanked Convention Committee Chairman Zaher and praised the Committee for the outstanding job they did in organizing the convention. He then adjourned the meeting until 1800 hours in the Banquet Room for the Awards/Installation Banquet.

END SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

BEGIN AWARDS/INSTALLATION CEREMONY

Commander Lyons reconvened the assembly according to VFW Ritual at 1800 hours. Chaplain Swierzewski said grace before the dinner was served and Commander Lyons invited all to partake of the excellent cuisine.

After dinner, Master of Ceremonies Keeley introduced the Head Table and VIPs present and called Commander Lyons and Senior-vice Commander (E) Oden forward for the presentation of the following awards:

1. Outstanding Post – Post 9612
2. Outstanding Post Commander – Mariano Fajardo, Post 3457
3. Outstanding Post Programs
 - a. Small Post – Post 9892
 - b. Medium Post – Post 9555
 - c. Large Post – Post 2485
4. Outstanding Post Adjutant – Bernie Kenna, Post 1054
5. Outstanding Post Quartermaster – Jerry Kraus, Post 1509
6. Outstanding Membership Chairman – Robert Diaz, Post 3457
7. Outstanding Member – Robert Woodruff, Post 3457
8. Outstanding Service Officer – Ruth Coleman, Post 3457
9. Outstanding Contributor – Business – Engineering Technical Services, Post 10216
10. Outstanding Contributor – Individual – Eric Sampson, Post 9892
11. National Community Service Post of the Year – Post 9723
12. Special Award for Outstanding Service – Lenee Antiporta – DPA Office
13. Outstanding Recruiter – Darin Combs, Post 10033
14. Commander's Awards were presented to the following:
 - a. Rick Nelson
 - b. Peter Callaghan
 - c. Larry Heilhecker
 - d. Stanley Stewart
 - e. Dave Mason
15. A plaque from National was presented to Comrade Joe Mortimer, Post 9612 for 3rd place overall in the National competition for a medium newsletter.

Commander Lyons gave a heart-felt outgoing speech thanking all the DPA Comrades and especially the District and Post Commanders for their outstanding support during the 2008-2009 term. He asked them to support incoming Commander Malott with the same effort and enthusiasm. He then called Past Department Commander Emory Russell forward to convene over the Installation of Officers for the upcoming year.

Commander Malott gave a stirring acceptance speech and conducted the closing ceremonies IAW VFW Ritual. The next Department Convention will be held in Bangkok, Thailand at a time to be announced.

By order of:

RICHARD A. KEELEY
Adjutant
Department of Pacific Areas

LAURENCE L. LYONS
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas

Attachments (on file w/Adjutant)

- A. Audit Committee Report
- B. Quartermaster's Report
- C. Senior-vice Commander's Report
- D. Junior-vice Commander's Report
- E. District I Commander's Report
- F. District II Commander's Report
- G. District III Commander's Report
- H. District IV Commander's Report
- I. District V Commander's Report
- J. District VI Commander's Report
- K. District VII Commander's Report
- L. Chaplain's Report
- M. Surgeon's Report
- N. Judge Advocate's Report
- O. Service Officer's Report
- P. Chief of Staff's Report
- Q. Inspector's Report
- R. JPDC Report
- S. Life Membership Chairman's Report
- T. Buddy Poppy Chairman's Report
- U. Americanism/Loyalty Day Chairman's Report
- V. PAC Chairman's Report
- W. VOD/PP/Teacher's Award Report
- X. POW/MIA Chairman's Report
- Y. Safety Chairman's Report
- Z. National Home Chairman's Report
- AA. Historian's Report
- AB. Roving Ambassador's Report
- AC. Clark Cemetery Chairman's Report
- AD. Webmaster's Report
- AE. Typhoon Editor's Report
- AF. Strategic Asset Management Chairman's Report
- AG. National Recruiter's Report

Distribution:

Council Members (w/o attachments)

National Adjutant General (w/o attachments)