

**Department of Pacific Areas**  
**Minutes of the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**  
**21 – 24 June 2010**  
**Oasis Hotel, Angeles City, Philippines**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

The opening ceremonies of the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention were held beginning 1000 hours on Monday, June 21, 2010. Department Commander James D. Malott asked everyone to be seated after the Salute to the Colors, and officially opened the convention with a short greeting. Commander Malott introduced Department Senior Vice Commander James Oden as Master of Ceremonies. Emcee Oden introduced the following VIPs: James Malott, Commander, Department of Pacific Areas; Past Commander in Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Edward Banas; Comrade Preston “Nick” Nelson, NCM District 16, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US; Jeff McGowan, Veterans Affairs – Regional Office (Manila); The Veterans Affairs Commission of Republic of China, Mr. Lin Wen-Shan, Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs Commission, Mr. Hans Song, Director, Overseas Liaison Department and Ms. Jean Yueh, International Relations Section; C. Marty Ellingwood, Past Supreme Commander, Military Order of the Cootie; Supreme Council Member, District 15 William Wichmann; Orville Humfleet, 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): Gerald Kraus, Thomas Elliott, Joseph Carsley, Robert Zaher, William Wichmann, Richard Keeley, Kenneth Schaefer, Rhett Webber and Larry Lyons. Next, he introduced the following Past Grand Commanders (PGCs): John Welsh, James Malott, William Wichmann, Gerald Prinz, Richard Keeley and Ken Swierzewski.

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 23, 2010.

**FIRST BUSINESS SESSION**

Opening Ceremonies: Commander Malott re-opened the Convention at 0900 hours, Wednesday, June 23, 2010, IAW VFW Ritual. He appointed Comrade Watson as Guard and Comrade Mitchell as Officer of the Day.

Distinguished Guests: Commander Malott introduced Past Commander in Chief, Edward Banas; Preston “Nick” Nelson, NCM District 16, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US; MOC Supreme District 15 Councilman William Wichmann; C. Marty Ellingwood, 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, Milward, Carsley, Zaher, Gasperson, Wichmann, Keeley, Schaefer, Webber and Lyons. Finally, he introduced the following PGCs: Malott, Wichmann, Prinz, Keeley, Swierzewski and the present Grand Commander Humfleet.

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	James D. Malott	Present
Senior-vice Commander	James Oden	Present
Junior-vice Commander	Barry Hirshbein	Present
Quartermaster	Anthony C. Power	Present
Judge Advocate	William H. Wichmann	Present
Surgeon	Francis Hunter	Present
Chaplain	Thomas Darkus	Present
Chief of Staff	Gerald Kraus	Present
Inspector	Gerald Prinz	Present
Service Officer	Peter Scalzo	Present
Jr. PDC	Larry Lyons	Present
Commander, D1	Stanley Stewart	SVC Brandon
Commander, D2	Bernie Kenna	JVC Mortimer
Commander, D3	Ashley D. Combs	Present
Commander, D4	Orville D. Humfleet	Present
Commander, D5	William Hudson	Present
Commander, D6	Mariano Fajardo	Present
Commander, D7	James Correll	SVC Chesko
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 Schaefer 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:

William Bradford	National Programs Committee
William Wichmann	National By-Laws/Manual of Procedures
Robert Zaher	Veterans Service Resolutions

Larry Lyons  
Ken Swierzewski

General Resolutions  
National Military Services

b. All-State Commanders:

David Heilhecker	Commander, Post 2485
Alfred Serrato	Commander, Post 9876
Frank Hilliard	Commander, Post 9892
Darin Combs	Commander, Post 10033
Shawn Watson	Commander, Post 10216
Michael Holmes	Commander, Post 12074

c. All-State Quartermasters

Gerald Kraus	Post 1509
Paul Gasperson	Post 2485
Robert Henault	Post 8180
Eric Larson	Post 9876
David Neutzler	Post 9951
Ronald Davis	Post 10216

d. National Awards

SNR Airman Nicholas Cardin – Emergency Medical Technician  
MSG Richard Brunet – Law Enforcement  
Matthew Haskin – Fire Fighter

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

Commander, District III - Combs  
Commander, Post 8180 - Roese  
Commander, Post 10033 - Combs

Comrade or a Family Member of a Comrade in Distress:

Post 11447 – D7 Commander Correll is currently hospitalized.  
Post 1054 – D2 Commander McKnight is being treated for cancer.

Commander Malott presented caps to PCinC Banas and NCM16 Nelson. He also presented a cap and T-shirt to PDC Zaher.

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 Oden reported that the Department is presently at 97.5%. He recognized the Century Recruiters and awarded free life memberships to Posts 9985 and 10033 (2). (Attachment C)

**Junior-vice Commander/Programs Chairman:** Junior-vice Commander Hirshbein 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 PCinC Banas and CDR Malott. (Attachment D)

Commander Malott presented National Certificates to JVC Hirshbein for his outstanding job as Program Chairman for the Department.

### **District Commanders' Reports:**

District I – Senior-vice Commander Brandon reported on Post's Community Service, and stated that all reports were submitted and inspections were successfully completed. (Attachment E)

District II – JVC Mortimer reported on the Posts' Community Service involvement and the challenges that were posed in recruiting. (Attachment F)

District III – D3 CDR Combs reported on community projects within District III and stated that the District currently stands at 109.97% in membership. CDR Combs also reported on VFW Scouting involvement. (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)

**Grand Commander:** Grand Commander Humfleet gave an oral and written report of the current state of the Grand of the Pacific and presented the Department with a check for \$5,000 from the Grand of the Pacific. (Attachment H-1)

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

District VI – Commander Fajardo reported that the Posts in District VI had done an outstanding job in the area of Community Service. (Attachment J)

District VII – SVC Chesko stated that District VII was over 100% in membership. He went on to elaborate on some of the projects and accomplishments throughout the past year. (Attachment K)

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

**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 (All By-Law revisions were approved):

1. Section 402 – Meetings: “(a) Department shall hold one Convention each year that begins no earlier than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in May and conclude no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in June.”

2. Section 803 – Duties of the Quartermaster: “Each check shall be a set of not less than two parts, the check itself and the remainder, which constitutes the check stub. The stub shall be considered as the official expenditure voucher for the QM files, which shall include transaction details and budget charges as appropriate.”

3. Section 1305 – Management and Finances: “The management and financial procedures, as well as insurance matters of any club/canteen operated or sponsored by a Post shall follow the provisions of the Department Policy Memorandum ~ Guide to Good Management of Clubs/Canteens.”

4. JA Wichmann as discussed the proposed change to Section 222 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures concerning delegate strength and fees. (Attachment N)

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

**Chief of Staff:** Chief of Staff Kraus presented an oral and written report. (Attachment P)

**Department Inspector:** Department Inspector Prinz informed membership that all Posts and Districts in the Department had been successfully inspected. (Attachment Q)

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

**National Military Service Chairman:** Chairman Swierzewski gave an oral and written report on the National Military Service Program. (Attachment S)

**Buddy Poppy Chairman:** Buddy Poppy Chairman Pearson presented no report.

**Americanism/Loyalty Day Chairman:** Chairman Sass was excused from attending and presented no report.

**VFW PAC Chairman:** Chairman Bradford gave an oral and written report. (Attachment T)

**VOD/Patriot’s Pen/Teachers Award:** Chairman Bradford announced the VOD winner and the Patriot’s Pen winner. He also announced the Teachers’ Awards. (Attachment U)

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

**POW/MIA Chairman:** Chairman Callaghan gave an oral and written report. (Attachment V)

**National Home:** Chairman Haney was excused from attending and presented a written report. (Attachment W)

**Convention Book Chairman:** Chairman Zaher discussed other fund raising support for the Department. (Attachment X)

**Convention Chairman:** Chairman Zaher thanked his committee for their hard work in setting up the convention on such a short notice. (Attachment Y)

**Roving Ambassador:** Roving Ambassador Mitchell gave an oral and written report. (Attachment Z).

**Clark Cemetery Chairman:** Clark Cemetery Chairman Heilhecker informed membership of donations received (\$6,740) and expenditures (\$7,100) for the upkeep of the cemetery. He also stated the Grave Digger membership currently stands at 917. Donations were accepted from Posts 10216, 9555, 1509 and Pup Tent 303. (Attachment AA)

**Webmaster:** Webmaster Kenna was excused from attending, gave a detailed written report and announced that the Department website received 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the VFW National Competition. (Attachment AB)

**Typhoon Editor:** Typhoon Editor Mortimer presented an oral and written report and discussed the DPA Writing Contest. (Attachment AC & AC-1)

**Outreach Chairman:** Chairman Teets presented a detailed written report. (Attachment AD)

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

**Old Business:** A motion was made for VFW members to be reimbursed for airfare expenses, charges or penalties incurred for changing their airline tickets as a result of the change of venue of the Department Convention. Cutoff for reimbursement is 30 July 2010 to Commander Malott.

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

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

**END OF FIRST SESSION**

**BEGIN SECOND SESSION**

Commander Malott 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	Oden
Senior Vice Commander	Hirshbein
Junior Vice Commander	Combs
Quartermaster	Power
Surgeon	Higgins
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.

3. There was a motion to recruit new members as MALs once reaching the Posts' desired number. Department would remit \$7 to the Post. MSP

4. Comrade Bradford presented checks from JRMF.

5. There was a motion to reimburse some members for six nights attendance at the convention. It was withdrawn.

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

1. Post 10033 was recognized as the Community Service Post of the Year.

2. All active military service members were recognized.

3. PDCs Lyons and Zaher want to man a hospitality room at National and made a motion to hold a fund raiser in order to sponsor the hospitality room. MSP

4. Distinguished guests:

a. Past Supreme Commander Ellingwood gave a short and to the point "thank you" to all.

b. District 16 National Council Member Nelson congratulated DPA for their professionalism and spoke briefly to the membership.

c. Past Commander in Chief Banas spoke briefly on the National Organization.

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

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

1. Outstanding Post – Post 10216
2. Outstanding Post Commander – Shawn Watson, Post 10216
3. Outstanding Post Adjutant – Keith Michael, Post 10216
4. Outstanding Post Quartermaster – Norman Smith, Post 9892
5. Outstanding Membership Chairman – Cliff Wilsey, Post 2485
6. Outstanding Member – Patrick Webb, Post 12074
7. Outstanding Service Officer – Pete Scalzo, Post 2485
8. Outstanding Contributor – Business – JJ's Cantina, Post 10216
10. Outstanding Contributor – Individual – Eric Sampson, Post 9892
11. National Community Service Post of the Year – Post 10033
12. Special Award for Outstanding Service – Lenee Antiporta – DPA Office

Commander Malott gave a heart-felt outgoing speech thanking all the DPA Comrades and especially the District and Post Commanders for their outstanding support during the 2009-2010 term. He asked them to support incoming Commander Oden with the same effort and enthusiasm. He then called Past Commander in Chief Edward Banas forward to convene over the Installation of Officers for the upcoming year.

Commander Oden 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

JAMES D. MALOTT  
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. National Military Service Chairman's Report
- T. VFW PAC Chairman's Report
- U. VOD/PP/Teacher's Award Report
- V. POW/MIA Chairman's Report
- W. National Home Chairman's Report
- X. Convention Book Chairman's Report
- Y. Convention Chairman's Report
- Z. Roving Ambassador's Report
- AA. Clark Cemetery Chairman's Report
- AB. Webmaster's Report
- AC. Typhoon Editor's Report
- AD. Outreach Chairman's Report
- AE. National Recruiter's Report

Distribution:

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