

# MINUTES SUMMARY

Council of Administration

December 21, 2024



## Today's Half and Half is to help the Hawaii Home at Eaton Rapids.

**Commander Ben Fuata called the Department of Hawaii Council of Administration (COA) meeting to order at 0922, following the prescribed format:**

### **Roll Call of officers:**

Commander - Ben Fuata:	Present
Senior Vice Commander - Jason Seal:	Present
Junior Vice Commander – Lynn Mariano:	Present
Quartermaster - Norbert Enos:	Not Present
Adjutant - George Barlett:	Present
Judge Advocate - Patsey Takemura:	Not Present
Surgeon - Lynn Gernert:	Present
Chaplain - Stan Fernandez:	Not Present
Chief of Staff - Randy Grant:	Present
Inspector - Randy Grant also COS	Present
Immediate Past Commander - Ronald Schaedel:	Not Present
Past Commander: - Fred Chang	Present
Past Commander:	Not Present
Past Commander:	Not Present
Post 94:	Not Present
Post 110:	Sr. Vice Present
Post 352:	Not Present
Post 849:	Present
Post 970:	Present
Post 1540:	Present
Post 1572:	Present
Post 2875:	Present
Post 3292:	Present
Post 3391:	Not Present
Post 3830:	Present
Post 3850:	Present
Post 3855:	Not Present
Post 3870:	Present
Post 3875:	Not Present
Post 8616:	Present
Post 10154:	Not Present
Post 10276:	Not Present
Post 12122:	Present
Post 12138:	Present

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**Note: The Adjutant confirmed a quorum was present after the roll call.**

- Guests in attendance: None.
- Adjutant recognized Past Department Commanders and Past National Councilmembers

## **Reading/approval of the minutes:**

- The minutes from the September 21, 2024, meeting have been distributed and are available on the website. A motion to approve the minutes, with no corrections or additions, was made, seconded, and passed.
- Report on Balloting since the last COA: None.

## **Quartermaster (QM) Report:**

- Quartermaster N. Enos had his report as of December 1, 21, 2024 distributed. A motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and passed. The report is available for review at the Department Headquarters.

## **Correspondence:**

- None.

## **Comrade/Family of a Comrade in Distress:**

- Post 110 Member David Sakai passed away
- Post 849 Members Manny Robelo and Sam Belen passed away.
- Post 2875 Aux member Geri Enos is recovering from shoulder surgery.
- Post 3292 Randy Grant has sciatica.
- Post 8616 Member Will Brown has Long COVID and Jeff Marian has cancer.

**Service Officer Report:** No Report

## **Officer and Committee Reports:**

- **Commander - B. Fuata:**
  - Requested posts to submit inputs for the \*Lava Ledger\* to highlight their activities and members.
  - Reminded that the "Grapevine" is a quick send document and will be followed by a General Order as required. The key to ensure that information is delivered out to the members in the timely manner similar to an Alert and/or Warning Order followed by the G.O. for more details concerning the information blast.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder nominations are due March.
  - Reminded members that the State Convention is at KMC on June 12-15, 2025.
  - Advised not to submit quick links for National Awards directly to National. Posts are instructed to ensure all National Awards are submitted to the Department for proper review and approval before being forwarded to National for their review and approval.
- **Sr. Vice Commander - J. Seal:**
  - Submitted a written report on the National Home. Reminded the COA that the Hawaii

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House is about 7.4K in the RED. Due to ongoing maintenance and the arrival of new residents. As a reminder, donating at least \$200.00 to the National Home is a All-State requirement.

- **Jr. Vice Commander - L. Mariano:**

- Buddy Poppy: Encouraged Posts to distribute Buddy Poppies and to send orders to the State Quartermaster. A new Buddy Poppy order form is available.

- **Chaplain - S. Fernandez:**

- No Report.

- **Chief of Staff - R. Grant:**

- Instructed Post Commanders need to contact the inspection team if they need to change inspection dates.
- **Reminded everyone the VOD/PP luncheon will take place immediately after the February COA.**

- **Quartermaster - N. Enos:**

- NO Report.

- **State Adjutant - G. Barlett:**

- Posts are reminded that the Post Adjutant must make entries on the Programs Dashboard for Programs and Community Service. National has state that no entries for VOD/PP will be processed after December 31, 2024. Community Service must be reported at least quarterly. The National Day of Service must be reported before May 1, 2025.
- Reminded all COA members to submit proof of eligibility to the Department, including Post leadership as the Post Commander is a council member.
- Announced the 2025 National Convention will be held in Columbus, Ohio, from August 9-13, 2025. Attendees should plan to arrive by August 8, 2025.
- Noted the Blue Angels will perform at MCBH on August 9-10, 2025. We are forming a committee for this event; if you would like to assist, please contact the Department.

- **Note: Adjutant Administrative Reminders:**

- Post Commanders must ensure election reports are filled out correctly, including meeting dates, times, EIN numbers, and required positions.
- To maintain a "Good Standing" status, posts must submit quarterly Trustee Report of Audit, as officer voting rights at the COA depend on this.
- Post Adjutants must submit quarterly Community Service reports through the dashboard—only two Posts have submitted for this quarter.

- **Surgeon - L. Gernert:**

- Gave a presentation on National Mental Health Hotline \*988.

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- **Judge Advocate – P. Takemura:**
  - No Report.
- **Past Department Commander/NCM - R. Schaedel:**
  - No Report.
- **Comrade - T. Wong:**
  - Budget and Audit Committees: No report.
- **Comrade - J. Taueu:**
  - Encouraged the promotion of safety programs, including child and bicycle safety.
  - Reminded Posts to submit Firefighter, Police, EMT, and Lifeguard of the Year entries to the Department.
- **Comrade - J. Schaedel:**
  - Legislative: Submitted a written report. Reported that “Senate passed the “CR”
- **Comrade – C. Mack:**
  - No Report.

- **Comrade – P. Maple:**
  - No Report.
- **Comrade - R. Boucher:**
  - MAP Grants closed for the remainder of the year.
  - Sports Clip supports the “Help a Hero” Program. Please support them.
- **Veteran Employment and Programs - S. Willis:**
  - Submitted a written report.

**Award Presentation: None.**

**National Home Prayer Unfinished**

**Business:**

- Department Fundraiser was mailed out.

**New Business:**

- **Appointment Changes:**
  - None
- **Commander’s Membership Challenge:**
  - To help Posts achieve their goal of 102% membership, for each new or reinstated member recruited, the Post will receive \$5.00. For every new life member, the Post will receive \$10.00.
  - **Note:** Change to National Membership guidance. Installment life members count as annual members and recruiters will be given credit for reinstates.
- **American Life Mailout:**
  - Mailout will be in January 2025.
- **Submarine Advocacy Group (SAG):**
  - On behalf of the SAG, R. Boucher introduced a letter outlining the group's purpose, mission, vision, and goals of the group. He plans to submit a resolution to the Department seeking VFW support for the group. All new resolutions, should have Post approval, then submitted to the State Chief of Staff and State Judge Advocate for review of proper formatting and veteran advocacy before being present to the Department Convention for approval. Refer to the Bylaws and Resolution SOP for further guidance.
- **Fundraising Requests from Posts:**
  - Post 12138 and Post 849: Plan to conduct golf tournaments first quarter 2025, with details to be announced.
  - Post 3850: Will host a Commander’s Dinner on October 31, 2024, in conjunction with Halloween celebration.

- Post 3830 and Auxiliary: will hold bingo, and breakfast fundraisers
- Post 10154 will hold a Zippy's Funraiser 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2025.
- **Department Commander: Approved all fundraising requests.**

**Good of the Order:**

- **Military Order of the Cooties:**
  - Randy Grant gave an informational briefing on the Military Order of the Cooties. The Department is working to revive our pup tent and will have a meeting in JANuary
- **Rodney Boucher is in process of becoming a Service Officer and announced that he is running for Department Junior Vice Commander.**
- **RED CROSS is looking for volunteers.**
- **Charles Tibbets has 7 boxes of little American flags available at the BDD office.**
- **Upcoming Ceremonies/VFW Events:**
  - At 2300 December 23, 2024 at the Vietnam Memorial a Christmas Eve in Vietnam gathering.

**Closing Ceremony and Remarks:**

- Commander Fuata officially closed the meeting in form at 1045.
- The next Council of Administration (COA) meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2025, with setup at 0845 and meeting start at 0900. Due to the VOD/PP luncheon following the COA All Reports must be submitted in writing.

**Additional Announcements:**

- The Commander's Homecoming is scheduled to take place the Friday, 7 February 2025 at the Natsunoya Tea House. Information on to the menu, cost and time will be distributed soon.

Submitted:



Department Adjutant George Barlett

Approval Date: State

Adjutant Initials: