

MINUTES SUMMARY

Council of Administration

September 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 0918, following the prescribed format:

Roll Call of officers:

Commander - Ben Fuata:	Present
Senior Vice Commander - Jason Seal:	Not Present
Junior Vice Commander – Lynn Mariano:	Present
Quartermaster - Norbert Enos:	Present
Adjutant - George Barlett:	Present
Judge Advocate - Patsey Takemura:	Present
Surgeon - Lynn Gernert:	Present
Chaplain - Stan Fernandez:	Present
Chief of Staff - Randy Grant:	Present
Inspector - Randy Grant also COS	Present
Immediate Past Commander - Ronald Schaedel:	Present Past
Commander: - Joseph Bragg	Present
Past Commander:	Not Present
Past Commander:	Not Present
Post 94:	Not Present
Post 110: ADJ/QM	Not Present
Post 352:	Present
Post 849: Sr Vice	Present
Post 970:	Present
Post 1540:	Present
Post 1572:	Present
Post 2875: Sr Vice	Present
Post 3292: QM	Not Present
Post 3391:	Not Present
Post 3830: QM	Not Present
Post 3850: Via Zoom	Present
Post 3855:	Not Present
Post 3870:	Not Present
Post 3875: ADJ	Not Present
Post 8616: also Jr Vice	Present
Post 10154: QM	Not Present
Post 10276:	Present
Post 12122:	Not 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 June 22, 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 presented the report as of September 21, 2024. A motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and passed. The report is available for review at the Department Headquarters.

Correspondence:

- Commander B. Fuata read a letter emphasizing the importance of remaining nonpartisan during the current political season.
- A letter from Fred Apgar was received, requesting assistance in publicizing his book, "Return to War on the Plaine des Jerres".
 - Note: The Adjutant will ensure the book and its QR code are publicized for members to purchase.
- A letter from Grouper regarding Social Fitness Benefit was read.
- A reminder letter was received noting that Western Conference housing reservations close on September 30, 2024.

Comrade/Family of a Comrade in Distress:

- Past Post Commander Danny "Kana" Kanahele, Post 3850, passed away. Services are scheduled for September 28, 2024. Adjutant George Barlett will represent the Department of Hawaii following the scheduled Post Inspection.
- Comrade P. Maple, Post 10276, underwent surgery and is currently recovering.

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 it 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.

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- 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.
- **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.
 - Legacy Life Membership:** Urged Posts to promote Legacy Life membership. The Department currently has 135 Legacy Life members.
- **Chaplain - S. Fernandez:**
 - Reminded Post Chaplains to contact him if they need assistance with their duties.
 - Announced that the Oahu Veterans Council (OVC) is organizing the Veterans Day Ceremony at Punchbowl at 1000. **This year's theme will honor the Air Force.**
- **Chief of Staff - R. Grant:**
 - Instructed Post Commanders need to contact the inspection team if they need to change inspection dates.
 - VOD/PP/Teacher Programs: Submission **deadline to Posts is October 31, 2024;** the **Department deadline is November 30, 2024.**
 - Reminded that all VOD/PP submissions must use the "Scholars App". If students do not enter their data, Posts must do so. Judging at the Department and National levels will be done using the "**Scholars App**".
- **Quartermaster - N. Enos:**
 - Provided a membership review based on the latest data.
 - Encouraged members to watch the "Membership Monday" webcasts, which are recorded and available for viewing anytime are on the VFW National website.
- **State Adjutant - G. Barlett:**
 - Attended Adjutant/Quartermaster training, noting that many aspects of the training will be incorporated into the Department's training program.
 - 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.

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- 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 flu shots and emphasized awareness of veteran suicide prevention.
- **Judge Advocate – P. Takemura:**
 - No Report.
- **Past Department Commander/NCM - R. Schaedel:**
 - In reference to Commander in Chief Al Lipphardt’s remarks, urged caution when speaking to the press, as statements can be taken out of context.
 - Reminded Posts that the VFW brand and Cross of Malta are trademarked and require permission from the VFW National Quartermaster General to use them.
 - Mentioned potential changes to the VOD student trips and award presentations due to liability concerns.
- **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, reminding members to be cautious of “Claim Sharks.”
- **Comrade – C. Mack:**
 - State Convention: Commander B. Fuata appointed J. Schaedel as co-chair of the State

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Convention Committee. The convention will be held at KMC on the Big Island, and the Commander encourages all Posts to bring their colors and showcase their achievements.

- Media and Public Relations: No report.
- **Comrade – P. Maple:**
 - POW/MIA and Outreach: While Comrade Paul Maple is recovering from surgery, the Department intends to coordinate with him for a DPPA visit during the Western Conference.
- **Comrade - R. Boucher:**
 - Veterans and Military Service: Announced that US Vets is holding a Golf Tournament on October 8, 2024, with proceeds benefiting homeless veterans.
 - Noted that grants are available for Adopt-a-Unit and military unit activities.
 - Those interested in VMS pins should contact him.
 - Emergency Preparedness: Reminded attendees to take home the giveaways on the table.
 - VA Akaka Clinic holds a food distribution event on the 2nd Friday of the month.
- **Veteran Employment and Programs - S. Willis:**
 - Submitted a written report and announced a job fair at JBPHH Employment.

Award Presentation: All-State caps were presented to J. “Frank” Bragg, Rodney Boucher, Larry Enomoto, Kevin Beall, and Tim Wong.

National Home Prayer

Unfinished Business:

- Western Conference this year will be at Ala Moana Hotel. **Rooms reservations close on September 30, 2024.** If you are going, please register for the Conference do so soon.
- Please check with the Department QM or Adjutant to confirm your registration and meal payment. There are some people who have secured their room reservations however, failed complete their conference registration application to include meals.

New Business:

- **Appointment Changes:**
 - The upcoming appointment changes will be published in General Order #4.
- **Commander’s Membership Challenge:**
 - To help Posts achieve their goal of 102% membership, for each new or reinstated

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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.
- **Department Fundraiser & American Life Mailout:**
 - Preparation will begin on November 5, 2024. Volunteers are needed to help stuff and address envelopes at Headquarters. If interested in assisting, please contact the office.
- **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 in January and February 2024, 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 a Dachshund race and Oktoberfest on October 12, 2024 at Shipmen Park in Keau.
 - **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 host an informational meeting on October 12, 2024, at 1300 at VFW Department of Hawaii Headquarters, for eight attendees with Zoom Access available. Please e-mail Randy Grant at rwgrant65@outlook.com, if you plan to attend in person or via Zoom.
- **Veterans Day Ceremonies:**
 - Kansas City Barbeque: All-day event.
 - 0700: Veterans Day ceremony at the WWII Memorial, in partnership with the American Legion.

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- 0730: Veterans Day ceremony at the Korean War and Vietnam War Memorials, led by the State of Hawaii VFW.
- 1000: Veterans Day ceremony at Punchbowl, sponsored by the Oahu Veterans Council (OVC), with a focus on honoring the Air Force.
- 1000: Veterans Day event at the Natatorium.
- 1100: Veterans Day ceremony at Parche Memorial, Subbase.
- **Upcoming Ceremonies/VFW Events:**
 - Post 970: Will retire U.S. flags at Punchbowl on September 21, 2024, at 0900.
 - Post 3875: Will conduct a Buddy Poppy distribution at KTA on November 8-9, 2024.
 - Comrade Sherman Willis: Announced that his daughter, Amy is working at the Kapolei VA Center, focusing on PTSD.

Closing Ceremony and Remarks:

- Commander Fuata officially closed the meeting in form at 1050.
- The next Council of Administration (COA) meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2024, with setup at 0900 and meeting start at 0915.

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.
- The Winter/Spring COA meeting will be held at 09:15 on February 8, 2025, at the Oahu Veterans Center (OVC). Set up will commence at 08:45 followed by registration from 09:00-09:15.

Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G Barlett", is written over the printed name.

Department Adjutant
George Barlett

Approval Date: State Adjutant

Initials:

State Adjutant Report

Adjutant:

Attended the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster Training in Kansas City.

- We were informed that the Department is required to have on file proof of eligibility of all members of the COA. This includes Post Leadership.
- Importance of having a 990 file annually. If you lose your tax-exempt status you may be required to file corporate income taxes and state taxes.
- The information we learned will be incorporated into the upcoming training.

Youth Activities:

No Report

National Convention:

Next years convention is Columbus Ohio August 9-13, 2025

VFW Auxiliary August 9-14, 2025

Military Order of the Cooties August 13-17, 2025

Auxiliary Liaison:

No Report

Special Events

- Western Conference
Oct 31- November 3, 2024
Links on our website.
Housing closes in a week.
- Blue Angels August 9-10, 2025
- Parade No Report

Website/SocialMedia

Visit our website.

We are looking at improving our SEO score

Community Service

Post Adjutants are reminded that Community Service must be posted on the Dashboard at least quarterly.

ROTC No report

Hawaii as of Saturday, September 21, 2024

Dept	Post	Ost	New Annual	Cont Annual	Reinst Annual	New Life	Cont Life	Reinst Life	Ufe Upgrade	Current	Prior	Percentage	Division	City	State
Hawaii	94	99	0	1	0	0	62	0	1	63	62	101.61%	10	HONOLULU	HI
Hawaii	110	99	0	0	0	2	24	0	2	26	31	83.87%	11	HONOLULU	HI
Hawaii	352	99	0	2	3	0	134	0	0	139	149	93.28%	6	MIULANI	HI
Hawaii	849	99	0	0	0	2	65	0	3	67	65	103.07%	10	WAIANAE	HI
Hawaii	970	99	0	4	1	0	357	0	2	362	375	96.53%	3	HICKAM AFB	HI
Hawaii	1540	99	0	1	0	0	161	0	0	162	170	95.29%	6	HONOLULU	HI
Hawaii	1572	99	0	0	0	0	56	0	0	56	57	98.24%	10	WAIPAHU	HI
Hawaii	2875	99	0	5	0	3	372	0	4	380	443	85.77%	3	HONOLULU	HI
Hawaii	3292	99	0	1	0	0	105	0	1	106	115	92.17%	7	AIEA	HI
Hawaii	3391	99	0	2	0	0	179	0	0	181	214	84.57%	5	PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA	
Hawaii	3830	99	0	2	0	0	140	0	0	142	181	78.45%	6	PAHOA	HI
Hawaii	3850	99	0	4	0	0	175	0	0	179	210	85.23%	5	WAILUKU	HI
Hawaii	3855	99	0	0	0	0	52	0	0	52	54	96.29%	10	KAPAA	HI
Hawaii	3870	99	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	14	18	77.77%	11	KAUNAKAKAI	HI
Hawaii	3875	99	0	3	0	0	80	0	0	83	90	92.22%	8	HILO	HI
Hawaii	8616	99	0	2	0	1	123	0	1	126	159	79.24%	6	HONOLULU	HI
Hawaii	1015	99	0	5	0	0	211	1	0	217	237	91.56%	5	KANEOHE	HI
Hawaii	10276	99	0	10	0	1	436	0	4	447	508	87.99%	3	HONOLULU	HI
Hawaii	1212	99	0	1	0	2	91	0	2	94	98	95.91%	8	KAILUA KONA	HI
Hawaii	12138	99	4	1	0	6	267	1	6	279	289	96.53%	4	EWA BEACH	HI
Hawaii	1501	99	4	6	2	8	623	0	11	643	703	91.46%	3	HONOLULU	HI
District Totals		99	8	50	6	25	3727	2	37	3818	4228	90,300/o	2		
State Totals			8	50	6	25	3727	2	37	3818	4228	90,300/o			

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FWSHOTS

Ready for flu season?

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3 What to know about flu shots

- This year's flu shots are trivalent, meaning they protect against three flu viruses: two versions of influenza A and one type of influenza B.
- For more than a decade, flu shots in the U.S. also protected against a fourth strain of influenza B, but that strain hasn't circulated since March 2020, so the Food and Drug Administration's vaccine advisory committee elected this year to exclude it.
- Although some people with egg allergies may be hesitant to get flu vaccines given that most are egg-based, the shots are still safe for that group.
- People with lingering concerns can seek out Flucelvax, a vaccine that's developed using mammalian cells instead.

4 What to know about flu shots

- Getting the shots at once might also slightly increase side effects, according to a CDC study, though the reactions are still generally mild.

5 How much do the shots cost?

- Flu shots are available at doctor's offices, pharmacies, health clinics and through some workplaces.
- CVS, Walgreens and Walmart pharmacies all have Covid and flu vaccines in stock.
- People with insurance shouldn't have to pay out-of-pocket for the vaccines as long as they get them from an in-network provider.

6 Find a flu shot near you

- Schedule your flu vaccine appointment online or through the CVS Pharmacy app and skip the line.
- Provide your insurance information and answer questions online ahead of time.
- You can also call your Honolulu CVS Pharmacy or call 1-800-SHOP CVS 1-800-746-7287 (TTY:711).
- Walk-in flu shot appointments may also be available.

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PAST COMMANDER/NATIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

1. NATIONAL COUNCIL

- a. Adopted FY2024-25 Budget. Total unrestricted cash and investments at \$74 million for both Kansas City and Washington, D.C. Headquarters.
- b. \$1.6 million for renovations (M, s lv -;), •w; i tld " "lri < r "ld WrliNngton D.i. offl,;ei
- c. Approved motion to adjust salary brackets by 3.6% (h :. & i r;
- d. Approved appointment of Phil Maughan of the Big Ten Conference to the VFW Retirement Board for five year term beginning March 2025.
- e. Motion amended and passed to restrict the California Motorcycle club from using VFW logo(s). (l1rovn:-ativ •oft-? -e, , r k)
- f. Voice of Democracy (VOD) discussed for a future agenda item.

2. STRATEGIC PLAN

- a. Budget fully funded programs for veterans, service members and their families.
- b. Education, employment, and TAP. (Jt.>ir.1; Pc1se an ,a l::01 l- ,l. :; ,
- c. Disability assistance and memorial affairs.
- d. Health care and maintaining the quality of life.
- e. National security and foreign affairs..... ' "'
- f. Strive towards excellence in all business operations including governance, system data and management. To improve experiences, satisfaction rates, accountability, and security for veterans.

3. SERVICE OFFICER OVERSIGHT

- a. Post Service Officers will be provided with an updated job description that focuses on providing information regarding local benefits and services rather than federal benefits assistance.
- b. DSO's shall conduct at least one VFW Service Officers School of Instruction for all Post Service Officers in the Department during each VFW year. A report must be submitted by the end of June.

Lastly, the Voice of Democracy (VOD) Program was intensively discussed. Past liability problems (alcohol consumption, sexual harassment, truancy, etc.) The next VOD in March may be the first in Washington, D.C. or also maybe downsized, or restricted to Valley Forge. Other suggestions were made. The program remains as it is for now.

At the local State level, I suggested that the winner should be given an audience with their respective State Governors and recognized by their legislature.

Submitted by: R/n s cht ledet, s r.

Dated: 09/15/24

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Military Order of the Cooties (MOC)

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Military Order of the Cooties (MOC) is a subsidiary organization of the VFW that focuses on providing support to veterans, particularly those in hospitals. Founded in 1920, the MOC serves as the "Honor Degree" of the VFW and is known for its lighthearted, fun-loving approach to service, often using humor to lift the spirits of veterans.

Despite the playful nature, the MOC's mission is serious: caring for hospitalized veterans, visiting those in VA hospitals, and providing support through various charitable initiatives. Members of the MOC, referred to as "Cooties," are VFW members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the organization's mission of supporting veterans and their families.

The MOC is organized into "Pup Tents," which are local chapters that carry out the group's charitable work. There is also a women's auxiliary called the "Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary" (MOCA), which supports the same objectives. Together, the MOC and MOCA bring a unique blend of service and camaraderie to veterans' communities.

Bylaws Committee Report

Report: Bylaws and Resolutions Committee

Chairperson: Randy Grant

Topic 1: Annual Bylaws Review

The VFW Department of Hawaii and all VFW Posts in Hawaii are required to conduct an annual review of their Bylaws to identify any errors or corrections that need to be made. Specific attention should be given to the following:

- **Meeting Dates, Times, and Places:** Ensure all details related to meetings are up to date and accurately reflect current practices.
- **Last Revision Date:** Check when the Bylaws were last revised and reviewed by both VFW National and the VFW Department of Hawaii.

If the Bylaws have not been updated in the past five years, they may no longer comply with current VFW National and VFW Department of Hawaii Bylaws. In such cases, new Bylaws may need to be created. The VFW National website provides templates that can be used to easily develop compliant Bylaws by simply filling in the required information.

Topic 2: Availability of Bylaws for Post Inspections

All Posts must ensure they have the following documents readily available for Post inspections:

- **National VFW Bylaws**
- **Department of Hawaii Bylaws**
- **Post Bylaws**

If a Post requires a copy of the VFW Department of Hawaii Bylaws, they can request one by contacting the VFW Department of Hawaii Adjutant.

This report emphasizes the importance of regularly reviewing and maintaining compliant Bylaws for all VFW entities in Hawaii.

Parliamentarian Report

Report: Parliamentarian Guidelines

Position: Parliamentarian

Person: Randy Grant

Topic 1: Quorum Continuity

Question: Once a quorum has been established, does it continue to exist no matter how many members leave during the course of the meeting?

Answer: No. Once a quorum is established, its continued presence is only presumed to exist until the chair or any other member notices that the quorum is no longer present. If a quorum is no longer present, the meeting must halt until it is restored.

Topic 2: Calling the Question in Debate

Question: Must debate on a motion stop immediately as soon as any member calls the question?

Answer: No. It is a misconception that debate must stop immediately when a member calls the question. To end debate, a member must first be recognized by the chair, then formally move the Previous Question. This motion requires a second and must be adopted by a two-thirds vote or by unanimous consent. Members cannot interrupt a speaker with cries of "Question" or "Call the Question." Even when no one is speaking, the member must seek recognition from the chair to move the Previous Question.

Topic 3: Debate on Motions

1. **Preference for the Maker of the Motion:** The maker of the motion has a one-time right to preference in speaking about it and is usually the first to speak once the chair has stated the motion.
 2. **Speaking Twice on a Motion:** While all members may speak twice on the same motion in a single day, those who haven't spoken yet have preference over those who have already spoken.
 3. **Alternating Opinions in Debate:** The chair should try to alternate between speakers who favor and those who oppose the motion. For example, if someone speaks in favor of the motion, the next speaker should ideally be someone who opposes it.
-

Topic 4: Properly Stating a Motion

Parliamentarian Report

Example:

1. **First Recognized Member:** "I, Randy Grant, move that the Council of Administration have refreshments not to exceed \$50 in cost, at all COA meetings."¹¹
2. **Second Recognized Member:** "I, George Barlett, second the motion!"

This document serves as a guide for proper parliamentary procedure and debate management.

VOD and Patriots Pen Committee Report

Report: Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Committee

Chairperson: Randy Grant

Topic 1: Scholarship Application Process

All Posts are reminded to use the scholarship application for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entries. Additionally, a special QR code is available, which can be shared on flyers to allow applicants to easily upload their entries. Posts are required to use the **Scholars App** for this process. A separate email outlining how to use the application software was sent by Randy Grant, Patriots Pen Chairperson. All VFW Hawaii Posts have been pre-loaded into the system and can receive applications through the online platform.

Important Deadlines:

- **Student Submission Deadline:** October 31, 2024
 - **Post Judging Completion and Winner Selection:** November 30, 2024
 - **Submission Deadline to Department:** November 30, 2024
 - **Department Judging Completion:** January 10, 2025
 - **Department Entry for National Competition Deadline:** January 15, 2025
-

Themes for 2024 Competitions:

- **Voice of Democracy Theme:** "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"
 - **Patriot's Pen Theme:** "My Voice in America's Democracy"
-

Brochures Available:

- Voice of Democracy
 - Patriot's Pen
-

If you have any questions about these programs, please contact Randy Grant at rwgrant65@outlook.com or (808) 347-2936.

Inspector Report: VFW Department of Hawaii

Lead Inspector: Randy Grant

Topics:

Information to address and assist with some of the questions and concerns that have been raised.

1. Inspection Form:

Access, you can find the fillable inspection form by logging into the VFW website, navigating to **Member/Post Resources**, and selecting **Document Repository**. General Order #3 will have been sent out with a link to the form and more information.

2. Required Personnel for Inspection:

The personnel required to be present at the inspection are:

- o Post Commander
- o Post Adjutant
- o Post Quartermaster

3. Inspection Duration and Documents Needed:

Inspectors will need approximately one hour to complete the inspection. The following items must be available for review:

- o Bank statements
- o Post Charter and Articles of Incorporation
- o Proof of members' eligibility for Post Elected Positions
- o Proof that National and Department correspondence is saved (General Orders, National information)
- o Trustee Reports
- o Proof of Bond from the Department of Hawaii for 2024,
- o Other documents and information as identified on the inspection form.

4. Updating Contact Information:

We are missing correct email addresses for several Post Commanders, Adjutants,

and Quartermasters. Please send any updates to **George Bartlett** or me as soon as possible.

5. Scheduling Inspections:

Inspectors will work with each Post to adjust the inspection month as needed. However, please be aware that all Posts must be inspected by **January**, except for **American Samoa (Post 3391)**, which is scheduled for inspection in **April**.

6. Post Exclusions in Previous Communication:

The list I sent earlier did not include **Post 12138 (Ewa Beach)** and **American Samoa (Post 3391)**. **Norbert Enos** will be inspecting these two Posts.

7. Questions or Concerns:

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **George Bartlett, Norbert Enos, Ben Fuata, Jason Seal**, or me so that we can ensure consistent communication and provide the necessary assistance.

8. Inspector Participation:

Ben Fuata and Jason Seal are eager to join inspections and Post meetings to meet various VFW members within the Department. If your Post meeting schedule or location changes, please inform **George Bartlett, Ben Fuata, Jason Seal**, and me so we can adjust the schedule accordingly.

9. Inspection Schedule:

Inspections are typically conducted during Post meetings, but arrangements can be made on a case-by-case basis. Each Post should work with the assigned Inspector and department leadership to finalize a suitable date, time, and place for the inspection.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to these matters. Please reach out if you need any further clarification or assistance.

Budget Committee Report

Budget Committee Report

Chairperson: Randy Grant VFW Department of Hawaii Budget Committee

Topics:

1. Approval of Expenses:

All expenses from both the VFW Department of Hawaii and individual Posts must be supported by approved motions from the membership before funds are spent. This ensures transparency and accountability in financial management.

2. Annual Budgets:

Posts that hold property, multiple fund accounts, or accountable assets are highly encouraged to create annual budgets that can withstand the scrutiny of a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) audit. Proper budgeting not only ensures financial health but also prepares Posts for potential audits and reviews.

3. Budget Accessibility:

All members have the right to review and access the budget upon request. However, given the sensitive nature of financial data, it is important that budgets be treated as confidential. Only authorized personnel should handle and review this information.

4. Monthly Quartermaster Reports:

Monthly Quartermaster reports must be reviewed by the assigned Trustees. These reports should validate and clearly account for all funds received and all funds expended. Ensuring these reports are comprehensible is crucial for maintaining transparency and trust within the organization.

5. Quarterly Trustees Reports:

Quarterly Trustee reports are required to be submitted to the Department of Hawaii, accompanied by supporting documentation that validates the financial activity. These reports help ensure compliance with department regulations and provide necessary oversight.

6. Department of Hawaii Budget Committee Meetings:

The VFW Department of Hawaii Budget Committee holds meetings from January through June to prepare the budget for the upcoming fiscal year which begins on **July 1**. These meetings focus on creating a comprehensive and balanced budget to guide financial operations for the year.

Budget Committee Report

This report emphasizes the importance of financial accountability and transparency within the VFW Department of Hawaii. By following these procedures, we ensure that the Department and Posts maintain sound financial practices that align with both internal and external standards.

Teacher of the Year Committee

Report: Teacher of the Year Awards Committee

Chairperson: Randy Grant

Deadline for Submission:

The deadline for submitting full and complete Teacher of the Year award packages to the VFW Department of Hawaii is **November 30, 2024**.

Program Overview:

The **SMARTMAHER VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award** program honors elementary, middle, and high school teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette, and patriotism in their students. Each year, the VFW selects outstanding educators in these categories to participate in the national competition.

Submission Process:

- **Post-Level Submission:** Each VFW Post Teacher Award Chairperson may submit **one candidate** per grade level (elementary, middle, and high school) to the Department of Hawaii by **November 30, 2024**.
- **Department-Level Submission:** The Department of Hawaii may select one candidate in each grade level and submit these candidates to the VFW National Headquarters by **February 1, 2025**, for national judging.
- **National Awards:** Department-level winners submitted to National Headquarters will receive a **VFW National Citation** for both the winning teacher and their school.

Documentation Required for All Candidates:

- **Teacher Resume:** A one-page resume is required as a minimum. Candidates may submit up to five pages of supporting documentation, including their resume, references, and news articles.
- **Photo:** A head-and-shoulders photograph of the candidate, if available.
- **Nomination Form:** The Teacher Entry form, Instruction Sheet, and Chairperson's Guide are available on the VFW website under **VFW Training & Support** in the **Community Service & Youth Programs** section.

Eligibility Criteria:

Teacher of the Year Committee

1. Who Is Eligible?

- Certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 who promote civic responsibility, etiquette, and patriotism.
- Teachers who organize fieldtrips to city hall, involve students in community volunteer projects, or invite veterans to share their military experiences.
- Teachers who foster the development of democratic values and beliefs through special projects.
- Previous national winners are ineligible.

2. Who Can Nominate?

- Nominations can be submitted by the teachers themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members, or other interested individuals.

Access to Forms:

- **How to Access Forms:**

Login to **My VFW** at [Y1W.QJg](https://www.vfw.org), and under **Member Resources**, click on **VFW Training & Support**. Then, navigate to **Community Service & Youth Programs** under **Additional Resources** to find the Teacher Entry Form, Instruction Sheet, and Chairperson's Guide.

If you have any questions regarding the Teacher of the Year Awards program, please feel free to contact me.

Mahala,

Randy Grant

Chairperson, Teacher of the Year Awards Committee

VFW Department of Hawaii

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT VFW DEPARTMENT OF BAWAI'I

September 16, 2024

Dear Comrades,

I recently returned to Honolulu after attending a very productive VFW Fall Legislative Conference from September 9-12, 2024. The VFW's National Legislative Service (NLS) provided talking points to the committee via e-mail on August 30, 2024. We focused on five important topics during our visit to Washington, D.C., with the VA FY24 funding shortfall topic added during our briefing held in D.C. on September 10, 2024:

- The *Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act-H.R. 8371*
- Unaddressed Toxic Exposures - VA compliance with PACT Act
- Exploring Alternative PTSD Treatments - Funding for DOD and VA studies
- The *GUARD VA Benefits Act-S. 740/H.R. 1139* (National Claim Shark Bill)
- VA FY24 Funding Shortfall

September 10, 2024

- Met with Rep. Case and two staff members, which included his DOD Fellow from the Space Force. Rep. Case supports the intent of The Elizabeth Dole Act because it is fully paid for and offset. However, it appears that he would like to re-visit H.R. 8371 during the 119th Congress. The focus of this meeting was on restoring VA funding for FY24 via continuing resolution since Rep. Case is a member of the House Appropriations Committee.
- The Department of the Pacific Areas committee member and I met with Jared Christel, Policy Advisor, from Rep. Radewagen's office. Jared agreed to encourage Rep. Radewagen to reach out to her colleagues and friends on the House Appropriations Committee. A lapse in VA funding for the rest of FY24 would negatively affect veterans in American Samoa.
- Briefly met with Rep. Denick Van Orden (WI), who is a VFW Life Member from the Department of Wisconsin.
- Met with staff from Senator Martin Heinrich's (NM) office, which included his DOD Fellow from the Air Force.

September 11, 2024

- Attended VFW 9/11 Memorial Ceremony at VFW D.C. Headquarters.
- Met with Meghan O'Connor, Senior Policy Advisor, from Senator Hirono's office. Supports all five talking points. Although not a co-sponsor this year, it is very likely that Senator Hirono will co-sponsor the *GUARD VA Benefits Act* during the 119th Congress.
- Initially met with Kathryn Kuhar, Legislative Aide. Senator Schatz arrived about 10 minutes prior to the end of the meeting, and the focus turned to restoring VA funding for the rest of FY24 since he serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- Met with Nick Luna, Policy Advisor, from Rep. Tokuda's office. New VFW NLS staff member, who previously worked for Senator Hirono, was also in attendance.
- Due to a conflict in my schedule, I was unable to attend the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Health meeting on H.R. 8562 - *Parity for Native Hawaiian Veterans Act of 2024*.

On the state level, Rep. Mark J. Hashem's office continues to work with us on the "Claim Shark Bill" draft, and other bills that help our state's veterans. However, due to recent primary election results, a new Speaker will be elected in the coming months, and state House committee assignments will likely change. Rep. Hashem's office has agreed to introduce our bills regardless of who the new Chair of the committee responsible for veterans and military affairs is.

As I mentioned last month, our department has a new monthly, electronic newsletter called the *Lava Ledger*, which is shared statewide with all Posts. We will continue to solicit sign-ups for the VFW Action Corps in our October edition to encourage maximum participation in VFW Action Alerts.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my report. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at jame.schaedel@gmail.com or (808) 428-5528.

Respectfully Submitted:

**Jame K.
Schaedel**

Digitally signed by Jame K.
Schaedel
Date: 2024.09.16 19:14:22
-10'00'

JAME K. SCHAEDEL
Member, National Legislative Committee
VFW Department of Hawai'i

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Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Career Exploration & Hiring Fair

Connecting World-Class Military Community Talent with American Employers

Thursday, October 31, 2024
Tradewinds
150 Clelland Street
Hickam AFB, Hawaii 96853

Event Schedule

**Job Seeker
Workshops**
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Workshop topics include understanding compensation and negotiation, SkillBridge and training opportunities, and preparing for interviews.

**Hiring
Fair**
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Job seekers will network with representatives from local, regional, and national organizations hiring for open positions.

Event Sponsors

COMCAST
NBCUNIVERSAL



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VFW NATIONALHOME
HAWAIIHOUSEFUNDREPORT
4TH QUARTER
APRIL 1, 2024- JUNE 30, 2024

CATEGORY	DATE	REPAIR[PURCHASE	REVENUE	EXPENSES	FUND TOTAL
BEG. BALANCE	3/31/24				(\$1,61531)
REVENUE					
	6/5	In di vidual	1,000.00		
	6/6	VFW Deptof HI	2,000.00		
	_6/7	Individual	1,000.00		
TOTAL REVENUE					\$4,000.0
EXPENSES:					
Maintenance	5/30	Clean gutters		18_00	
Maintenance	6/30	Remove pine tree		18.00	
Maintenance	6/30	Replace state and US flag		9.00	
Purchase	6/30	Carpet cleaning		434.65	
Purchase	6/30	Paint		1,000.00	
Purchase	6/30	Chan ge lock and keys		130.00	
Purchase	6/30	Flooring		2,186.30	
Purchase	6/30	New stove		608.09	
Purchase	6/30	State and US flag		32.94	
Purchase	6/30	NewAC		5,681.42	
Spo nsorship	6/30	Quarterly transfer		500.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES					\$10,618.40
FUND BALANCE					(\$8,233.71)

VFW NATIONAL HOME

3573 South Waverly Road * Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827



August 14, 2024

For: Hawaii House

Dear Department of Hawaii:

Enclosed is your Hawaii house fund report for the fourth quarter of the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This report shows the quarterly beginning fund balance, plus revenue, less expenses, and the current fund balance. This report will be sent to you each quarter. Please take note that the fund balance disclosed within this report is unaudited and is subject to change. If changes are made, we will indicate on subsequent reports what those changes are.

Please accept a sincere "thank you" to all the members from Hawaii for their hard work and support for the VFW National Home. The funds and commitment you have made to support your Hawaii Home have made it an attractive and very pleasant haven for our families and you all can be very proud of that.

As always, we will be sure to communicate with you regarding other projects and special needs to assist you with your planning. Your continued support of your Hawaii Home is very much appreciated. We hope this report is useful to you, and if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact me.

Respectfully,

Richard Stiver
Facilities Director

CC: District 12 Board Trustee